

**SESSION 8** – The Truth Will Make You Free – John 8:1-38

*When you judge someone you have no time to love them – Mother Theresa*

This chapter begins with the woman caught in adultery – It might surprise you to know that most scholars are in agreement that this story is not original to the Gospel of John and was added in by a scribe several hundred years later

Never-the-less – It is a fairly well-known story about how followers of Jesus should act towards one another!

Will Jesus follow the law of Moses – Oh My – If he does not then we can get him – hahaha – It seems they already suspect that he will not and are at the ready to get this merciful sinner. ☺

And they are correct in their assumption – BUT.....Jesus turns the table on them

The second theme in this chapter offers Jesus second **I AM** statement – See 6:35 (Bread of Life) **I am the light of the world 8:12**

We are still in the festival of booths festival starting in Chapter 7 – One of the first ceremonies of the festival is the lighting of the 4 Golden Candlesticks in the court of women – Where symbolically all of Jerusalem might be reflected by the light.

Not a bit of irony here then – Jesus calling himself the light of the world in light of the adulterous woman trap that was almost set for him by the religious leaders ☺

This candle light represents the presence of God in the temple and now Jesus is making the blasphemous claim again that he is that light and presence of God! (Remember Suppositions)

The next theme is another famous verse – If you continue(menos)(abide) in my word(logos)(word made flesh who tented among us) you are truly my disciples and you will know the truth and the truth will/shall set you free! 8:31 If you live with the living God (Jesus) then you will know the truth that Jesus is the Son of God (Remember Supposition #3 – The community was thrown out because they claimed that Jesus was the Son of God – A blasphemous “**truth**”)

The Leaders then make the absurd claim that they have never been slaves to anyone – Despite historical evidence to the contrary - And maybe the fact that they are now presently living under occupation etc. etc.– As it is, they still link their definition of freedom to their ethic and biological heritage – **Jesus challenges them to expand their view!!! I AM the light of the WORLD!!**

Gregg Knepp asks the question – How often do middle class, first world Christians deceive ourselves about the **truth** of our bondage to sin – National Pride/Unquestioned Entitlement/Over-abundant – Over-consumptive life styles and our failures to adequately

respond to the needs of our brothers and sisters around the world? So, I would add in that knowing the truth of Jesus for us then is a real life-saver!

**A few questions for us to consider this week about truth! The academic word is “epistemology” which basically means - how we know things.**

Jon Sobrino – The first pre-requisite of reality is honesty to the real – Sobrino notes that since the poor constitute the majority of the population of the world “the willingness to acknowledge the truth of one’s own being” in relation to the reality of the poor is the FIRST demand of an authentic and true spirituality!

Do you agree with this statement or not?

Sobrino’s Christology has had him in hot water with the official doctrine of church many times!

Sobrino spoke truth to power – both secular and religious - during the liberation movements in Central America and his community paid a price for it. It was in 1989 that six Jesuits and two others were killed in his Jesuit community in El Salvador. It was this event that started to bring more focused world attention to the policies and plights of the people there. Jon Sobrino would have also been killed by the army hit squad but he was out of the country at the time on a speaking engagement.

Has speaking truth to power been a part of the church as you have experienced it in your life time?

If so, has the church experienced persecution because of it? Martin Luther said that one of the marks of the church is Suffering – how do you understand this suffering of the church in your community?

If not – what truth do you perceive would get the church in hot water with the powers?

**Remember Jesus went to a cross because of the truth that he was the Son of the living God!**