

Numbers 30 - Let Your Yes Be Yes

Num 30:1-16 ESV Moses spoke to the heads of the tribes of the people of Israel, saying, "This is what the LORD has commanded. 2 If a man **vows a vow** to the LORD, or **swears an oath** to **bind** himself by a **pledge**, ***he shall not break his word***. **He shall do according to all that proceeds out of his mouth.**

The rest of the chapter speaks about how

- (Vs 3-5) A Father can override the vow of a daughter
- (vs 6-16) A husband can override the vow of a wife

I want to focus on vs 1-2

- **Vow a vow** = to make a **promise** to the LORD
- **Swear an oath** = *"to seven oneself"*
- **To bind** (yoke, hitch, fasten) **himself** (his soul) **by a pledge** (obligation)
 - **BIND** in ancient Hebrew - to turn the head (**a new direction**)
 - **It reminds me of a commitment** - a turn my head to a new direction
- **He shall not break his word** - he shall do according to all that proceeds out of his mouth

Jesus referred to this scripture in Matthew 5

Jesus shows us that God is after the heart - you might say that "technically I have never **murdered** - but Jesus said **"If you hate your brother you have" ----- adultery? if you look w/ lust**

- Mat 5:33-37 ESV "Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not **swear falsely**, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.' 34 But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by **heaven**, for it is the throne of God, 35 or by the **earth**, for it is his footstool, or by **Jerusalem**, for it is the city of the great King. 36 And do not take an oath by your **head**, for you cannot make one hair white or black. 37 **Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil.**
- There was a sense that if I swear by something OTHER than God and I failed to follow through it was not so bad, "I swear on a stack of bibles" or "I swear on my mother's grave" - Jesus moved this into the realm of the heart by saying basically - **BE A PERSON OF YOUR WORD**

Keep Commitments

- Psa 15:4 ESV [*speaks about a man*] who swears to his own hurt and ***does not change***:

Honesty

- Pro 14:5 ESV A **faithful witness** does not lie, but a **false witness** breathes out lies.

Integrity

Psa 15:1-5 ESV A Psalm of David. O LORD, who shall sojourn in your tent? Who shall dwell on your holy hill? 2 He who **walks blamelessly** and **does what is right** and **speaks truth in his heart**; 3 who **does not slander with his tongue** and **does no evil to his neighbor**, nor takes up a reproach against his friend; ...vs 5 He who does these things shall never be moved.

Man's struggle with truth

There is a fear to acknowledge such a thing as ABSOLUTE truth
And IF THERE IS an absolute truth - Can we know it?

The lay of the land in America

- Barna Research Survey - 64% of adults said **truth is always relative** to the person and their situation. 83% of teenagers said **moral truth depends on the circumstances**.

If there is no absolute truth - then what is the basis on which they form their moral choices?

- Nearly half of all adults cite "whatever will bring them the most pleasing or satisfying results"
- Only 4 out of every 10 born-again Christian adults relies on the Bible as their primary source of moral guidance.
- Only 1 out of 10 of our country's born-again teenagers believe in absolute moral truth

Without some source of truth - people are left to adopt these kinds of philosophies

- 'if it feels good, do it'
- 'everyone else is doing it'
- 'as long as it doesn't hurt anyone else, it's permissible'
- Or the ever popular one-word worldview: 'whatever.'

Truth is staring us in the face

Joh 18:37-38 ESV Then Pilate said to him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world--**to bear witness to the truth**. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice." 38 Pilate said to him, "**What is truth?**"

- Jesus tells Him that HE CAME TO BEAR WITNESS TO THE TRUTH
- Pilate basically heard nothing - he said WHAT IS TRUTH

Two polar opposites - with man in the middle

Jesus is the truth

- John 14:6 ESV Jesus said to him, "I am the way, **and the truth**, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

The devil is a liar

- Joh 8:44 ESV **You are of your father the devil**, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and **does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies**.

2Co 4:3-6 ESV And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled only to those who are perishing. 4 In their case **the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ**, who is the image of God. 5 For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. 6 For God, who said, "**Let light shine out of darkness,**" **has shone in our hearts** to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Jesus said Your Word Is Truth

- Jesus came to **bear witness of the truth**
- Joh 17:17 ESV Sanctify them in the truth; **your word is truth.**
- **He has given unto us “The Spirit of Truth”** - Joh 16:13 ESV When **the Spirit of truth** comes, **he will guide you into all the truth**, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.

Why is there so much bondage in the world?

Joh 8:31-32 ESV So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, 32 and you will know the truth, and **the truth will set you free.**"

- You will KNOW the truth
- Will set you FREE
- While we pride ourselves in our “freedom”, While refusing truth and wonder **“Why in our “freedom” do we find such bondage?”**

When the truth is IN US

Truth is the basis of our fellowship with Jesus

- 1Jn 1:6 ESV If we say we have fellowship with him **while we walk in darkness**, we lie and **do not practice the truth.**

When our lives are becoming more like Him, we know we are IN HIM and TRUTH IS IN ME

- 1Jn 2:4-6 ESV Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the **truth is not in him**, 5 but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. **By this we may know that we are in him: 6 whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.**

When truth is in us we love in DEED and TRUTH

- 1Jn 3:17-19 ESV But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? 18 Little children, **let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.** 19 **By this we shall know that we are of the truth** and reassure our heart before him;