

# Does a Good Friend Tell the Hard Truth?

- Does a good friend tell the hard truth?
- What if they walk away from the faith?
- What if they never come back to the Lord?
- Is it our fault if they leave the faith?
- Have we failed our Lord?

# Peter's Confession

- Peter's Confession (Matt 16:13-19)
  - Peter states Jesus is the Messiah, the son of the living God
  - He is the one they have been waiting for!
  - Not revealed to Peter through human means,  
But through My Father

# Jesus and Peter – How will it go down?

- Jesus teaches:
  - He will be killed in Jerusalem
  - Raise from the dead on the third day
- Peter's Response: (He rebukes Jesus!)
  - Never! or God Forbid!
  - No way will this happen!
    - Peter has just confessed Jesus is the Messiah
    - Now disagrees with the Messiah on how things will happen

# Jesus as Truth Teller

- Jesus – “Get behind me, Satan!”
  - You (Peter) are a stumbling block to Me.
    - Peter’s opposition to the cross makes him Jesus’ adversary
    - Peter’s opposition to the cross lines him up with Satan’s agenda
  - Opposition to the cross became stumbling block to Jews
    - 1 Cor 1:23, cf. Gal 5:11

# Jesus as Truth Teller

- Peter looking at Jesus' death from a human perspective,
  - Not God's perspective
- In 5 verses Peter goes from mountaintop to deepest pit
  - Peter's revelation from God in v. 17
  - Peter's failure to look at things from God's perspective

v. 22

# John 6 - Setting

- Jesus fed 5,000 (Jn 6:5-13)
- Jesus walked on Sea of Galilee (Jn 6:16-21)
- Crowd goes to Capernaum seeking Jesus (Jn 6:24-25)
- Crowd question Jesus (Jn 6:25)
  - When did you get here?

# John 6 – Jesus' Teaching

- People seeking Jesus because of physical bread/food,  
– Not because of who he is (Jn 6:26)
- Jesus wants more for them – eternal life (Jn 6:27)
- Jesus is the bread of life  
He came down from heaven (Jn 6:35, 38)
- Jews grumbling (Jn 6:41-42)  
– Isn't this Jesus son of Joseph?  
– How can he say I came down from heaven?

# Jesus as Truth Teller

- Jesus wants them to understand the truth
  - Do not understanding what he is communicating
- Takes drastic action
  - I am the living bread (Jn 6:51)
  - Bread which I will give for life of the world is my flesh (Jn 6:51)
  - Need to eat my flesh and drink my blood (Jn 6:54)

# Jesus as Truth Teller

- Many of his disciples respond (Jn 6:60)
  - Who can listen to this difficult statement?
- Jesus states there are some who do not believe (Jn 6:63-64)
  - Is difficult to understand words of spirit and life
- Result:
  - Many disciples withdrew and were not walking with him anymore (Jn 6:66)

# Jesus as Truth Teller

- Jesus told the truth because it is the **TRUTH**
- He had no desire to perpetuate half truths Or outright lies
- These may seem good at the time
  - May be less painful than the truth
  - May allow us to remain in our comfortable, deceptive life
  - May allow us to keep from making waves in our world
- **BUT** they are not helpful in the long run
  - Need the truth so we can pursue the truth
    - Ultimately, this is true living

# Jesus and John the Baptist

- John in prison (Mt 11:2)
- Question for Jesus:  
Are you the Coming one?  
Or should we look for someone else? (Mt 11:3)
- Jesus' Response: Let my works speak to your question
- Blessed is the one who does not stumble over Me (Mt 11:6)  
Do not find Jesus and his ministry an obstacle to belief  
Re-examine your presuppositions about the Messiah

## Jesus as Truth Teller

Sometimes to follow in the footsteps of Jesus is to walk away from others or to let them walk away from us.

Gary Thomas

# Jesus as Truth Teller

- How do we practice being a truth teller?
- What does this look like in our world?
- Have you had to say hard things to a friend?
  - What was the result?
- Have you had to walk away from a situation?
  - What was the result?