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WEEKLY LETTER

21 November 2021

John 18.33-37

**Jesus says you need to develop a relationship with what is profound,
and what is more profound than truth?**

Jesus seems to have the most wonderful conversations with people! No surprise there, and to-day it is with Pilate.

Today, we live in a culture which so often argues there are only scientific facts through reductionism and empiricism, but there are no truths, because everything is relative – relative to your culture, context, belief, and the assumptions you make. But Jesus says, “For this I was born, and for this I have come into the world, to bear witness to the truth”. John 18.37.

Rarely will you meet anyone in your life who wants you to discover the truth – but Jesus does! Nietzsche said, “You can tell a lot about someone’s character by seeing how much truth they can tolerate”.

Central to western thinking and to the Christian faith is that walking with the truth is the way and the path to life, and no one comes to the Father (the source of all truth) except through the truth. If you believe that, it also means you will have to be seriously committed to seeking truth.

A wonderful man called Thomas Merton makes the point that if God our Father is the truth, he can only see truth – never lies. So if you live with the lies, there are parts of your life he cannot see. Sections of your life will be hidden from him. This tells you how important the truth is. So if this is true, following the truth will enable you to become your true self and therefore be liberated from untruths.

You will recognise this to be true because when someone tells you to your face the truth, it hits you with such clarity and you know you need to change. So yes it’s important to be kind and generous to all who we meet, but how important is the search for truth in your life?

Jesus says, the truth will set you free, and if we do accept this and believe it, logically you would do everything possible to seek truth?

Stephen

Sunday Morning Worship in Christ Well, and on Zoom, at 10.30 am will be led by Mrs Adella Pritchard

Bible Readings: Matthew 25.31-46.

Election of Elders will take place at the close of Worship

Cycle of Prayer in the Swansea Region – we will pray for Tabernacle, Mumbles

Advent Bible Study

This year Advent Bible Studies will again be on Zoom for those using a computer only. It is not available for those on the phone.

These will take place on Wednesday evenings at 7.30 pm, and will be led by four different people.

1 st December	Robert Pope
8 th December	Stephen Baker
15 th December	Noel Davies
22 nd December	Adella Pritchard

Zoom codes will be issued in due course.

Stir our Voices: Let us be heard *(a prayer of Intercession)*

Lord we live in an unjust world.

We hear of people in poverty, stripped of their rights by corruption and greed.

Help us to speak words of justice. Let our voices be heard.

Loving God, use us:

show us how to work with you.

We remember those places where they are suffering from the aftermath of natural disasters, the effects of climate change blighting lives.

Let us speak loudly to those who can make a change.

Loving God, use us:

show us how to work with you.

We bring to you those who live in sadness, people who need to see that there is sunshine after rain.

Let us speak gently to those who see no light, and comfort those with an uncertain future.

Loving God, use us:

show us how to work with you.

Let your spirit stir our voices and help us to be heard
where we can make a difference.

Amen.

(Ann Honey – URC Prayer Handbook 2021)