



# KINGDOM CULTURE VIDEO TRANSCRIPT

## WEEK THREE

### Teaching Video Transcript | Week 3: Kingdom Culture is Founded on Truth

The culture of the world does not like the belief that there can be absolute truth. In fact there are many philosophies and worldviews that the world uses to redefine the definition of truth. One worldview is relativism which says there is no absolute truth but rather that what's true for you may not be true for me. Another view is pluralism which says all truth claims are valid. And then there is skepticism which doubts all truths and postmodernism which chooses not to affirm any truth. But followers of Christ, who by their faith are part of the kingdom of God, understand that the culture of the kingdom is founded on truth, absolute truth.

I want to tell you a story, a true story, about truth. "Almost two thousand years ago, Truth was put on trial and judged by people who were devoted to lies. In fact, Truth faced six trials in less than one full day, three of which were religious, and three that were legal. In the end, few people involved in those events could answer the question, "What is truth?"

After being arrested, the Truth was first led to a man named Annas, a corrupt former high priest of the Jews. Annas broke numerous Jewish laws during the trial... After Annas, the Truth was led to the reigning high priest, Caiaphas... Before Caiaphas and the Jewish Sanhedrin, many false witnesses came forward to speak against the Truth, yet nothing could be proved and no evidence of wrongdoing could be found. Caiaphas broke no fewer than seven laws while trying to convict the Truth... All these actions were prohibited by Jewish law. Regardless, Caiaphas declared the Truth guilty because the Truth claimed to be God in the flesh...

...the third trial of the Truth took place, with the result that the Jewish Sanhedrin pronounced the Truth should die. However, the Jewish council had no legal right to carry out the death penalty, so they were forced to bring the Truth to the Roman governor at the time, a man named Pontius Pilate. As the Truth stood before Pilate, more lies were brought against Him.

After this, a very interesting conversation between the Truth and Pilate took place. ...Pilate... summoned Jesus and said to Him, 'Are You the King of the Jews?' Jesus answered, 'Are you saying this on your own initiative, or did others tell you about Me?' Pilate answered, 'I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests delivered You to me; what have You done?' Jesus answered, 'My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm.' Therefore Pilate said to Him, 'So You are a king?' Jesus answered, 'You say correctly that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.' Pilate said to Him, 'What is truth?'" (John 8:33-38).

Pilate's question, "What is truth?" has reverberated down through history. Was it a melancholy desire to know what no one else could tell him, a cynical insult, or perhaps an irritated, indifferent reply to Jesus' words?

The stark reality is that Pilate was looking directly at the Origin of all Truth on that early morning almost two thousand years ago. Not long before being arrested and brought to the governor, Jesus had made the simple statement "I am the truth" (John 14:6), which was a rather incredible statement. How could a mere man be the truth? He couldn't be, unless He was more than a man, which is actually what He claimed to be. The fact is, Jesus' claim was validated when He rose from the dead (Romans 1:4).<sup>11</sup>

As the Truth, Jesus spoke truth and his words and all of God's word are considered truth by followers of Christ. In fact when he was praying to God the Father for his disciples he asked God to Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. (John 17:17, NIV) This statement is powerful because Jesus is asking God to make us holy by his truth and specifically by God's word which he declares is the instrument of truth that sanctifies. This revelation about God's word tells us the importance of being students and followers of scripture.

So God's word is truth and that means it is the foundation for what we believe and how we live. Paul understood this and he wrote this: 16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:16-17, NIV) This scripture is a clear example of the importance of God's word to our lives. The truth of God's word leads us in living God honoring lives. This was understood by the Psalmist who wrote these words about 1000 years before Jesus came to earth, saying: 105 Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path. 106 I've promised it once, and I'll promise it again: I will obey your righteous regulations. (Psalm 119:105-106, NLT) The Psalmist makes the connection that God's word guides us into righteousness. In fact in this Psalm which has 176 verses it specifically refers to scripture as being righteous at least nine times (Ps 119:7,62,75,106,138,144,160,164, 172). There's a connection between truth and righteousness!

In the book of Romans we read: 16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith." 18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. (Romans 1:16-18, ESV) Truth is revealed in the righteousness of God and lies are truth suppressed in unrighteousness.

Saying that the kingdom culture is founded on truth is a statement that we cannot argue with, but what does that mean for our lives? We've already seen that it means to study and follow the word of God. Let me remind what Jesus said about that: He said: "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (John 8:31b-32, NIV) And this wasn't just for the disciples who walked with him on earth this is for those who would come after them. And he even made a provision to reinforce that when he knew he was leaving the earth. He said: 12 "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. 13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. (John 16:12-13, NIV) Jesus is saying to walk in the truth follow my teaching and let the Holy Spirit lead you. When we let the Spirit lead us the Spirit will keep us in the truth that kingdom culture is founded on.

*Valley Brook Community Church All Church Study: Video Transcript Week Three*

