

THE OTHER SIDE OF TRUTH

Message Notes

Text: John 18:15-18, 25-40

In this story we see three types of people who are on the other side of truth: the fickle, the hypocritical and the cynical...

1. The Fickle: Peter

Have you ever noticed how quickly we can go from courage to cowardice?

A few hours earlier Jesus had predicted, *"This very night you will all fall away on account of me"* (Matthew 26:31)

Peter replied, "Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will." "Truly I tell you," Jesus answered, "This very night, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times." But Peter declared, "Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you." And all the other disciples said the same" (Matthew 26:33-35)

And yet within a few hours all but Peter & John had fled...

Luke 22:56-62...

A servant girl saw him seated there in the firelight. She looked closely at him and said, "This man was with him." But he denied it. "Woman, I don't know him," he said.

A little later someone else saw him and said, "You also are one of them." "Man, I am not!" Peter replied.

About an hour later another asserted, "Certainly this fellow was with him, for he is a Galilean"

*Peter replied, "Man, I don't know what you're talking about!" Just as he was speaking, the rooster crowed. The Lord turned and **looked** straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him: "Before the rooster crows today, you will disown me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly.*

We can all be fickle and when we are it puts us on the other side of truth...

2. The Hypocritical: Pharisees

The religious leaders wouldn't go into Pilate's Palace because it would make them ceremonially unclean so they couldn't eat the Passover meal – and yet they were plotting to murder Jesus!

Jesus scathingly denounced the religious hypocrites of His day and encouraged people to be sincere in faith and truth.

There are still religious hypocrites around today. People are genuinely disappointed when those who call themselves Christian don't live up to the message they preach. Some people who have sincerely sought truth for their lives have been turned away from the Christian message because of hypocrisy...

Q. Are you going to allow a hypocrite to deny you from having a life-changing relationship with your creator? Would you give them the satisfaction? If a hypocrite is standing between you and God that makes the hypocrite closer to God than you are!

3. The Cynical: Pilate

The third thing that puts us on the other side of truth is cynicism

Pilate probably regarded Jesus as a poor, ignorant, deluded fanatic, albeit innocent and not dangerous. He asks the question, "What is truth" but is too cynical to wait for an answer. His question is full of mocking sarcasm. He didn't expect Jesus to be able to answer a question that has confounded the human race since the beginning. He didn't realize he was staring right at The One who had just said, "*I am the truth!*" And it seems that Pilate never came to a knowledge of the truth. Eusebius, the historian and Bishop of Caesarea, records the fact that Pilate ultimately committed suicide sometime during the reign of the emperor Caligula.

What if Pilate had patiently waited in sincerity and not cynicism so that Jesus could have told him what truth was?

I might have been looking for truth but I didn't find it – truth found me! And when He found me it was time to drop my fickleness, hypocrisy and cynicism and embrace Him – Jesus, who embodies the truth I'd been searching for. Can I encourage you to do the same?