

Sermon Guide: “Authenticity & Truth” | Sam Voo | Sep 17, 2023

In this sermon, I shared some of the core values that guide me as a pastor and as a believer in Jesus Christ. I also shared some of the key moments in my Christian journey that have shaped me and my values. I spoke about a time in my life when I was on the verge of burnout due to stress from church conflicts, challenges in my personal life, and internal spiritual struggles.

I taught from the story of the Samaritan woman in John 4, highlighting how Jesus engages with her, revealing her past, and how she continues to press in courageously in the conversation by acknowledging the truth of her past. Instead of avoiding or deflecting the conversation, the woman engages deeper with Jesus, leading to a profound revelation that Jesus is the Messiah.

I shared how I found healing and discipleship through a ministry called Living Waters, where I learned the importance of being truthful about my struggles and failures. I emphasized the importance of authenticity in our relationship with God and with each other, and how transformation comes through truthfulness, not through training, knowledge, or status.

Key Takeaways:

- Authenticity and truthfulness are crucial in our relationship with God and with each other ([18:20])
- Transformation comes through truthfulness, not through training, knowledge, or status ([32:03])
- It's important to be honest with ourselves about our struggles and failures, and to seek healing and discipleship ([20:55])

Questions for discussion:

1. What are the similarities and differences between the encounters of Nicodemus and the Samaritan woman with Jesus?
2. How did the Samaritan woman respond to Jesus' knowledge of her past?
3. Why do you think, in the Gospel of John, that the Samaritan woman is the first person to whom Jesus fully discloses that he is the Messiah?

Going deeper:

1. Like the Samaritan woman, have you ever felt judged or condemned because of your past? How do you imagine Jesus would respond to your past if you reveal it to him?
2. How can you peel back your own layers, like the onion analogy, to deepen your relationship with Jesus?
3. Can you identify a person or a group of people in your life with whom you can share openly about your struggles and victories, like the speaker suggested? If not, how can you cultivate such relationships?

4. How can you apply the practice of regularly checking in with your feelings and bringing them to Jesus in your daily life?