

CAN YOU HANDLE THE TRUTH?

BY: DAVID HALSEY

Remember this scene from the movie, "A Few Good Men"?

*Attorney Kaffee: *Colonel Jessep, did you order the Code Red?**

*Judge Randolph: You *don't* have to answer that question!*

Colonel Jessep: I'll answer the question! [to Kaffee]

Colonel Jessep: You want answers?

Attorney Kaffee: I think I'm entitled to.

*Colonel Jessep: *You want answers?**

*Attorney Kaffee: *I want the truth!**

*Colonel Jessep: *You can't handle the truth!**

This was a very powerful moment and it tugged on a very real human question. Most people would say they want to know the truth but, when it comes down to it, we really can't handle the truth. So, we invent self-serving truths, we avoid, we medicate, we stay busy, and we run away from the big question.

What is the truth?

What does it mean to "Live your truth"? Motivational speakers like Oprah Winfrey use this concept to inspire people. As well intentioned as it may be, this is really just a way for people to do what is best for them. This is a very self-centered approach that is often short lived because it does not sustain our inner-desire for purpose, meaning, and longing that is greater than can be satisfied by our own humanity.

Doesn't the truth matter?

I'm going to try to make this as simple as possible. The truth is not a thing, the truth is not a way of living that works for you, the truth is not saying whatever is on your mind because you need to "speak truth", and the truth has nothing to do with making yourself happy.

Stay with me on this. Don't check out yet. Here it goes...

The truth is a person. That person is Jesus Christ. He boldly stated, "I am the way, the truth, and the life."

(John 14:6)

Thanks to Loren Siffring for helping me to see it this way for the first time.

Think about the two scenarios we are faced with:

Scenario #1: Jesus Christ is the son of a living and active God. He was born, lived until around 33 years of age, died a painful death via crucifixion, and literally was resurrected after his physical death. Why? Because humanity chose to separate itself from God, and the punishment for that was death. Instead of God allowing that to happen, he made himself into the man, Jesus Christ, and paid the debt for us. He became man and suffered greatly to fulfill the greatest rescue mission in the history of mankind.

Scenario #2: Jesus Christ either isn't who is described above or he never even existed.

The ramifications of Scenario #2 are as follows:

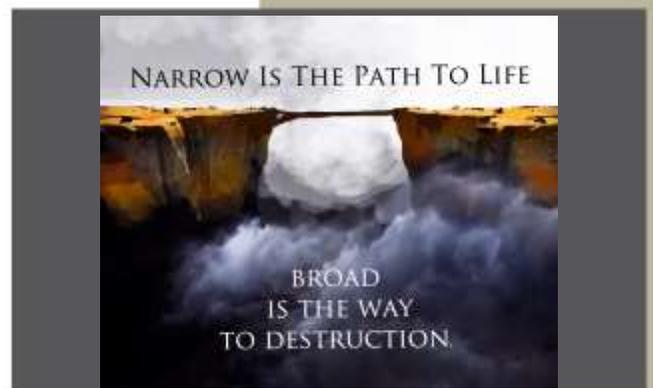
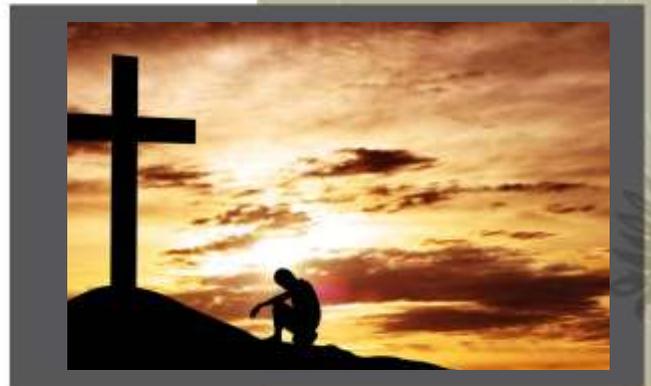
Option #1: There is no God. Somehow, despite the laws of physics as we know them, life was created from absolutely nothing and by some freak accident we evolved over billions of years to what we are right now. There is nothing for us besides this life... a life that "just happened" by chance, luck, circumstance, however you want to look at it.

Option #2: There is a God or more than one God, but they created us and left us here on our own. He, or she, or they, do not desire a personal relationship with us, and they provided no solution to the problem, which is that we have been separated from our God and we are a broken and sinful people that deserve nothing more than death.

In both options to the #2 Scenario, there is no hope. Our life is just an illusion and we merely have to tolerate it and try to survive as long as we can. Maybe some cosmic poker chip will fall our way but there is no basis that will ever happen.

So, for those of you that have decided to follow Oprah Winfrey's advice and live "your truth", your life will be centered on chasing moments of happiness, trying to find meaning, building up your treasures and pleasures, and doing what you think works for you. I will argue that this is the equivalent of chasing the wind or more appropriately, chasing your own shadow. It is, as Jesus stated in the bible, the path that leads to destruction, or death. (Matthew 7:13)

I don't have all the answers. I do have a book called the bible, that backs up these claims with historical, scientific, prophetic, archaeological, and eyewitness information. And the bible is backed up by a number of external sources. More importantly, I also have an experience of knowing what a relationship with God is like. Because of what he did for the very least of mankind (which includes everybody!), and because I accepted Jesus as the Lord of my life, everything changed. This relationship has satisfied me intellectually, emotionally, and spiritually. It explains the things I just can't explain. It fills the gap that science and my own personal desires just can't fill. It has not solved all my problems, because after all I am an imperfect human being, but it gives me freedom, a purpose, and a hope that would be impossible without the truth I have found in Jesus. I have found this to be, as Jesus stated, the path to life (Matthew 7:14).



For those of you that have already chosen the path of life, you know what I am talking about. For those of you that have not, would you at least be willing to speak to God in your mind and ask him to reveal himself to you in a personal way? He has something he has wanted to tell you and show you for a long time. He promises that if you seek, you shall find, (Jeremiah 29:13) and he never breaks a promise. Just one last thing, and this goes for everyone seeking God. *Thanks to my chief editor, my Mom, for calling this one out. Pursue him with a childlike faith, be relentless, and trust that he will give you what you need when the time is right for you.*

You can handle the truth, and it will set you free!
(John 8:32)



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