

# Ain't That the Truth

## Devotion

*Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life.  
No one comes to the Father except through me (John 14:6).*

Have you ever gone church shopping? Maybe you moved to a new area or became displeased with your current church. What sort of things were you looking for in a new congregation? Did it need to be friendly without smothering you? Did the building need to be clean and updated without seeming cold and impersonal? Or maybe you were more interested in the vigor and demeanor of the minister? What message was key in the sermon? Was it uplifting enough or too condemning?

Which of the following sermon themes would you prefer?

- Preach on wine and strong drink (Micah 2:11);
- Preach not to walk haughtily for it will be a time of disaster (Micah 2:3); or
- A sermon that resisted the preaching about any disgrace (Micah 2:6).

In Micah, as with many of the Old Testament prophets, the preaching message centers around what the people were doing wrong: worshiping idols, turning from God, or living in debauchery. Micah's theme ran toward bullet point two. As you can imagine, the people were not thrilled to have been chastised. They wanted Micah to not preach about anything disgraceful, but instead, to give them sermons about wine and strong drink. Obviously, they wanted encouragement in these behaviors rather than be admonished to avoid them.

We also do not like to hear hard things. As a teacher, I never liked to make those phone calls with bad news, either. I dreaded having to say, "Your child has a failing grade or poor behavior in class." Even if the parent sympathized, they did not want to hear the disappointing news.

Certain movie lines run through our minds: "You can't handle the truth!" or "The truth hurts." However, sometimes a strong dose of truth is what we need, such as *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God* (Romans 3:23). These words of the law can weigh us down because we know how true they are.

*If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us (1 John 1:8).*

God does not leave us with a word of condemnation. He has balanced the convicting message of the Law with the redeeming message of the Gospel and gives us hope. This Hope is His Son who is our ultimate truth.

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Faulting a minister for delivering bad news is like insulting the messenger for delivering news he was sent to give you. Instead, listen and repent of those things that convict you. God will hear your confession and is eager to forgive. He loves to heap blessings on you as His children.

**Closing Prayer:** Lord, help me accept whatever message You have for me and have me learn from it. Keep me forever in Your grace. Amen.

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