

# Balancing Lives Demands

## Lesson 5

### Mercy & Truth

#### Introduction

1. Today, I am going to share with you one of the greatest lessons of my life.
  - a. not setting self forward as the paragon of this principle
  - b. will give what has been one of the guiding lights of my ministry for 25 yrs
2. As a teen, I had a conflict of interests
  - a. Wanted to please God
  - b. Wanted to please man
  - c. Conflict:  
*Jas 4:4 – Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.*  
*1Jo 2:15 – Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*
3. Tremendous principle
  - a. Illustration: Three girls on the playground
  - b. Lu 14:26 *If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.*
  - c. In relationship to God, everyone else has to come somewhere down the line.
4. Back to this conflict – One day, I came across these verses that seemed to show that my conflict was not the only way to view things.
  - a. 1Sa 2:26 – *And the child Samuel grew on, and was in favour both with the LORD, and also with men.*
  - b. Lu 2:52 – *And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.*
5. God placed within my heart a desire to find out how to do this.
  - a. One day in devotions – Proverbs 3:3-4 –  
*Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart:*  
*So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man.*
  - b. Some time later—John 1:14

*And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*

Question: Do these two words characterize your life?

Let's look briefly at these words

## I. TRUTH

- A. It is emphasis on that which is right, correct,
- 1.. Telling the truth—speak what is accurate
    - a. Parent to teen--Where did you go?
  2. The teacher who emphasizes truth
    - a. Correct information –teaches *facts* & expects *accuracy* on test
    - b. Correct *procedures* in math or science experiment
    - c. Correct *order* of dates in history
    - d. Correct *grammar* in writing
  3. Preacher who emphasizes truth
    - a. Correct *doctrine*
    - b. Correct living -- *right-eousness* or *purity* (without fault)
    - c. Correct *standards* in music, dress, art, TV,
  4. Manufacturer who emphasizes truth
    - a. correct product – seeks *excellence*
  5. Judge who emphasizes truth
    - a. correct judgment – *justice*
  6. Authority who emphasizes truth
    - a. Mother makes her son put shoes in the proper *order, organization, neatness*
    - b. *Authority* itself is that individual who is to challenge or draw others to a higher standard
    - c. Authority brings our life into *discipline*
    - c. *Law* is the accurate standard by which we are judged
    - d. *Scriptures* – “They word is truth.”

Review Italicized words—these character qualities are talking about truth.

- a. Are these important to you? Do you rebel against them?
- b. Do you bind them to you, Write them on the tables of you heart as something to be treasured?

## II. MERCY

- A. Deals with our relationship to people
    - 1. Gives consideration to others sometimes at our own expense.
    - 2. Finds the needs of others and reaches out to meet them.
  - B. List of qualities
    - 1. love, charity, kindness,
    - 2. patience with people, forgiveness, forbearing,
    - 3. One who is an encourager, complimentary,
    - 4. cheerful (lights up a room), good humor, thankful
    - 5. listener, understanding, sympathetic
    - 6. applications: works to remember names, sends b'day cards, rejoices with those who rejoice (weddings, births, ballgames, concerts & graduations) and weeps with those who weep (funerals, surgeries)
    - 7. While some build walls, he builds bridges.
    - 8. He finds the least loved, and goes to reach out to that one.
  - C. Contrasts to mean, unkind, selfish, self-centered, impatient, grumpy, grouchy, carcastic, cold, indifferent, disinterested, unthankful, greedy,
  - D. How Jesus must have been full of these
    - 1. People heard him gladly
    - 2. Children came to him
    - 3. He moved toward the unlovely
    - 4. Gave continually of himself
    - 5. Went about doing good
    - 6. Came not to be ministered to but to minister.
    - 7. He was loved because he loved people!
- III. One without the other
- A. Truth w/o Mercy –
    - 1. Harsh, cold,
    - 2. Ephesian church Rev. 2:2,4—
  - B. Mercy w/o Truth
    - 1. Soft, milk-toast
    - 2. Thiatira--Rev. 2:19 (charity), 20 (suffer that Jezebel)
    - 3. Illustration of three teachers
      - #1-all good comments and gave C's

#2-all negative comments and gave me a's and b's

#3-gave positive comments, gave corrective comments

C. John 1:14 Full of Grace and truth.

1. The teacher who wants to please
2. The teacher who is hard
3. Not a balance where one has to go up as the other goes down
4. Jesus was full of both of them.
5. Illustration of Mrs. Fox (Zach's Kindergarten teacher:
  - \* Truth: to our son she said –“STOP, Do you have my permission to get out of line and go to your daddy?”
  - \* Mercy: Every kid loved her and couldn't wait to get into school to have her. She regularly sent home papers that said, “I caught \_\_\_ being good!”)

D. Love should be the motivation for truth

1. It is not that truth is negative and love is positive
2. Love rejoices not in iniquity but rejoices in the truth
3. Love is the fulfillment of the law

Conclusion

- A. which most characterizes your life.
- B probably given to one or the other
- C. may even take pride in your Mercy or Truth and roll your eyes at others
- D. Be full of Grace and truth
- E. Read Prov. 3:3-4