

## Luke 13:24, "The Fight for the Truth, Part 1"

- ✚ We saw the last two Sundays that salvation is a fight because we are so committed to a false narrative and it's hard to say we are wrong. It's a hard fight because it's hard to say what we believe and how we live is wrong. It's a fight to come to the truth. Once we are saved, the fight isn't over, it just changes focus, the fight to believe in Jesus turns into the fight to bring others to Him.
1. **A fight for the truth.** We live in a world where truth is relative; I can have my truth and you can have your truth and it is non-sensical. Their arguments are self-defeating, but what do we expect from people who do not know the "One" who is the Truth?
  2. **A fight because the truth matters.** Just a cursory survey of the Bible will show us why we have to fight for the truth: God is the God of truth: Deuteronomy 32:4; the Spirit is the Spirit of truth: John 14:17. Jesus is the truth: John 14:6. No one comes to God until they come to and through the Truth. The Bible is the truth: John 17:17. The Church's position with regards to the truth: 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 3:15. The world is in bondage without the truth: John 8:32. The truth is not a vague destination at the end of mystical quest, it is clear cut and in sharp contrast to the world we live in.
  3. **A fight because the truth is in question.**
    - ✓ Do you know what the first question is in the Bible? It was about the truth. First, there was truth: Genesis 2:16-17 that was the truth, there could be no alternate truth since God made everything and the laws that controlled it all. There was no other truth except "don't eat from that one tree", they were free to break that law but not without consequences. Secondly, the attack on the truth: Genesis 3:1 the first question in the Bible is a question about the truth. First dilemma is "did God really say that?", and the purpose was to start Eve on a path to doubt what God had said. Doubting what God has said is the essence of sin. Satan smuggled into God's perfect universe a very deadly spiritual force, the assumption that what God has said is subject to human judgment. This is very powerful because it is very flattering. Satan is very subtly asking Eve to make a judgment call on what God has said. It had never entered her mind or wildest imagination that she could evaluate God, but the pride that she got from that notion sure tasted good. It wasn't the eating of the fruit that brought her fall, it was the rebellion of pride that she even considered doing such a thing. The fall didn't happen when she ate, it happened when she didn't trust that God was truthful. He gets her thinking wrong, as demonstrated by her feeble response Genesis 3:2-3, she even added to what God said! Big mistake. Satan is winning the truth war in her life: "God may not be as caring as you thought and needs to be questioned" at the same time, "I am more interested in what's best for you"
    - ✓ He moves for a full denial: Genesis 3:4, "God told you a lie." Step one: "You have a right to sit in judgment on God's word." Step two: "God has lied to you. Don't believe the word of God, believe me." His methods and message have not changed in the millennia since then: "Don't believe God, God doesn't tell you the truth, He's a liar." There is indeed a truth war, a fight for what is true, and we are the focus of that fight. We have to decide for ourselves, has God told us the truth. Satan cinches the deal: Genesis 3:5, flattered by the proposition that she could judge God, doubting His character; she's now ready for the full delusion, "you get to be God if you eat that fruit." She bet her life on the notion that God couldn't be trusted, that Satan could be, and that God wouldn't hold to His word. Open rebellion, the father of lies brought down the entire human race on the premise that we can't trust what God has said. Our world has bought the lie and followed the liar: John 8:44. The lie is: we get to be God! No rules except the ones we like, no consequences, no answering to anyone; everyone gets to have their own truth. Everything that contradicts or attempts to add to God's Word is Satan having a Garden of Eden conversation with us. 3,808 times the Bible claims to be the word of God in Old Testament. Jesus said that the Word of God could not be broken, Matthew 5:18. It cannot be broken down to the letter. "You say I am a king. Actually, I was born and came into the world to testify to the truth. All who love the truth recognize that what I say is true." John 18:37.

**Either Jesus is telling the truth or Satan is. Every time the word of God is questioned: that is Satan having a Garden of Eden conversation with us. "Are you going to believe Him or are you going to believe me." Satan says. It's a fight and a war for the truth and the subject of the war is us. The war has been won in the life that has surrendered to Christ, repented of the lies they believed and followed and bet their lives on Jesus. The war is won but the battle still rages, will we believe Him for every word, every doctrine, every single command He gives us?**