

## **Know the TRUTH! Be FREE!**



Practices were going on in the auditorium for the Investiture ceremony and during one of these rehearsals, I lost my cell phone. I began to get agitated, thinking, “*How can today’s kids play such pranks?*” After much searching, when I got back to my office, I found my mobile on the table. Some students had found it lying in one of the corridors and had diligently brought it back to the office. I exclaimed, “*Praise God! We got wonderful kids!*” Time and again, experience has taught me that when something unusual or seemingly bad happens, don’t immediately jump to conclusions. Put things in ‘**Suspense File**’. Even when people come accusing anyone or anything, don’t immediately jump to conclusion. LISTEN...listen to both sides...find out the TRUTH... *‘and the truth will set you free’!*

I have a cousin who was unwell. He went for a medical examination. They tested everything except two more markers, to see if he had cancer or not. Now the report was all negative and he thought he was okay. But he had cancer and by the time, they discovered it, it was too late. Because he did not know the truth. He was given false information that he was absolutely fine, even though he had the symptoms! **Truth matters!**

Truth is factual. Truth is not invented. Truth is not by majority decision. Truth is timeless and universal. Truth can be painful. Truth is narrow and exclusive. Contemporary philosophy preaches, “*There is no such thing as ‘absolute truth’. Whatever you believe in, is true for you.*” **Sorry, Truth is either YES or NO.**

Soren Kierkegaard, a Danish philosopher, popularly known as ‘the Father of Existentialism’, says, “*There are two ways to be fooled. One is to believe what isn’t true; the other is to refuse to believe what is true.*”

The Holy Bible tells us that Satan is a liar and the only way he can control us, is, by making us believe his lies. He would say, “*Everyone is doing it! Do whatever makes you happy (you only live once)! More money, more happiness! Follow your ‘heart’ (Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie who had a ‘Live in’ for 10 years to see if they were compatible and after such long testing, when they finally married, they divorced within 2 years, because the ‘chemistry of hearts’ changed!)*”

Satan would tell you, “*God doesn’t love you! If God really loved you, how could you have all these financial or family problems? If God really loved you, why He would let you suffer?*” **Friends, do not be disheartened!** Know the Truth! *Gold is always tested in fire...Diamonds are always formed under pressure.* What greater proof of God’s love do we need than ‘**For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son**’ (John 3:16).

Psalm 119 says, “*Great peace have those who love your law, and nothing can make them stumble*”. Satan would tell you, “*Sin is an old fashioned concept. Forget about feeling guilty.*” But the truth is, no matter what he tells you; since you are created by God and for God, when you sin, you do not have peace. You can pretend to have peace, you can numb yourself through activity or drugs; but at the end of the day, if you don’t have peace, you don’t!

Quite often we are in denial mode and we assume that we are already free, but, in John 8:34, Jesus says, “*Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin*”. **True freedom is the desire and the ability to do God’s will and to be all that God has designed you to be.** It is the desire and ability to do good and to say ‘No’ to sin. John 8: 31 says, “*If you ABIDE in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth will set you free.*” Truth and freedom go together and for that, it is important to **ABIDE in His Word and obey it!**

Most of us are not really free. We have counterfeit freedom and we fail to understand the subtle bondages that hold us captive; that may be any addiction, or more subtle forms of slavery like materialism, bitterness, anger, pride, worry etc. These are sophisticated forms of disobedience to the Word of God and thus, these enslave us. But we have the Good News in John 8: 36, “*So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed*”. Its **JESUS who is the Truth and leads us to true FREEDOM**. *Do we know Him?* Most of us like to be in control of our lives. But, **its only when we have learnt to give up our full control and hand it over to Jesus, that we are truly set free.**

On our way to Bhowali hills, as we stopped for a tea break, I got a chance to watch skydiving. The instructor holding on tightly to the diver, had a freefall off the cliff. I breathlessly wondered what if the parachute didn't open up? What if something went wrong technically? But, I saw **the divers had absolute faith in the instructor as well as the parachute;** so they could simply enjoy the experience.

Some of us are going through this freefall in our life right now...completely uncertain what the future holds...nothing seems to be going well...no securities around...we are nervous and anxious. My friend, as you are having the freefall, let-go of the ‘*need to be in control*’...Allow the Master Instructor to hold you tight and take absolute control. Just say, “***Lord I am going to trust you, whatever***”. Relax and enjoy the view of the vast expanse...trusting that **at the end of the day, He will make you land safely!** And that indeed, would be an amazing journey...and you will know the TRUTH and the TRUTH will set you FREE! *Wish you a Blessed Feast of the Assumption of our Heavenly Mother and a Happy Independence Day!*

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