

Answers to Sermon Notes

Life Action Redux/Warm Up #2: "Honesty"

John 18:33-38

5/1/22

1. Let's begin with this: there are some questions in this world that have **more** than **one** right answer.
 - a. I don't mean matters of Christian **freedom**, such as, "Is it OK to drink **alcohol**?"
 - b. Or matters of **opinion**, like, "What would be the **best text** to use for our study of honesty?"
 - i. For, while each of those has more than one **acceptable** answer, they have no right answer, because they have no **wrong** answer. They are all **subjective**.
 - c. I mean, rather, to refer to questions where the answer to a question has multiple **aspects** to it, like, "Why was Jesus born – why did he come into the **world**?"
 - i. In these, there are multiple answers that are all **true** and non-**contradictory**.
 - a. To **save** the world. (John 3:17)
 - b. To seek and save the **lost**. (Luke 19:10)
 - c. To **proclaim** the good news of the kingdom. (Luke 4:43)
 - d. To **turn** a man **against** his father. (Matthew 10:35)
 - e. To give his life as a **ransom** for many. (Mark 10:45)
 - f. To bear witness to the **truth**. (John 18:37)
 - ii. Each of them expresses a certain **aspect** of the **full** answer.
 - iii. All of them are **needed** for a full answer – a full **understanding** of the truth.
 - a. To **reject** any one of the right answers is to hold a **wrong** answer.
2. We begin here, because of the way in which **Jesus'** answer here to why he was born into the world is a bit **different** than the answer we might give.
 - a. And because his answer here, along with greatly helping us to better understand the concept of **honesty**, is going to present us with a significant **challenge**.

John 18:33-38

3. The first way that Jesus' explanation of why he was born into the world helps us understand the concept of honesty is that it provides nothing less than a **definition** of it.
 - a. We know instinctively that honesty has some connection to the **truth**, but what connection?
 - i. Honesty **bears witness** to the truth.
 - ii. **Openly** acknowledges and **testifies** to the truth.
 - b. This, of course, is critically important to our embrace of the gospel, both for our **salvation** and our **sanctification**.
 - i. Bearing witness to **our sin**.
 - ii. Bearing witness to Christ's **atoning sacrifice** for sin.
 - iii. Being people who speak **truthfully**.
4. But, this answer of why Jesus came into the world helps us understand honesty in **other ways** too.
 - a. The **scope** of our honesty.
 - i. It is noteworthy that Jesus said, "**the** truth," and not, "**this** truth." (vs. 37)

- ii. Likewise, it is those who are of (on the **side** of) **the** truth who listen to him.
 - iii. This reminds us that truth is a **package deal**.
 - iv. And the catechism reminds us that the **whole truth** is what we must embrace. (HC, LD 7, Q&A 21)
 - a. The scope of our honesty is **wide**.
 - 1. **Everything** God reveals in his word.
 - b. The scope of our honesty is **deep**.
 - 1. A knowledge and **conviction**.
 - i. This assumes that what he reveals is **knowable** to this level.
 - b. The **need** for our honesty.
 - i. The nature of the **spiritual** battle is that it is a battle between **truth** and **lies**.
 - ii. This **rebellion** began with, is fueled by, and characterized by, lies. (John 8:31-47)
 - a. **We are** either of the truth or of the lies.
 - iii. To **stand** with God against the lie is to **stand** with him in the truth.
 - a. And as Christ was **sent**, so are we. (John 17:14-19, Matt. 28:18-20, II Cor. 4:1-2)
 - c. The **cost** of our honesty.
 - i. The single **reason** that Jesus stood before Pilate was his **honesty**.
 - ii. It was Christ's honesty that foisted the **cross** upon his **back**, and it is our honesty that will do the same for us. (John 15:18-21)
 - d. The **benefits** of our honesty.
 - i. We **draw** all those who are **of** God **to** God. (vs. 37)
 - ii. We enjoy and spread the blessings of **freedom**. (John 8:31-32, James 1:22-25)
 - iii. Why would any Christian resist **embracing** and bearing witness to the **truth** of God?
5. We end with this: there are some questions in this world that have **more** than **one** right answer.
- a. What it means for us to be **honest** is one of those questions.
 - i. We must **tell** the truth.
 - ii. We must **acknowledge** the truth.
 - iii. We must **bear witness** to the truth of God in **everything** his word reveals.
 - b. If we do not **embrace** honesty in all of these ways, we do not embrace **honesty**.