

Title: Jesus didn't say that!

Text: "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (John 8:31-32)

Target: How to know what sounds true versus what is true?

I. Follow your Heart: "Do whatever feels right to you!"

A. Condition of Your Heart: *"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?"* (Jeremiah 17:9)

B. Guard Your Heart: *"Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life."* (Prov. 4:23)

C. Trust God with your Heart: *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."* (Prov. 3:5-6)

Discussion Question: When have you trusted your feelings over God's truth, and what did that reveal about the condition of your heart?

Discussion Question: What does it look like to truly *trust the Lord with all your heart* in an area where you've been trying to stay in control?

II. God Just Wants you to be Happy: "This is the Highest goal!"

A. God's will for you is Sanctification: *"For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor."* (1 Thess. 4:3-4)

B. God's Expectation for you is Holiness: *"But as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, 'you shall be holy, for I am holy.'"* (1 Peter 1:15-16)

C. God Allows Adversity to teach us Joy: *"Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness."* (James 1:2-3)

Discussion Question: How have you confused happiness with holiness, and what has that cost you spiritually?

Discussion Question: When was the last time God used hardship to produce joy or sanctification in you — and how did your perspective shift through it?

III. Do Not Judge: "You have no right to tell anyone they're wrong!"

A. Condemns "Hypocritical" Judgement: *"Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you."* (Matt. 7:1-2)

B. Commanded to Judge: *"Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment."* (John 7:24)

1. Call to Compare: *"The spiritual person judges all things,"* (1 Cor. 2:15) *"Test Everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil."* (1 Thess. 5:21-22)

2. Call to Correct: *"Better is open rebuke than hidden love."* (Prov. 27:5)

3. Call to Compassion: *"Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness."* (Gal 6:1)

Discussion Question: How can you lovingly correct a brother or sister in Christ without falling into hypocrisy or harshness?

Discussion Question: When have you avoided speaking truth out of fear of being “judgmental,” and what might God be asking of you now?

IV. **God will Never Give you more than you can Handle: “God knows your Limits!”**

A. Context of the Verse: *“No temptation has overtaken you that is common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape,”* (1 Cor. 10:13) *Paul was addressing Temptation, not Trial. *This verse is about resisting sin, not enduring suffering.

1. Purpose under Pressure: *“We were burdened beyond our strength...to make us rely not on ourselves but on God.”* (2 Cor. 1:8-9)

2. Promise of His Presence: *“Fear not, For I am with you; be not dismayed, For I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”* (Isaiah 41:10)

3. Power in Grace: *“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”* (2 Cor. 12:9)

Discussion Question: Can you recall a time when you were overwhelmed beyond your own strength? How did God show His presence and power in that moment?

Discussion Question: How can weakness become a platform for God’s grace in your life this week?

Takeaway: Don’t build your life on popular opinions that sound good, build your life on a God who is good.

Community Group Challenge:

In your community group, commit to living truth over trends.

Each person picks *one lie the world tells* (“Follow your heart,” “Be happy,” etc.) and writes a short prayer declaring God’s truth over it. Share these aloud next week as testimonies of truth replacing lies.