

Weaving the Word

Jesus' Testimony

March 3, 2019

Welcome to where we're learning to reveal our pain to heal our pain!

What action would you take if fear or pain or embarrassment weren't holding you back?



I had a severe needle phobia that I can trace back to being in line for immunization in early grade school, and witnessing the panic when a needle broke off in the arm of the kid in front of me.

Then it was *my turn*.



By high school, it was an overpowering fear. But, one day I woke up with a serious, dangerous, condition called *testicular twisting*. And it's as scary, painful, and embarrassing as it sounds. So, I refused to reveal my intensifying pain. And, when I finally *tapped out* (12 hours later), I was rushed to the hospital (for emergency surgery), where I was approached with a giant syringe filled with pain killer.



Oddly enough however, *that needle* looked like a *Christmas present!* It was my *best friend*. They couldn't jab it in fast enough. I remember watching with joyful relief as that needle sank into my arm. Any fear or pain or embarrassment that held me back was gone. Didn't exist. Didn't matter; 'cause it didn't compare.



When we left off, it was almost Passover (one year before the cross).



Jesus snuck into Jerusalem (as a wanted man) to the Pool of Bethesda on the Sabbath, to heal a guy who wasn't seeking it, and reported Jesus for it! Then, as Jesus teaches those who take Him up on His invite to **"come"** and **"learn"** and **"find rest"**, (Mt 11:28-29) the religious rulers confront, accuse, and condemn. And, in His response, Jesus makes a surprising statement:



The Father judges no one, but has **entrusted all judgment to the Son**, that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him. ... whoever **"comes"** and **hears my word** and **"learns"** and **believes him who sent me** **"finds rest"** and **has eternal life** and **will not be** [as in: **"will no longer be"**] condemned; he has crossed over from death to life. – John 5:22-24 NIV



We're not awaiting God's judgment, we're in it!





Jesus said, “For *judgment* I have *come* into this *world*” – John 9:39 NIV

Not to dish it out, but to take it on, to get *us* out.

For God did not *send* his *Son* into the world to *condemn* the world, but to *save* the world *through him*. – John 3:17 NIV



Who for the *joy* set before him endured the [*fear and pain of the*] cross, scorning its *shame*, [*because, compared to the pain of separation from us, a brutal crucifixion became the joyful relief of the supreme pain killer*] and sat down at the right hand of the *throne of God*. – Hebrews 12:2 NIV

And, **Jesus’ throne of judgment was established to set us free!**

We imagined being in a debtor’s prison with no hope of repaying or being released. But then you’re called before the judge; and he tells you that *he himself* is paying your debt!

Then we imagined turning him down.

You disagree you ever *owed* it; and you reject it out of *protest*. You don’t need no *charity* – **especially if it means admitting and confessing what your fear and pride won’t allow you to own up to.** And now we pick up the story as Jesus confronts His confronters.



I judge only as I hear [*from the Father*], and my judgment is just, [*unlike theirs*] for I seek not to please myself [*like they do*] but him who sent me. **If I testify about myself, [(as being sent to judge) without corroboration or verification] my testimony is not valid.** [God established a prophetic test through Moses] **There is another who testifies in my favor, [the Father through the Word through Moses]** and *I know* that *his* testimony *about me* is valid. – John 5:30b-32 NIV

Whereas the religious rulers rejected Jesus’ testimony about *them*.

You need to see what Moses said about this very situation.

The Lord said to me ... [*Here’s Moses’ testimony*] “I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers; I will put my words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him. ... [*Here’s Moses’ warning*] But a prophet who presumes to speak in my name anything I have **not commanded** him to say ... must be **put to death.**” [*Which is their justification for killing Jesus*] You may say to yourselves, “How can we know when a message has not been spoken by the Lord?” [*Here’s Moses’ test*] If what a prophet proclaims **in the name of the Lord** [*a phrase Jesus is about to use in our story*] **does not take place or come true** [*either a future event that doesn’t come to pass or an unknown fact that doesn’t prove true*], that is a message the Lord **has not** spoken. – Deut 18:17-22a NIV

So, **Jesus must testify about earthly things to come.** And He does.

I am telling you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe that I am He. – John 13:19 NIV

And in the meantime, **He must reveal unknown earthly things that only a prophet can know, that can be proven true to validate the heavenly things He’s sent to share.**

And He does, to the rulers.

You appear to people as righteous but on the **inside [where only God can see]** you are full of **hypocrisy** and **wickedness**. (Mat 23:27-28)

[You] are full of **greed** and **self-indulgence**. (Mat 23:25)

Inside [you] are full of ... **everything unclean**. (Mat 23:27)

Many times it says **Jesus knew what they were thinking** and said ...

You have everyone buffaloed, but God sees the heart and tells the One He has sent. So, is it true? Do I pass? Am I from God? Either it is and I am or it isn’t and I’m not. What’ll it be?

That’s our choice too: face the truth or live a lie.

Moses built a failsafe into the system. But, **they don’t want to conduct the test on Jesus’ terms, because He’s determined to expose the truth about the sinful condition of their heart.**

You have sent to John and he has testified to the truth. [John said, “No one accepts his testimony. The man who has accepted it has **certified** that God is truthful. For the one whom God has **sent speaks the words of God (Jn 3:32-34)**] Not that I accept human testimony; but I mention it that you may be saved [when you realize the hard truths John and I presented as proofs for the sake of your salvation; and the wicked deceitfulness you pretended for the sake of your pride]. John was a lamp that burned and gave light, and you chose for a time to enjoy his light. [Jesus said to Nicodemus: “We testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? (Jn 3:11-12)] I have testimony weightier than that of John. For the very work [lit. **business or employment**] that the Father has given me to finish, [earthly **validation** followed by heavenly **revelation**] and which I am doing, testifies that the Father has sent me. And the Father who sent me has himself testified concerning me. You have never heard his voice nor seen his form, [I’m telling you, there are “heavenly things” I’m dying to share!] nor does his word dwell in you, [you’re missing it because you’re using it for personal gain instead of growth] for you do not believe the one he sent [even though I know that you know that I’m nailing that which you have the power to prove true]. You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them **you possess** eternal life. [Whereas, in reality, it’s by them that you surrender to eternal life] These are the Scriptures that testify about me, [and I testify about you to prove that

they do] yet you refuse to come to me to have life. I do not accept praise from men, but I know you. **[You value the shallow praise of people over the deep discipline of a loving God]** I know that you do not have the love of God in your hearts. **[If you did, you'd choose to face the truth rather than live a lie]** I have come in my Father's name, **[and there's the quote from Moses' test]** and you do not accept me; but if someone else comes in his own name, you will accept him. **[As long as they don't hit you where it hurts]** How can you believe if you accept praise from one another, **[which requires no humility, sincerity, transparency, or authenticity]** yet make no effort to obtain the praise that comes from the only God? But do not think I will accuse you before the Father. Your accuser is Moses, on whom your hopes are set. If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me. But since you do not believe what he wrote, how are you going to believe what I say? – John 5:33-47 NIV

Until you realize the greater pain that Christ came to overcome for you, you'll remain in bondage to the fear and shame of much lesser mini-pains that threaten to momentarily sting.

Remember when Jesus exposed the shame of the woman at the well?



How did *she* respond?

"Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet." ... The woman went back to the town and said to the people, "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did." **[He passed the test!]** ... Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, – John 4:19, 28-29, 39 NIV

Her painful past is suddenly a testimony of the goodness of God and the power of Christ; and her transparency and vulnerability and authenticity suddenly make her trustworthy.

Our choice is between the long-term pain of living a lie, and the short-term pain of facing the truth that brings relief.

The world tells us to deny it, justify it, or blame it. **But, we can't receive His grace if we won't admit our shame.** And, **if we don't share our pain, we can't know His healing love.**

Face it, we're caught between the Rock and a hard heart. **So how would you like your pain? With profound purpose or pointless pride?** If ever there was a true and everlasting *pain killer*, it's *Jesus*. Yet we allow fear and pain and embarrassment to hold us back.

So, are you getting ready to reveal your pain?

Or, do you need to suffer some more as it intensifies?

The Great Physician will patiently wait.

But, why in the world would the patient?!