



## Intertwined

*“As he was speaking, the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in the act of adultery. They put her in front of the crowd.*

*“Teacher,” they said to Jesus, “this woman was caught in the act of adultery. The law of Moses says to stone her. What do you say?”*

*They were trying to trap him into saying something they could use against him, but Jesus stooped down and wrote in the dust with his finger. They kept demanding an answer, so he stood up again and said, “All right, but let the one who has never sinned throw the first stone!” Then he stooped down again and wrote in the dust.*

*When the accusers heard this, they slipped away one by one, beginning with the oldest, until only Jesus was left in the middle of the crowd with the woman. Then Jesus stood up again and said to the woman, “Where are your accusers? Didn’t even one of them condemn you?”*

*“No, Lord,” she said.*

*And Jesus said, “Neither do I. Go and sin no more.”*

*Jesus Christ | John 8:3-11 (NLT)*

Must we engage life as either or?

I’m sure you have friends who are “all about truth.” They take every opportunity to push biblical truth on others, casting judgement... rightly so, for all fall short!

*“For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard,”  
The Apostle Paul (Romans 3:23)*

It’s also likely that you have friends who are “all about love.” Never wanting to offend, they affirm another’s path by failing to speak the truth, often saying nothing. (Makes me wonder, what do they really

believe?)

*“A body remains at rest, or in motion at a constant speed in a straight line, except insofar as it is acted upon by a force.” – Newton’s 1st Law of Motion*”

Lacking an encounter with the truth, might they continue a beeline to hell?

I find myself bipolar, flipping between these depending on the situation. It seems it’s always either or for me. I especially notice my zealous righteousness when huddling with other believers as we condemn the world. How about you?

**Reflect: What’s my bias, speaking truth or love?**

I marvel at how Jesus encounters sinners like the woman caught in adultery. The legalists had this woman teed up. Would he take the bait? Would he join in their condemnation as the law required or let her off the hook, discredit the law and prove himself a liberal?

How about when Jesus encountered the Sarmatian woman at the well... would he condemn her? Or would he look the other way and let her continue churning through husbands?

*“Please, sir,” the woman said, “give me this water! Then I’ll never be thirsty again, and I won’t have to come here to get water.”*

*“Go and get your husband,” Jesus told her.*

*“I don’t have a husband,” the woman replied.*

*Jesus said, “You’re right! You don’t have a husband— for you have had five husbands, and you aren’t even married to the man you’re living with now. You certainly spoke the truth!” (John 4:15-18)*

What great love he shows these women... he offers them mercy, forgiveness of sins! But wait, he confronts them too! His encounters wholly display both truth and love at the same time.

*“I am the way, the truth, and the life.” Jesus Christ (John 14:6)*

*“There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”  
Jesus Christ (John 15:13)*

How could he not? Both truth and love are core to his nature and the heart of his gospel.

**Consider: For Jesus, truth and love are Intertwined; they should be for me too.**

How might outcomes change if you held up the gospel as a plumb line before, during and after your encounters with others?

Ask, "Are (were) my thoughts dominated by love or truth concerning this person?" Both not wholly present reveals too great a distance between you and Jesus. You must close the gap – this means growing to speak the truth **in** love.

*"Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church." The Apostle Paul (Ephesians 4:15)*

Wait! Before you defend yourself saying, "I assert the truth **because** I love," take a closer look at Jesus' method. His overflowing love compels gentleness, yet he remains firm in the truth. Saltiness is good... too much kills! Jesus wrapped the truth in love.

*"Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out." The Apostle Paul (1 Corinthians 13:4-6)*

Love goes to the ends of the earth and back, celebrating only once truth wins – they're Intertwined.

*Imagine: **My Mission is Intertwined.***

Your Mission must be rooted in the gospel – Jesus commanded it! Lacking love, can you effectively open others to it? Lacking truth, will it be empowered to transform? It must be permeated with both truth and

love or it will be futile... a waste of time.

Advancing your Mission requires you to grow to become more and more like Jesus. His encounters demonstrate the way... follow him! Learn to cloak the truth in love and you'll discover that Jesus, the gospel, truth, love, and your Mission are all...

### **Intertwined!**

Go off the grid and ask these questions:

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#### **Coach's Questions**

- Reflect on my personal salvation story... how were both truth and love present?

Think about a recent encounter I've had...

- Which dominated, truth or love?
- How could I better prepare for my next encounter to ensure that both truth and love are wholly present?

## **Spirit Talk**

Post this where you will see it regularly.

**Be salt and light at the same time!**

*"You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless.*

*"You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden."*

*Jesus Christ | Matthew 5:13:14 (NLT)*

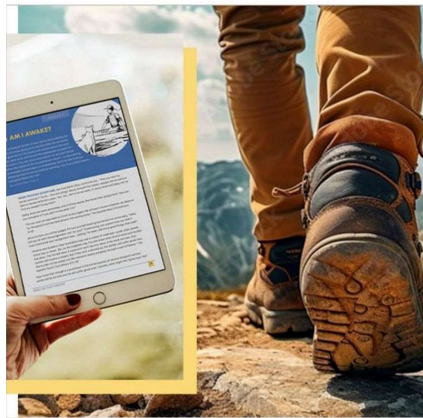


**Brand New!**

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This focused workshop progresses down a proven path where you'll receive your Mission (the work God has you here to do) and the passion filled story that powers it. Along the way, discover the four life transforming Foundations of Mission and find yourself challenged to enter the Adventure of Your Life.

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~ DAN B.  
Life Mission: Shaping radical existence *in the everyday*





## Adventuring with God

Blog Posts



### What Song Will You Sing... Now?

When I was a kid back in the early 70's, a local radio station in “celebration” of the station going off the air, decided to play the same song over and over again. Twenty-four hours later the... [Keep reading](#)

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