

UPPER ROOM ADULT BIBLE STUDY
“The Gospel of John”
Pastor Jim Otte
Spring – Fall, 2019

Lesson 16: John 4:17-26. “Truth in Love” or “Love in Truth?”

“Go, call your husband.”

Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband’; ¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true.” ¹⁹ The woman said to him, “Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet.

- a. “for you have had five husbands, and the one...” – Jesus states what is true; unwatered down. Notice that His approach is to speak the truth, but not in a way that disdains her.
 - a. ***Ephesians 4:15***. *Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,*
 - i. ***Interpretation #1***: to speak Biblical truth is to love others, even if it calls out sinfulness or hurts someone’s feelings.
 - ii. ***Interpretation #2***: to speak Biblical truth, in a loving (and respectful) manner, especially if it involves calling out sinfulness or hurts people’s feelings.
 - iii. Jesus does not shy away from speaking reality to her! Truth cuts to the heart!
 - b. Question: For what reasons?
 - i. ***1 John 1:5-7***. *This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. ⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.*
 - ii. Jesus’ intention, speaking the truth, was to draw her back to the “light,” by revealing her current walk in “darkness.”
- b. “Sir, I perceive...” – Her response of awe suggests no defensiveness or feeling put down, marginalized, or treated as second-class, by Jesus!