

Spiritual Practices for Thriving Life

Thrive with us by following on Instagram and YouTube
@FlagNazChurch, and FlagNaz.org



Truth Seekers

Who are the Truth Tellers in your life?

In what dimension of life are you choosing affirmation over Truth?

How might life be different if you sought out Truth in that area of life today?

Micah 2:6-11 – ⁶“Do not preach”—thus they preach—“one should not preach of such things; disgrace will not overtake us.” ⁷Should this be said, O house of Jacob? Is the Lord’s patience exhausted? Are these his doings? Do not my words do good to one who walks uprightly? ⁸But you rise up against my people as an enemy; you strip the robe from the peaceful, from those who pass by trustingly with no thought of war. ⁹The women of my people you drive out from their pleasant houses; from their young children you take away my glory forever. ¹⁰Arise and go; for this is no place to rest, because of uncleanness that destroys with a grievous destruction. ¹¹If someone were to go about uttering empty falsehoods, saying, “I will preach to you of wine and strong drink,” such a one would be the preacher for this people!

I) A Call to the Brave...

As we each grapple to ground our experiences, there are two forces at work: our own inner being and everything external to us. We tend to focus our energy on external forces. It’s safer this way. *Right or wrong, I am innocent.* Introspection is for the brave, those willing to face uncertainty, terror, and impossible challenges. Bravery is the life to which God calls His people. Will you heed the call to be a Truth Seeker?

◆ **A fresh look**: The world affirms our choices when we go along with cultural norms. Signals abound that we are behaving as we should.

May 14th, 2023

We receive them from our friends, family, and neighbors. From industry. From media. We are told over and over what to think and do if we are to be considered normal. In rare moments we hear something else, a call to break free of the norm. Quickly the crowd tries to drown this voice out. “Do not preach’—thus they preach— ‘one should not preach of such things; disgrace will not overtake us (Micah 2:6).” This is not a debate about Truth, it is an attempt to keep our inner beings from a fresh perspective. The rare, quiet voice does not attempt to coerce us into agreement. It is provoking us to think for ourselves.

◆**Rise to the challenge:** The wise understand that a direct argument for rejection of so-called reality will fail. So-called reality is so pervasive, so ingrained in our thinking we will not see through it easily. Instead, the wise provoke their listeners with simple questions. “Should this be said, O house of Jacob? Is the Lord’s patience exhausted? Are these his doings? (v7).” The terrified, seeking only affirmation of their current beliefs, hear sarcastic rhetoric. The brave hear a challenge to test their beliefs, to step back and seriously consider if there is a better way. Then God asks the critical question to would-be Truth Seekers: “Do not my words do good to one who walks uprightly (v7)?” Uh oh.

II) **Look Behind the Curtain...**

Now things are uncomfortable. The voice redirecting our attention to our inner being did so by revealing an undeniable logical breakdown. The terrified immediately assure themselves this is a trick and move on, unwilling to confront their own beliefs. The brave, we cannot ignore them. We will be relentless in our quest to know Truth and the Life of Faith.

◆**Living a lie:** The meaningful question pressed upon us is whether we are walking uprightly. Few people consciously live opposed to their values. As we live according to so-called reality, we assume we are living well. This question, if taken seriously, causes us to inspect whether the lifestyle we assume fits our values truly does. Sadly, living according to the world’s systems means living out values opposed to God’s within the illusion of living rightly. He says to us, “But you rise up against my people as an enemy; you strip the robe from the peaceful, from those who pass by trustingly with no thought of war (v8).” We must look beyond our direct interactions and consider what our behavior forces upon people at all levels of society. Truth Seekers need to know the true cost of our way of life.

◆**Too much:** The norms of so-called reality demand comparisons and competition. *How does my life stack up against those around me?* We evaluate and are evaluated by how we look and speak, what jobs we do, whether we have leisure time and how we spend it. So-called reality is a fashion show focused on appearances and superficial activities. Having pointed our attention inward, God asks us to look at what this nonstop competition with each other does to those around us. He says, “The women of my people you drive out from their pleasant houses; from their young children you take away my glory forever (v9).” He gets to the Truth in what’s wrong with society’s values. It’s not our abundance; it’s our need to have more than others. This is not the True Way of our just, merciful, generous God.

III) **Ignorance is Bliss...**

Our quest for Truth brings us to the point of a choice. Do we obey? Knowing Truth, ignorant violation of God’s values is no longer an option. Ignorance is bliss, but none of us accepted the call of a Truth Seeker without the innate sense so-called reality is wrong. We now consider the cost of a Life of Faith.

◆**Behind enemy lines:** Remaining in place, immersed in so-called reality, makes it impossible to break out of the illusion into the Life of Faith. Old friends, family, and neighbors make living differently impossible. The Life of Faith is exiled by remaining in place, so God says, “Arise and go; for this is no place to rest, because of uncleanness that destroys with a grievous destruction (v10).” What feels like the act of being exiled is in fact the invitation to enter a new land in which the Life of Faith can be freely lived. Remaining in place is to consciously be destroyed now that we know the deceptions of so-called reality. Having obtained the object of our quest, Truth Seekers now need a place in which to put it to use. Because the many refuse to accept Truth and will destroy those who promote it.

◆**The echo chamber:** The many who oppose Truth want affirmation, to be told *Indeed, you are right*. They seek out someone, anyone, who will “go about uttering empty falsehoods, saying, ‘I will preach to you of wine and strong drink (v11).” Truth Seekers who question societal norms, in word and deed, are unwelcome. We shed light on the darkness of so-called reality, calling it into question for those who prefer ignorance. The loving act is for us to seek out like minded brave souls who share our quest for Truth. It is time for us to heed the call of Jesus to Follow Him into the Kingdom of Heaven, the native land of the Life of Faith.