

THE SEARCH FOR TRUTH

About the Series: In a confusing world, finding and discerning truth is of vital importance, especially to followers of Jesus who are to share the truth of Christ to others. We are to always speak the truth and share truthful things, so that our trustworthiness will not be compromised.

PART 1

FAKE NEWS: The Importance of Truth

Matthew 4:1-11 | Dr. Stephen G. Tan

Discussion Questions

1. Everyday, we are bombarded by news, both real and fake, which thrive in the technologically advanced world we live in where multiple media platforms and messaging tools help circulate information. What kind of news do you usually read or receive from others on social media? How do you verify such news?
2. Read Matthew 4:1-11 and discuss the following three biblical principles to remember that would help us recognize the importance of truth in order to counter fake news and misinformation and discern truth from lies.

Principle #1: Truth comes from authoritative and trustworthy sources (v. 1-4). What was Jesus' condition or the surrounding circumstances when He was tempted by Satan? Why did Jesus respond by quoting Scripture (Deuteronomy 8:3) to combat the temptation? Look at your own life. What are the circumstances when Satan usually tempts you? Share how you have used the Word of God to fight against the temptation. When you hear or read news that circulate on social media, how do you fact-check them? Why would it be irresponsible, especially for a Christian, to forward or spread unverified news or messages?

Principle #2: Truth has to be given in its full and proper context (v. 5-7). What enticing offer was made to Jesus Christ on the pinnacle of the temple and how did He respond? How did Satan misquote Scripture (Psalm 91:11-12)? In what ways do people test God, which is actually prohibited in the Bible (Deuteronomy 6:16-17)? What happens when someone tries to manipulate truth in such a way that there may be some truth in it, but it has been taken out of context or misapplied? How can you keep yourself from not sharing when you are not sure about the message or the news that you receive?

Principle #3: Truth has to be applied with precision and accuracy (v. 8-11). How did Satan try to tempt Jesus to bypass God's sovereign plans for Jesus to die for your sins? What was Jesus' response? Do you worship and serve God according to His terms and regardless of the consequences you may experience? What does it mean that truth has to be applied with precision and accuracy? Why is it so important that everything you believe should line up with the Word of God?

Reflect & Respond

How does knowing Scripture help you to combat the temptation to believe the lies, deceptions, and fake news manufactured by Satan that's circulating around? Are you blessed to know the truth about our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ? How are you sharing this truth to others who need to hear it?

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You so much for reminding us that truth comes from Your Word, the Bible, which You have made available for us. Help us, Lord, to know how to use Your Word in its full and proper context and that we will apply its truth to our lives with precision and accuracy. Lord, may You give us wisdom in discerning truth from lies, especially in these times when there's so much information available to us. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.