

UNLEASHED: Releasing God's Glorious Kingdom in and Through You

Session 4: What Matters Most

GOALS

Main Idea: Your relationship with God's truth and His Word determines the quality of your spiritual growth and your kingdom impact.

Head Change: To persevere in studying God's Word so you can experience spiritual growth, have kingdom impact, and lead a more fulfilling journey of faith.

Heart Change: To cultivate an enduring love for God's Word that transforms your character, strengthens your faith, and produces fruit for the benefit of others.

Life Change: To be rooted in actively living out God's truth, leading to a transformed character, visible spiritual fruit, and a kingdom-focused impact on others.

OPEN

If you were taking a flight and money wasn't an issue, would you choose coach or first class? How does that choice reflect your approach to spiritual growth?

VIDEO TAKE-AWAY

1. All believers are heading to the same destination, but their experience in getting there depends on their relationship with God's truth.
2. Truth is God's absolute standard. It is not influenced by emotions or culture, and it is essential for experiencing God's kingdom power.
3. A believer's spiritual growth is determined by four responses to God's Word: rejection, shallow faith, worldly distractions, and fruitful perseverance.
4. True spiritual fruit in a believer's life reflects Jesus' character, is visible to others, and benefits those individuals.
5. Embracing and acting on God's Word leads to a fulfilling, impactful, and kingdom-centered life.

DISCUSS

1. Think about the analogy of flying coach versus first class. How does this illustrate the different ways that believers in Christ "make their trip to glory"?
2. Read John 18:36–38. What does Jesus' response to Pilate reveal about the nature of His kingdom and truth?

³⁶Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place." ³⁷"You are a king, then!" said Pilate. Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me." ³⁸"What is truth?" retorted Pilate. With this he went out again to the Jews gathered there and said, "I find no basis for a charge against him. (NIV)

3. Reflect on Luke 8:11–15. Which type of soil best represents your current response to God's Word? What steps can you take to cultivate "good soil" in your heart?

¹¹ “This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God. ¹² Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. ¹³ Those on the rocky ground are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away. ¹⁴ The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life’s worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature. ¹⁵ But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop. (NIV)

4. Read Hebrews 12:25–28. How has God used disturbances in your life to refocus you on His unshakable kingdom and His truth?

²⁵ See to it that you do not refuse him who speaks. If they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, how much less will we, if we turn away from him who warns us from heaven? ²⁶ At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, “Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.” ²⁷ The words “once more” indicate the removing of what can be shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain. ²⁸ Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, (NIV)

5. What are some “isms” or philosophies in today’s world that challenge God’s truth? How do you stay grounded in God’s Word in the midst of these influences?

REFLECT

Complete the following activities before watching the next session.

Read: Luke 8:16–18. What does this passage say about sharing the “light” of Christ? What is your responsibility when it comes to living out His truth?

Write: Think about a person you know who represents one of the three types of soil in Luke 8:11–14. Write out what strategies might be effective in reaching that person with God’s truth.

Pray: Ask the Lord to help you be a “lamp on a stand” – a person who knows God’s truth and is willing to live it out before others in all circumstances.