



Leading People into a Growing
Relationship with Jesus Christ!

Antioch CELEBRATION Message: "To Tell the Truth" About Fear

Sermon Series: "To Tell the Truth: Talking Openly with God"

Guest Speaker: Dr. Mike Nichols, Lincoln Christian Seminary

Dates: February 11-12, 2017

Suggested Conversation Starter

What is your favorite story of someone showing great courage in the face of real fear?

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Nehemiah, a Jewish exile in a foreign land, served in an extremely important position, the cupbearer to the king. Nehemiah was the king's last line of defense against assassination attempts. Should the king's confidence be shaken, Nehemiah could have been executed.

Read Nehemiah 2:1-8.

1) Nehemiah was authentic with his emotions.

When do you believe it is appropriate to mask or unmask what you are feeling?

2) Nehemiah admitted his fear.

What do you gain by being honest and open?

3) Nehemiah was afraid but acted anyway.

Why would Nehemiah boldly ask the king for such great gifts?

Does asking a king for little gifts or big gifts honor the king more?

How should this impact your prayer life?

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But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin. If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness. If we claim we have not sinned, we are calling God a liar and showing that his word has no place in our hearts. **1 John 1:7-10**

God wants to bring us from the cold isolation chamber of secret shame into the warm light of freedom and forgiveness. The cold cell of shame is locked from the inside—we naturally hide the truth about our circumstances from ourselves, God and others. **Describe how Jesus' love leads to self-awareness, honesty, and freedom.**

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BLAME is an effort to reassign negative attention and punishment to someone else. **God has already reassigned judgment and punishment for your sins—He put it on Jesus at the cross!**

FORGIVENESS is choosing to cancel a debt someone owes you. It does not change someone's guilt before God and may not change their attitude or future choices. The ability for you to forgive someone else is God's gift TO YOU. It allows you to be free of the need to punish someone else.

Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone. Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say, "I will take revenge; I will pay them back," says the LORD. Instead, "If your enemies are hungry, feed them. If they are thirsty, give them something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals of shame on their heads." Don't let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good. **Romans 12:18-21 (NLT)**

Who do you need to forgive?

Who needs your kindness?

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Jesus taught us that real leadership is spiritual shepherding—taking responsibility for the care of God's people. As you help lead people in a growing relationship with Jesus, you will find that most need encouragement to be authentic with their emotions, admit their fear, and act despite their fear.

How can you help others progress through these steps in order to fulfill what God has called them to accomplish?

Pray!

We've discussed some big steps—emotional authenticity, admitting fear, acting on faith—ask God to give you the strength to live out what your faith prompts you to do!