

TUESDAY, AUGUST 31ST

DAILY READING ASSIGNMENT: **Luke 11-13**

"The Truth Hurts...Or Does It?"

SCRIPTURE Luke 11-13

OBSERVATION

I love how Jesus was so blunt and to the point with his disciples the Pharisees and with the people he ministered to as he shared truth. He tells them things like not to beat around the bush, just ask God directly for your needs; If you're not on my side, then you are the enemy; The insides of you Pharisees are maggoty with greed and secret evil. Stupid Pharisees! Frauds! You are hopeless; When you stand for me, I stand for you and when you defend me, I defend you; Filling your barns with self rather than with God leads to death; Steep yourself in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions and all of your human concerns will be met; You may be expecting to sit down at God's salvation banquet table because you say you knew God, but God may be saying "Your kind of knowing can hardly be called knowing. You don't know the first thing about me." And on it goes! His words were often as offensive as they were true to those hearing them for the first time. This is still true today unless you understand his great love for us. Just like for those of us who are parents...our kids find much of what we have to say offensive. Unless they really understand that everything we say and do is born out of our deep love and care for them. The same goes for us as God's children.

APPLICATION

I really believe that "The truth will set you free" and "Facts are your friends." I may not always like what I hear but better to know the truth and deal with it head on than just live an aimless, undirected life that's essentially "la-la" land. There is nothing sweeter than the truth of God's Word and so when Jesus said "Do you think I came to smooth things over and make everything nice? Not so. I've come to disrupt and confront!" and I'm so glad he did. The choices we make every day are either based on the truth of God's Word or they are not. The truth may hurt but not following it...that's when it get's really painful!

PRAYER

Father thank you for the truth you reveal to us through your Word. I can't imagine life without your Holy "instruction manual"! Help me to stand for you and defend you this day and every day because you are so worthy! I pray this in the name of the great truth-teller, Jesus. Amen.

S.O.A.P. Entry Author: Chris McCrumb