

Matt Henry  
John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15\*  
20 May 2018 (Pentecost)

“Truth or Consequences”

God’s grace and peace...

Share the experience in Post Falls, DiscipleShift training @ Real Life Church  
(Pastor Tom, Brett and I attended this training.)

Our unusual facilitators:

Homeless—lived in a tent his entire childhood, pool hustler, car, \$million business  
Mafia—, from Italy saw his mother shoot people  
Rock—Dwayne Johnson, Jumanji, out of character iron worker

Our Jesus approach—nothing new, really!

Relational discipleship

Biblical foundation

Doing what Jesus told us to do: make disciples

Pilate once asked, “What is truth?” Many philosophers have sought to answer that question. Our postmodern world thinks truth can be constructed or is relative to an individual point of view. But truth has a source and it’s not us—it’s God. That’s why the promised Helper is known as the Spirit of Truth and He guides each individual believer into all truth.

The truth is true regardless of whether I believe in it or not. How about a lie? A lie is still a lie even if everyone believes in it! We don’t make the truth. The truth makes us. The truth sets us free.

Truth always brings consequences.

When I told Brett that my sermon title was Truth or Consequences, he asked, “The gameshow or the town?” It turns out the town is named after the gameshow! Here’s the story:

“Hello There, We’ve Been Waiting for You!”

Ralph Edwards' popular game show, "Truth or Consequences," opened every week with these words. The show aired on the radio from 1940-57, and on television beginning in 1950.

**In 1949, as the radio show's 10th anniversary approached, Edwards asked co-workers for ideas on how to mark the occasion.**

"Why not find a town or city somewhere in America that would be willing to change its name to 'Truth or Consequences,' and do the anniversary broadcast from that city?" said a staffer.

Edwards liked the idea. The word went out. A number of cities responded. But one stood out from the rest: Hot Springs, New Mexico.

The show's producer visited Hot Springs to work out the details with the mayor, the Chamber of Commerce, and other local big-wigs. A special election was held on March 31, 1950, and the name change passed, 1294 to 295. And *that* is how "Hot Springs New Mexico" became a town named after a game show!

The very next day, on April 1, 1950, Ralph Edwards flew in with his wife Barbara, members of his staff, and press crews to conduct the 10 year anniversary broadcast of the game show "Truth or Consequences" from the City of Truth or Consequences. The event and the city received an avalanche of nationwide publicity. Since the event occurred on April Fool's Day, many assumed it was a practical joke!

When the Holy Spirit showed up, many people thought it was a joke. A prank. "They are filled with new wine." But this was the manifestation of the promised Holy Spirit. Just like Jesus said.

What will the Holy Spirit do? What's His job description? Seven things in the text—and they kind of get overlooked.

At this point, I mentioned each truth of the Spirit and interacted with the congregation, "So what? What's the consequence of this truth?". It was a good dialogue but I don't have the answers of what was shared...How would you answer?

- 1) The Spirit bears witness about Jesus.
- 2) The Spirit convicts the world concerning sin, righteousness and judgment.
- 3) The Spirit guides disciples of Jesus into all truth.
- 4) The Spirit speaks whatever He hears.
- 5) The Spirit declares to disciples of Jesus the things that are to come.
- 6) The Spirit glorifies Jesus.
- 7) The Spirit takes what is of Jesus and declares it to disciples of Jesus.

It's Pentecost. The Helper is here. To the Spirit, as God's people we say what Ralph Edwards would say: "Hello there, we've been waiting for you!"

In Jesus' name, Amen.