

FOLLOW UP QUESTIONS FOR HUBLETS OR ALONE.

Reflect again on what have been the key messages for you in the Living Free series so far?

What is a disciple of Jesus?

Take time to think about each form of truth (statements, images & stories) and how each has an impact on the way you live, love and lead.

Can you think of a time in your own life, when you've realised that the story you're living in isn't the truth?

What are some of the scrappy first drafts that you regularly jump to believing in different situations?

Re-read Ps 25 and ask the Holy Spirit to highlight a couple of key phrases for you in the Psalm that speak into your life right now. Share them or write them down.

Pray: take those key phrases from Ps 25 and turn them into your own prayer.

Reflect: Are you experiencing:
Fear, Shame, Rebellion or Slavery
in your life in any way?

What is the story you're telling yourself?
How can you replace that story, with the true story of faith, intimacy, obedience and freedom?

Living Free part 7 - True Stories

John 8.31-47 & Psalm 25

Recap

- True Identity leads to Freedom
 - The reality of the spiritual, heavenly realms.
 - Beloved Children - relationship of: Faith, Intimacy, Obedience
 - Led astray - Fear, Shame, Rebellion
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Jn 8v31-32

*"If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples.
Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."*

What is a disciple?

- One who follows, listens, obeys.

How did Jesus disciple people?

By telling them **stories**.

Truth:

- Statements
- Images
- Stories

How we live, love & lead - depends on the stories we tell ourselves.

Jesus and the Pharisees.

Following the story of the woman caught in adultery, clashes with the Pharisees, and is brutally direct with them. The basis of the confrontation is that they are believing a very different story from the one Jesus is telling. It's a truth confrontation.

Their story	Jesus' story
v33 We are Abraham's descendants	v44 You belong to your father, the devil
and have never been slaves of anyone	v34 Everyone who sins is a slave to sin

True stories and Scrappy first drafts.

A scrappy first draft, is the story we first tell ourself when we trigger an emotional reaction.

"They ignored me because..."
"I'm feeling far from God because..."
"I always react like this when..."

"The first draft is the child's draft, where you let it all pour out and then let it romp over the place, knowing that no one is going to see it and that you can shape it later."
 (Anne Lamott)

Your first draft isn't the truth!

The Father of lies, tries to keep us fixated on our scrappy first draft and persuade us its real, to keep us from living in God's truth.

Psalm 25

1 In you, Lord my God, I put my trust.
2 I trust in you; do not let me be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
3 No one who hopes in you, will ever be put to shame,
4 Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths.
5 Guide me in your truth and teach me,
for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.
6 Remember, Lord, your great mercy and love,
for they are from of old.

7 Do not remember the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways;
according to your love remember me, for you, Lord, are good.
8 Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in his ways.
9 He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way.
10 All the ways of the Lord are loving and faithful
toward those who keep the demands of his covenant.
11 For the sake of your name, Lord, forgive my iniquity, though it is great.

We have a choice:

To live in our scrappy first draft, or to embrace God's truth and let him lead us in his ways.

Fear and Faith.

Shame and Intimacy

Rebellion & Obedience

Slavery & Freedom.

Negativity fast.

Part of the vision of our negativity fast, is to train us to check our negative words before we spill them out. Our negative words often come from our scrappy first draft, the story we've jumped into believing.

Pausing, noticing our cynicism, criticism and blame, gives us the moment to check, 'What story am I believing here?'