

**Australian Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**BETHLEHEM TOOWOOMBA, OUR SAVIOUR LOWOOD, ST JOHN'S AUBIGNY,**  
**ST PAUL'S GREENWOOD, TRINITY MARBURG, TRINITY OAKEY**  
14<sup>th</sup> July Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

**HYMNS:** 124 149 327 512

**INTROIT:** Psalm 85:1-13

Let me hear what God the LORD says, for He promises peace to His people, to His devout people. But let them not go back to self-confidence. Surely His salvation is near those who fear Him, that His glory may dwell in our land.

Mercy and truth have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed. Truth will sprout up from the earth, and righteousness will look down from heaven.

The LORD will indeed give what is good, and our land will yield its produce.

Righteousness will go before Him that it may make His footsteps our pathway.

**COLLECT:** O Lord, You granted Your prophets strength to resist the temptations of the devil and courage to proclaim repentance. Give us pure hearts and minds to follow Your Son faithfully even into suffering and death; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

*Welcome to all worshipping with us!*

Pastor Ziebell can be contacted via phone/text at 0407 583922.

Please notify pastor of anyone who is unwell or in need of a visit.

Email him at [paziebell@gmail.com](mailto:paziebell@gmail.com) or to the church office at [ddaelc@gmail.com](mailto:ddaelc@gmail.com). Pastor is usually in his office Tuesday-Wednesday for anyone who would like to call in. Other days of the week are set aside for visits.

**READINGS:** Amos 7:7-15 Amos and Amaziah.

Ephesians 1:3-14 God praised for His secret plan now revealed.

Mark 6:14-29 Herod's opinion about Jesus, and the death of John the Baptist.

**Amos 7:7-15**

<sup>7</sup> This is what He showed me: The Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb-line. He had the plumb-line in His hand. <sup>8</sup> The LORD asked me, "What do you see, Amos?"

I answered, "A plumb-line."

Then the Lord said: “Look! I am putting a plumb-line among My people Israel. I shall not overlook them any longer. <sup>9</sup> The high places of Isaac will be made desolate, and the holy places of Israel will be in ruins. I shall use a sword to rise up against the family of Jeroboam.”

<sup>10</sup> Then Amaziah, the priest at Bethel, sent a message to Jeroboam, the king of Israel: “Amos has been conspiring against you in the middle of the family of Israel. The land cannot endure everything that he is saying. <sup>11</sup> For this is what Amos has been saying: ‘Jeroboam will be killed with the sword, and Israel will certainly leave its own land to go into exile.’”

<sup>12</sup> Amaziah told Amos: “Go away, seer! Run off to the land of Judah! Earn your living over there and prophesy there! <sup>13</sup> You shall never prophesy at Bethel again! For Bethel is a royal sanctuary and is a temple of the kingdom.”

<sup>14</sup> Amos answered Amaziah: “I had not been a prophet and had not been a disciple of a prophet. For I had been a herdsman and had also been taking care of sycamore-fig-trees. <sup>15</sup> However, the LORD took me away from following the flock and the LORD told me: ‘Go! Prophesy to My people Israel!’”

### **Ephesians 1:3-14**

<sup>3</sup> Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ! <sup>4</sup> For before He made the world, His love led Him to choose us in Christ to be holy and blameless in His sight. In love <sup>5</sup> He predestined us to be adopted as His own sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with the good pleasure of His will. <sup>6</sup> He did this that His glorious grace, which He bestowed on us in His dearly loved Son, might be praised. <sup>7</sup> In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, because of God’s rich grace. <sup>8</sup> He caused His grace to abound toward us in all wisdom and understanding, <sup>9</sup> when He made known to us the mystery of His will. According to His good pleasure it was His purpose in Christ <sup>10</sup> to manage everything, both in heaven and on earth, in such a way that, when the right time came, He might summarise all things in Christ. <sup>11</sup> In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance. He who carries out everything exactly as His will plans it has predestined us according to His purpose. <sup>12</sup> He did this that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might praise His glory. <sup>13</sup> When you heard the message of the truth, the Good News that you have been saved and when you became believers, you were also sealed in Him by the Holy Spirit, whom God promised. <sup>14</sup> That Holy Spirit is the guarantee of our inheritance until God redeems us to be His very own, that His glory may be praised.

## **Mark 6:14-29**

King Herod heard about this. For Jesus' name had become well known. Some people were saying, "John the Baptist has been raised from the dead, and that is why these miraculous powers are at work in Him."

<sup>15</sup> Others were saying, "He is Elijah."

Others were saying, "He is a prophet, like one of the other prophets."

<sup>16</sup> However, when Herod heard about it, he used to say, "John, the man whom I beheaded, has been raised."

<sup>17</sup> For Herod himself had sent some men, arrested John and bound him in prison because of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, whom Herod had married.

<sup>18</sup> For John used to tell Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife."

<sup>19</sup> Herodias held a grudge against John and wanted to kill him but could not do it,

<sup>20</sup> because Herod was afraid of John. For he knew that John was a righteous and holy man and he kept protecting him. When he listened to John, he was greatly disturbed and yet he liked to hear him. <sup>21</sup> Then an opportune day came on Herod's birthday, when he made

a dinner for his noblemen, his military officers and the leading men of Galilee. <sup>22</sup> When his daughter, that is, the daughter of Herodias, came in and danced, she pleased Herod

and those who were sitting at table with him. The king told the girl, "Ask me for whatever you want! I shall give it to you."

<sup>23</sup> He solemnly swore to her: "I shall give you whatever you ask me for, up to half of my kingdom."

<sup>24</sup> She went out and asked her mother, "What am I to ask for?" She answered, "The head of John the Baptist."

<sup>25</sup> Immediately the girl hurried in to the king and made her request: "I want you to give me at once on a platter the head of John the Baptist."

<sup>26</sup> Although the king became very sorry, yet, because of his oaths and because of those who were sitting at the table with him, he did not want to refuse her. <sup>27</sup> Immediately the king sent an executioner and ordered him to bring John's head. He went and beheaded

John in the prison, <sup>28</sup> brought his head on a platter and gave it to the girl, and the girl gave it to her mother. <sup>29</sup> When John's disciples heard this, they came and took away his body

and laid it in a tomb.

## **GOD'S WORD IS TRUTH**

### **Sermon for the 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost 2024**

#### **Mark 6:14-29**

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

The text for our sermon today is our Gospel from before, Mark 6:14-29

Lord God, heavenly Father, sanctify us through Your truth, Your Word is truth. Amen.

Dear friends in Christ,

Just days before His sacrificial death for all people, Jesus lamented the fact that so many people had rejected Him and the free gift of eternal life. He said, “*O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!*” (Matthew 23:37). Instead of listening to the voice of the prophets of old and now to Jesus Himself, the people continued to stubbornly resist God’s will for their lives.

But preaching repentance was what the prophets had been sent to do, and now, Jesus was doing the same. However, such preaching often put the messengers in danger. Perhaps the most dangerous was when any of the prophets or Jesus spoke the truth to those in powerful positions in or outside the church. Think of Moses, telling Pharaoh, “*Let my people go.*” But Pharaoh hardened his heart and would not.<sup>1</sup> Think of the prophet Samuel confronting King Saul.<sup>2</sup> Think of Nathan confronting King David - although in that rare instance, the king listened to the prophet and did repent.<sup>3</sup> But generally, it is dangerous for a prophet to call out a king. The prophet Elijah rebuked King Ahab and his queen, Jezebel.<sup>4</sup> Jezebel tried to hunt Elijah down, much like Herodias went after John. In our Old Testament reading today, the prophet Amos spoke out against King Jeroboam, but it did not make him very popular.<sup>5</sup> Last Sunday, we heard how the people had taken offence at Jesus and His preaching in the synagogue.<sup>6</sup> Those taking offence would have included the synagogue leaders. They were so angry with what Jesus spoke that they even took Him out to throw Him off a cliff.<sup>7</sup> Jesus spoke truth to the religious leaders of the Jews, the scribes and the Pharisees. Jesus called them out, exposing their hypocrisy and pronouncing woe upon them for misleading the people. This did not make Jesus very popular with them. They hated Jesus. They had it in for Him. They conspired against Him and plotted how they could do away with Him. Luke tells us in his Gospel how the scribes and Pharisees hoped to catch Jesus out so they could deliver Him to the authorities.<sup>8</sup> Finally, their plans succeeded. They had Jesus arrested and sent Him over to Pilate, the Roman governor, on some trumped-up charges. They whipped up the mob against Jesus and put pressure on Pilate to bend to their will, which he eventually did, even though he knew Jesus was an innocent man. He condemned Jesus to death by crucifixion.

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<sup>1</sup> Exodus 7ff

<sup>2</sup> 1 Samuel 15ff

<sup>3</sup> 2 Samuel 12ff

<sup>4</sup> 1 Kings 18-19

<sup>5</sup> Amos 7:7-15

<sup>6</sup> Mark 6:3

<sup>7</sup> Luke 4:29

<sup>8</sup> Luke 20:19-26

Speaking the truth is not easy, and it is sometimes unsafe – even leading to death. It is no laughing matter. On the contrary, it is deadly serious and can be downright dangerous. Today, our text shows what may happen when a prophet speaks the truth to someone in a powerful position.

The prophet in question in our Gospel reading today is John the Baptist. Actually, it starts out by talking about Jesus but refers back to John the Baptist, who, at some point, had been put to death. Mark writes, “**King Herod heard about this,**” that is, Herod heard of the ministry that Jesus was doing, preaching and teaching and calling people to repentance, casting out demons, and healing the sick, but doubted this was happening by a man named Jesus. “**King Herod heard about this. For Jesus’ name had become well known. Some people were saying, “John the Baptist has been raised from the dead, and that is why these miraculous powers are at work in Him.”**”

<sup>15</sup> Others were saying, “He is Elijah.”

Others were saying, “He is a prophet, like one of the other prophets.”

<sup>16</sup> However, when Herod heard about it, he used to say, “John, the man whom I beheaded, has been raised.”

The first thing we notice here is that something about Jesus reminded people of the prophets of the past, whether of the recent past, like John the Baptist, or of the distant past, like Elijah and the prophets of old. Jesus was like them in some way. In His doing mighty works that showed the hand of God was upon Him, in His boldly calling sinners to repentance, *Jesus was speaking and acting like a prophet would speak and act*.

When King Herod said, “**John, the man whom I beheaded, has been raised,**” his reaction was dictated by a guilty conscience. His guilty conscience may have bothered him for what he did to John, but this was not him. This was Jesus.

And this, then, is what prompts the flashback in our text, the account of how John had spoken the truth and paid for it with his life. King Herod is not to be confused with his father, Herod the Great, who was around at the time when Jesus was born and had the baby boys of Bethlehem massacred. No, this Herod was also known as Herod Antipas, the tetrarch of Galilee. Herod had dumped his first wife and married his brother’s wife, a woman named Herodias. To say the least, this was a rather immoral thing to do, a clear violation of God’s Law. But Herod was in power, so who’s going to stop him?

Well, John may not have been able to stop him, but John was going to let Herod know that what he was doing was wrong. “**John used to tell Herod, “It is not lawful for you to have your brother’s wife.”** “*Herod, you may be king. You may have a lot of power and might. But might does not make right. What you are doing is not right in God’s sight. It is not lawful for you to have your brother’s wife.*” John was unafraid to speak the truth, even to someone as powerful as King Herod.

Herod did not like to hear this, but it especially got under the skin of his wife, Herodias. “**Herodias held a grudge against John and wanted to kill him.**” She must have thought, “*Who is this out there in the wilderness calling us out? Who does he think he is?*”

*Herod, you're the king. Do something about it! Have that man arrested! In fact, I'd really like it if you'd have him put to death!"*

So **"Herod himself... sent some men, arrested John and bound him in prison,"** but he would not put John to death **"because Herod was afraid of John."** Herod **"knew that John was a righteous and holy man and he kept protecting him. When he listened to John, he was greatly disturbed and yet he liked to hear him."** Herod knew that John was speaking the truth, that he was a righteous and holy man of God, and he couldn't bring himself to put John to death. But his wife, Herodias, was still steaming and had it in for John.

Then, the right opportunity came along. It was Herod's birthday; he was having a big birthday bash; all the high, mighty, and powerful people were there. Herodias's daughter comes in and dances for the guests. This entertainment pleases Herod so much that he makes a rash statement: **"I shall give you whatever you ask me for, up to half of my kingdom."** The daughter consults with her mother, who tells her what to ask for. She comes to Herod and says, **"I want you to give me at once on a platter the head of John the Baptist."** <sup>26</sup> **Although the king became very sorry, yet, because of his oaths and because of those who were sitting at the table with him, he did not want to refuse her.** <sup>27</sup> **Immediately the king sent an executioner and ordered him to bring John's head. He went and beheaded John in the prison, <sup>28</sup> brought his head on a platter and gave it to the girl, and the girl gave it to her mother."** In the end, speaking the truth cost John his life.

Being a prophet was a high-risk profession. But here's the thing: Jesus, John, Elijah, and the prophets of old spoke God's truth, and God was with them, as He is with us today. We may not be called to be prophets, but we are called to speak God's Word in its truth, and *"if God is for us, who can be against us?"* (Romans 8:31). We are called to speak the truth to everyone we meet, and this *even includes people in authority over us* – people in powerful positions who could even shut us down and throw us in prison. While for now, they may not take our lives, who knows what could happen in the future? Yet even if they were to take our lives, ***they cannot stop God's Word.*** Even to those in powerful positions, speaking the truth to them may be a high risk, but even more so, it is a high reward. God will vindicate His servants in the end.

And indeed, that is the point of this story. John lost his life for speaking the truth, but this story really is about Jesus. For in the unjust taking of Jesus' life, there is the basis and the reason for the prophet's reward. For Jesus is far more than a prophet. He is the very Son of God. He is Truth incarnate, Truth with a capital "T." But Jesus knew He would go into suffering and death by speaking God's truth. Yet He did so willingly. There is a unique purpose in His suffering. Christ would die to pay for all of the sins of the world, the sins of the high and mighty, and our sins, too, because even people who are not all that powerful still need their sins forgiven. This is what Jesus has done for you.

Here is the truth that Jesus speaks to us: Yes, you are a sinner, and it doesn't matter if you are a king or a commoner; you still have sinned and broken God's Law. It may be

through sexual immorality, like Herod taking his brother's wife, or something. Or maybe your sin is in your secret pride of how much better you are than those bad people, all the while bearing grudges and harbouring unforgiveness in your heart. In all these ways and more, we thumb our noses at God and look down at people. This is not good. This is sin, and *it merits death*.

So, Jesus calls us to repent, give up on our goodness, and find our righteousness elsewhere - namely, in Him. "Jesus, Thy blood and righteousness, My beauty are, my glorious dress." Yes, look to Christ for your righteousness and your forgiveness and the sure hope of your eternal salvation. Jesus speaks this truth to you today, and you can count on it.

When Jesus speaks His truth to you today through your called pastor, whether you are powerful or not, the wise course is to listen to the words of Jesus, repent of your sins, and trust in the only one who can save you - Christ Jesus Himself. When Christ Jesus speaks His truth to you, you can expect absolution, perfect redemption, and blessings. After all, God's Word is truth.<sup>9</sup> Amen.

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.

#### PRAYER FOR THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Most holy and eternal God, You rule over all, and have given us victory over all our enemies. We come before You with humble hearts to praise You.

We thank You that You so richly supply the world with daily bread, that You fill the earth with untold resources, that You give every seed the miracle of growth, and send the rain to make fruitful the efforts of those who farm the soil. But, above all else, we thank You for that great love that has satisfied the hunger of our souls by sending from heaven the bread of life, Jesus Christ Your Son. Grant that we may believe in Him with all our hearts, and find joy and satisfaction in Him alone. Help us each day to turn to Him who was wounded because of our sins, and bruised because of our iniquities, so that by His punishment we may be cleansed, healed, and forgiven, and may know in Him the joy of unbroken fellowship with You.

Gracious God, You know that we are weak and sinful. Give us the strength that we do not have of ourselves. Fill us with faith, hope, and love, so that we may live as Your children and enjoy life in all its fullness. Give us the power to stand firm in the spiritual battles of this life, the resolve to be Your true and loyal servants, and the ability to conquer our sins and to live in righteousness.

Bless Your Church, O God. Supply it with pastors who pray without ceasing, proclaim Your Word with boldness, call people to repentance and faith, and prepare them for the final coming of Jesus our Saviour and judge. Give all of us opportunities to speak the

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<sup>9</sup> John 17:17

Gospel to others, and grant that we may do it with certainty and conviction, with a sense of urgency, and with genuine love for people's bodily and spiritual welfare.

We thank You for the many mercies You have shown to our country. Strengthen all forces of righteousness in our midst, and overthrow all the powers of evil. Teach us to trust in You, for You alone help and protect us.

Bless our homes with Your continual presence and help. Put Your Word in the hearts of children, and Your love in the lives of parents, so that they may all enjoy the bread of life for ever.

Deal mercifully with those among us who are suffering, bereaved, lonely, and depressed. Free them from their troubles, and bind them to You, that they may know the security of Your presence, and live to serve and praise You.

All these things we ask in the precious name of Jesus Christ, our Saviour, who, together with You and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

## **Article: The Sin of Lying in God's Name**

On more than one occasion, I have encountered someone who is very intent on keeping God's Law yet came across to others as harsh, unloving, critical, and rude. Because such people want very much to believe that they are righteous, they often wind up being critical of others while blinding themselves to their own sins. They usually have certain rules that they follow while ignoring or justifying sins that they do not think are important. At the same time, there are those who go to the opposite extreme of tolerating open and manifest sin in the name of love while being critical of anyone who openly condemns such sin. In either case, it is hard to help or counsel such people because they tend to become angry when shown their faults.

That being said, one area of sin that is usually ignored is speaking falsely in God's name. Some may get angry because they do not want to believe that they are guilty of that sin. Others may condemn what is said to them because someone's approach does not fit their ideas of tolerance. However, what I am going to say needs to be said because falsehood and deception are tools of the devil, and they hinder the work of the Gospel.

### The Sin of Adding to God's Word

One of the most obvious ways people add to God's Word is by claiming they have a new revelation. Such claims are common among the cults. I have heard Christians say, "God told me" to do this or that. Now, while such claims may come across as pious, they open people up to satanic influence. Many years ago, I heard a Christian preacher say, "God told me that Jesus would return in 2000." It is obvious that he was lying in God's name.



In some churches, people are being taught that God will speak to them through feelings and impressions and that they must “obey” what “He says,” or He may punish them. However, that is a lie! Those who teach that would place people back under the Law, with this one difference, they have replaced the written Law with an unwritten law. In either case, the curse Paul warned about in his Letter to the Galatians still applies (Galatians 1:6-9).

Other ways in which people add to God’s Word have to do with reading ideas into the text of Scripture, coming up with explanations that are not in Scripture, teaching their own interpretations and conclusions as the Word of God, and claiming that the words mean something other than what they say. As a result, they cannot tell the difference between what the Bible plainly says and what they think it means.

### The Sin of Subtracting from God’s Word

When people add an idea to God’s Word, it usually winds up contradicting what the Bible says elsewhere. It goes the other way, too. Sometimes, teachers contradict what Christ plainly says in His Word. When this is pointed out to them, they should submit to Christ by giving up any ideas that contradict what He said. However, they are usually so blinded by self-righteousness that they explain away what Christ has said rather than give up their own pet ideas. And by explaining away the words of Christ, they become guilty of taking away from the Word of God, as well as rebellion against God (Psalm 107:11). Let me give one example: 1 John 2:1-2 says, *“We have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.”* However, those who deny that Christ died for the sins of all men subtract from Scripture by explaining that passage away. Moreover, by explaining it away, they make it of no effect, at least for those who are deceived by them (Mark 7:13).

Those who add to God’s Word and those who subtract from it are lying in God’s name because they either claim that He said what He did not say or deny that He said what He said.

### The Sin of Self-deification

Deep down, the motivation of those who add to and take from God’s Word is always the desire to make themselves God. When they add to God’s Word, they try to make themselves God by teaching their word as God’s Word. When they take away from God’s Word, they are attempting to make themselves God by overruling what He has said, as if they are the real authority (Genesis 3:1).

Sometimes, they use Scripture to manipulate people by telling them that they have to dress a certain way, wear their hair a certain way, or only marry people of the same race. At other times, they twist Scripture to support the bogus claim that church members must obey the pastor or that ordained pastors are the only ones who can understand Scripture. Instead of leading people to turn from man's word to God's Word, they teach their opinions and private interpretations as if the ministry existed to exalt them rather than Christ and provide them with a forum for advancing their opinions. In any case, they are trying to make themselves into God by exalting themselves over others. And, when they twist Scripture to do this, they wind up lying in God's name.

### The Sin of Professing Oneself to be Wise

Although the entire body of doctrine (all of the teachings necessary to work of the ministry and the salvation of souls) is stated in Scripture in words so clear that they need no interpretation, sin often blinds people to what the Bible plainly says. At the same time, Satan uses the many passages of Scripture that are difficult to understand to lead people away from what the Bible says. One way he does this is by having them profess themselves to be wise, profess to know more than they possibly could know, claim to have the answers to questions that the Bible does not answer, and, in general, confuse the distinction between man's word and God's Word.

No one denies that many things in Scripture are hard to understand or that the Bible leaves us with many unanswered questions. However, the Biblical approach to these difficulties is to humbly admit our ignorance and concentrate on those teachings that are so clearly set forth in the words of Scripture that they need no interpretation.

Whenever we go beyond the plain teaching of God's Word, whether regarding Bible prophesy or any other topic, if we add to or take from what the Bible says, we have departed from the Word of God and are lying in God's name.

If we are to be faithful to God, we must first learn to be our own worst critic. We must be intent on finding and eliminating our own mistakes before anyone else does and before teaching them to others. The clear passages of Scripture, the doctrinal truths so plainly stated that they need no interpretation, are the standard by which every opinion is to be judged (Isaiah 8:20).

All who refuse to conform their thinking to God's Word should be regarded as troublemakers and rebels against God (Psalm 107:11, Romans 12:2, 2 Corinthians 10:5).

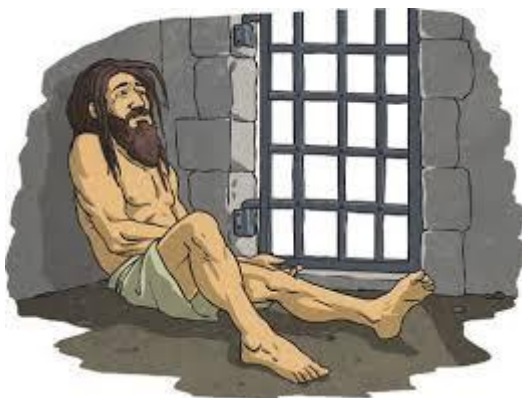
## Children's Message:

Do you like it when people tell you you did something wrong? Maybe you were shouting, and your parents told you to quiet down. Or you grabbed a toy from your sister, and they scolded you. Often, we don't like being told we're wrong.

What if it was a friend that was doing something wrong? Sometimes, we don't even like telling them they're sinning, even if it's the truth. We don't want them to be mad at us!

A similar thing happened to John the Baptist. King Herod did a terrible thing - he married his brother's wife! People were afraid of Herod, so they didn't tell him the truth that what he did was wrong. But John the Baptist cared about the truth so much that he did tell King Herod he was sinning. That was very courageous of John! What do you think King Herod did when John told him the truth?

Well, Herod knew John was a good and righteous man. But his wife didn't like John telling the truth, so, sadly, she had him put in prison and eventually put to death. Still, it was good that John told the truth when no one else would.



Jesus, too, told the truth when no one else would. Even now, through His Word of the Law, He tells us when we're sinning, when we're

doing something wrong or dangerous. He loves us enough to tell us the truth, even when it makes us mad. Jesus tells us when we're sinning because He wants us to repent, to stop sinning and turn away from sin completely.

There's even more truth He shares with us, though! He tells us that He died for our sins, that He was raised from the dead, and that He forgives all our wrongdoing! That's why He warns us of our sin: so we'll repent and receive His forgiveness, not suffer God's punishment. We can only do that if we listen when He speaks the truth to us. So it's very loving when Jesus warns us of our sin. We are His beloved children, and He'll never stop loving us enough to tell us the truth.

We can do just the same - always telling the truth, following God's commandments, and even loving others enough to share the truth with them when they sin.

Let's pray. *Heavenly Father, thank You for John the Baptist who showed us how to tell the truth no matter what. Thank You for sending Jesus to share the truth with us too. In His name we pray. Amen.*

## WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

<b>21 July 9 Pentecost</b>	<b>28 July 10 Pentecost</b>	<b>4 August 11 Pentecost</b>
10.00am HC Parish Service at Bethlehem Toowoomba	8.30am OAK HC 9.00am TMBA LR 9.30am AUB LR 10.15am GRN HC 9.00am LOWOOD LR	8.30am OAK LR 9.00am TMBA LR 9.30am GRN LR 9.30am AUB LR 9.00am MARBURG HC
<b>Sunday, 21 July</b>		
READINGS: Jeremiah 23:1-6;      Ephesians 2:11-22;      Mark 6:30-44		
HYMNS: 505 191 289 465 287 604		
<b>Sunday, 28 July</b>		
READINGS: Genesis 9:8-17;      Ephesians 3:14-21;      Mark 6:45-56		
HYMNS: 422 409 578 (763 292) 608		
<b>Sunday, 4 August</b>		
READINGS: Exodus 16:2-15;      Ephesians 4:1-16;      John 6:22-35		
HYMNS: 187 347 395 (284 291) 510		

Next Sunday, Please place your offering in envelopes marked back to your own congregation. Loose offerings will go to the parish. Also, please bring something for a shared lunch after the service. Please come along if you are able. Our parish services are a wonderful opportunity to catch up and have fellowship with one another!

### JULY BIBLE STUDIES

Wednesday, 18 July, 10.00am Our Saviour Lowood

Sunday, 21 July, 8.30am Bethlehem Toowoomba

Wednesday, 24 July, 7.30pm St Paul's Greenwood

Friday, 26 July, 7.30pm O/A at St John's Aubigny