

IS IT TRUE?

MISSION ADVENTURES
2022 North American Theme Statement

Is it true? We find ourselves asking this question often in the world that we live in today. Is the news we see true? Are our politicians telling the truth? People are even questioning God and who He is. But did you know that God asks, “are you true?” He does not ask us if we are real but if we are true to him, are our hearts and praises pleasing to him? In Isaiah 58 we see God showing us what being true is.

When we zoom into Isaiah chapter 58, we see Isaiah speaking to people who are doing all of the right rituals, but their hearts have grown cold towards God. What should be a relationship with God has become transactional. Just like the Israelites we have fallen into the same wrongdoings. We have grown cold towards God.

This week, we will explore what God is looking for in true justice, beyond the comfort of rituals. We will learn what it means for true justice to flow out of a relationship with God as we co-labor with him. From there we can see God’s restoration change our own lives and partner with him to bring that restoration to others. So take a look at what’s inside you and ask: is it true?

*Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;
you shall cry, and he will say, ‘Here I am.’
If you take away the yoke from your midst,
the pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness,
if you pour yourself out for the hungry
and satisfy the desire of the afflicted,
then shall your light rise in the darkness
and your gloom be as the noonday.
And the Lord will guide you continually
and satisfy your desire in scorched places
and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water,
whose waters do not fail.
And your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to dwell in.*

Isaiah 58: 9-12 (ESV)

IS IT TRUE?

IS IT FAKE?

We live in a world where the truth is hidden. Phony politicians and deepfake videos on social media lead us to ask the same question, *“Is it fake?”* Isaiah is speaking to a group of people that seemingly have it all together, yet their hearts are far from God. Like them, are we treating God like a vending machine? Are we spending the currency of empty rituals in an attempt to receive blessings while our hearts and actions are far from him? Look inside yourself and ask, *“Is my worship, my works, and my heart genuine and pleasing to God?”* Or - Is It Fake?

IS IT JUST?

We don't see justice in the world because justice has been redefined. So we see wickedness, social injustice, the poor being oppressed, and the vulnerable abused. We must choose to pursue His real justice and not our own. Fueled with prayer, compassion, wisdom and love we will see true godly justice. We partner with God to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, break yokes of oppression and heal the hurt. Take a look at not only what's within you but what comes out in your actions. Is It Just?

IS IT WITH?

Restlessness plagues many. Hurry is viewed as normal. Our perspective of God is warped. Amidst the division and chaos, we hunger and thirst for true rest. With an outstretched hand our Father invites us to dwell with Him. No matter where we are, we can be welcomed into life with the presence of the Lord. True Sabbath is to delight ourselves in the Eternal God. Sabbath is more than just a day of the week, it is a realignment with the truth of who God is and placing our trust and dependence on him as we walk with Him. We demonstrate and strengthen our trust for God by living a lifestyle of Sabbath. We see the effects on our life as we partner with Him to bring restoration. As we look at ourselves, we can walk with Him, So ask yourself - Is It With?

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IS IT REAL?

What happens when we step outside of that vending machine kind of transactional relationship with God? What happens when we step into a life of pouring ourselves out for others? In our darkest time we will light the path for others. We will be like a garden that is well nourished, even in the most parched times. As our heart posture changes, we will have new desires and we will be satisfied even in the dry places. Like Jesus commands us, we will go and make disciples. Together we will raise up a foundation, an open door for generations to come. In partnership with Christ, we will repair the brokenness of families, communities and nations. So ask Him - Is It Real?