

Seeking Truth: Day 5 1 message

The Gathering <hello@shelbyraeturner.com> To: theresaboedeker@gmail.com Thu, Jan 14, 2021 at 6:01 AM

WILDHOPE

A Study of the Good and Unstoppable Plans of God

DAY 05

Seeking Truth

"And Jesus answered them, 'See that no one leads you astray'." Mathew 24:4

"What are some of your favorite colors to wear?" the well-manicured lady asked, smiling at me and my teen friends. She was giving a presentation on clothes and fashion tips, and we were intently listening.

She pointed to me.

"Orange," I said.

Her hand stopped moving around the circle. We heard an intake of air into her posture perfect lungs. She made one quiet tap with the toes of her wellheeled pump. We sat expectantly, knowing some wise pronouncement would follow. Words to live by, and by which to arrange our unfashionable lives. "Orange is not a color," she said, emphasizing each word.

I stared at her. Shocked. I always got compliments on my orange sweater. What about pumpkins? What about oranges? What about . . .?

Without thinking, I defended my favorite color, "It's in the crayon box and the rainbow."

She stared at me for a moment. Her well-modulated voice announcing, "Of course it is. But it is not a fashion color. Ladies do not and should not ever wear orange. It is a color of clowns and . . . nature."

Some of the girls teetered.

And that is how I learned that orange is not a color to wear.

Small comments can shape our choices and direction. For years I believed the color lie.

Then one day I realized that I still liked orange, and out of defiance, I bought an orange shirt, then a sweater. And since then, who cares what color is announced in or out, to exist or not, I wear what I like and what I want.

I can laugh at this foolish advice now, but back then I believed it. Her saying orange was not a fashion color, did not make it true. But I acted like it did.

That is why we need to read the Bible and compare our beliefs and thoughts with God's truth.

We need to be careful of what we say, listen to, and the lies we believe.

What about you? What lie do you believe about God? Yourself? This life? We have all adopted lies that affect our attitudes, emotions, and actions.

Just because someone said it, doesn't make it true. Be careful of the lies you believe. Lies from others. Lies in your head.

If we don't want to be led astray, we need to be truth seekers. The way we do this is to compare what we think and believe with God's truth.

When you know the truth, remind yourself of the truth. This makes lies ineffective.

His truth is powerful. It changes our way of thinking and acting. It makes us courageous, kind, forgiving, and takes away worries. When we remind our self that as a child of the King we are of value, that truth will change us.

Theresa Boedeker is a storyteller, humor hunter, and encourager of others. She tells stories to connect us to each other, bring hope, spread grace, and help us understand this lovely adventure called life. Join her as she unwraps life at <u>TheresaBoedeker.com</u> and reminds you what's important about life, yourself, and grace or connect with her on instagram @theresaboedeker.

BE WATCHING FOR

Later today we're releasing Tracee Cobb's Story of Hope. Tracee has a lot to share about how to pivot well when life is constantly changing. She also speaks wisdom and hope to those struggling with anxiety. Be sure to watch her story on Facebook or Instagram!

LINK TO FACEBOOK

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SMALL GROUPS

Don't forget to connect with your virtual small group! Check out our small group guide for tips and start connecting using Thursday's prompt!

THURSDAY'S PROMPT Job walked through three different stages during his time of suffering. First, he chose to praise God despite the pain he was experiencing. Second, he felt desperate and begged God for answers. Third, he encountered God, realizing he could trust in the goodness and sovereignty of God.

Do you find yourself relating one (or more) of those stages and why?

SMALL GROUP WEEKLY GUIDE

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Stephanie Mosley shared her story yesterday of how God met her in the midst of unfathomable loss and tragedy. She offers words of hope and encouragement for those going through difficult circumstances. This peacefilled testimony will surely meet you right where you are. Be sure to check it out!!

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