

The Truth of Jesus in the Bible

Dinh Van Chien¹, Ta Van Tinh²

¹University of Social Sciences and Humanities - Viet Nam National University Ho Chi Minh City (USSH - VNUHCM) Vietnam

²Priest - Archdiocese of Ho Chi Minh City – Vietnam

ABSTRACT: From ancient times until now, if the science of man has always been the central research problem of philosophers and theologians, then **truth** is a topic that attracts scholars to research and has been searched throughout the course of human history. It is even a topic of intellectual headache that philosophers and theologians have set themselves the task of thinking about for centuries. Because this is a field of social consciousness, each culture, each country or nation has a different view and even from a different perspective, approach, each period of human history has a different view of the truth. Therefore, in the work *Ethics*, the author exclaimed: "It cannot be defined, because it is the most basic, ultimate and indivisible concept". Therefore, in this article, the author only focuses on researching and understanding the view of truth in the perspective of Jesus in the Bible. Because: **"The truth will set you free"** [John 8:32].

That is true liberation, that is true liberation. Truth is truth.

KEYWORDS: Jesus' view of truth is expressed in each person and truth in human relationships; the reality of human truth in history as well as in the present period and the meaning of Jesus' thought of truth.

General theory of Jesus' thoughts on the truth. When talking about the thoughts that Jesus left us, with an overview, the author does not recognize much. Because, He lived for 33 years, not much time to help Him express all His thoughts to humanity. Moreover, due to political - social issues and writing barriers, they are also factors that affect Jesus' thoughts. The milestone of His starting to preach the Gospel at the age of 30: "When Jesus began to preach, He was about thirty years old" [Luke 3:23]. However, with such a short time associated with those simple and plain sermons, why did He have such a great impact on humanity? For theologians, without hesitation, the answer is that He went right and went straight to the expectations of humanity, **which is the thirst for truth**. It sounds very simple, but analyzing "truth" it is the cause of all causes. Or in other words, Jesus' thoughts reflect the core of truth. Because, all of us live in the truth, there is certainly no sin and thus hatred and jealousy have no place in humans. And from there, humans will be happy both in the present and in the future.

As a Christian, everyone can answer the question: What did Jesus come to earth to do? Answering this question also means understanding His basic thoughts. And the general answer is to save us from sin, so we call Him the Savior or the Savior. So what mistakes do we make? That He must save us? When talking about sin, there are many different forms of sin. Therefore, the level of sin is also different. However, very few people ask where sin comes from? with the author, sin comes from human lies, which also means that sin comes from living an untrue life. And Jesus came to earth **to find some of the truth that was lost or forgotten from the beginning and He signed a blood covenant to bring people back to the truth**. That is, the principle of **finding the truth "truth"**. **Because only the truth brings true happiness.**

When speaking about the truth of Jesus, when being interrogated at the palace of Governor Pilate, Jesus confirmed the truth: "I was born and came into the world for this purpose, to **testify to the truth**. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice" [John 18:37]. Pilate asked: "What is truth?" [John 18:38]. Jesus did not answer! Did Pilate really not know? Was he "playing dumb" or did he want to avoid the truth? That is also, in "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the only Son as of the Father, full of grace and truth" [John 1:14]. Jesus' thoughts on truth can be summarized through the following basic contents:

Jesus' thought emphasizes the truth within each person. More than anyone else, Jesus understood the greedy, selfish and even deceitful nature in himself. Let me and you look into our own souls, do you admit it like me? As for me, I am certainly realizing that shameful thing in myself. The shame in me is nothing other than living a false life, and that falsehood comes to me and is in me for different reasons. There are many thoughts in me that others cannot recognize, only I know. Besides that, there are my actions expressed through the relationship between people and nature, which are covered by falsehood. Yet sometimes we think that people do not know, we are still happy and joyful about those actions. I am truly ashamed in myself. So what is the basis for me to see that shame, perhaps Jesus himself has exposed the truth in me.

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Jesus is the truth, so He knows the truth of sin in every person. In addition to original sin, there is also personal sin. The story of the adulterer is recorded in the Gospel of John 7:53-8:11: Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. Early in the morning, He returned to the Temple. All the people came to Him. He sat down and taught them. At that time, the scribes and Pharisees brought before Jesus a woman who had been caught in adultery. They made her stand in the middle and said to Him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. In the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. What do You think?" They said this to test Him, so that they could have evidence to accuse Him. But Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. When they kept asking Him, He straightened up and said to them, **"Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her."** Then he stooped down again and wrote on the ground. When they heard this, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones. Jesus was left alone, with the woman standing in the middle. He stood up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She said to him, "No one, sir." Jesus said to her, "Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on do not sin again." Here Jesus wants to direct people to look into their own souls, so that they can recognize their own sins and recognize the truth within themselves. **So surely none of us is pure?** The answer is indeed like that.

Jesus' thoughts on truth are also deeply expressed in the relationship between people. Truth is expressed through Jesus' criticism of the selfishness, falsehood, arrogance and greed of the Scribes and Pharisees in the Gospel of Matthew 23:1-12. So who are they? What is their position and role in What is Judaism?. The scribes were responsible for writing and interpreting the Holy Scriptures, while the Pharisees were an influential elite who emphasized the importance of Jewish law and tradition, and believed in oral law (Mishnah), angels, the afterlife, and the coming of the Messiah. The Pharisees were more popular than the scribes.

Therefore, the Scribes are not necessarily Pharisees, but within the ranks of the Pharisees there are often scribes. In the stories of the Gospel authors, we often read nouns such as Pharisees, scribes, Sadducees, described as characters who are not very friendly to Jesus. From that, we also do not have much sympathy for them. Because, they teach believers about the Law inspired by Moses and the prophets. This Law must be listened to and carried out as the command and judgment of God. However, some of the scribes and Pharisees forgot their role as teachers of the Word of God, some mistakenly thought of themselves as authors of teachings, or worse, as legislators who imposed laws on the people. They established meeting places called synagogues, which were centers of worship and teaching, but their religious system was more of an external form than a practical faith in action. They did not even ask themselves how the Law came into being and for what purpose it was given. Instead, they interpreted the Law in an extreme way, which easily led to misunderstandings and heated arguments.

While Jesus's teaching was to teach the people to distinguish the "essentials" in the Law and customs. Thereby, he sought to free people from mechanical forms of legalism, to guide them toward building a Kingdom of truth. The Pharisees' vision was only tied to useless ostentatious piety. Instead of teaching the people the Law of Moses, they burdened them with countless burdensome laws. They made religion subordinate to worldly interests. They were concerned with unimportant things and neglected the essentials in the Law of Moses. Jesus frankly reproached the scribes and Pharisees for saying one thing and doing another, or in other words, they were being deceitful. In the Gospel: Mt 23, 13-22 records Jesus' words:

¹³ "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! You shut the kingdom of heaven against people. You yourselves do not enter, nor do you let those who are entering in enter.

¹⁴ Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! You devour widows' houses and for a pretense make long prayers; therefore you will receive the greater condemnation.

¹⁵ Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! You travel over land and sea to make a single proselyte, and when he becomes a proselyte, you make him twice as much a child of hell as yourselves.

¹⁶ Woe to you, blind guides! You say, 'Whoever swears by the temple, it is nothing; but whoever swears by the gold of the temple is bound by it.'

¹⁷ You fools and blind men! Which is greater, the gold or the temple that sanctifies the gold?

¹⁸ And you say, 'Whoever swears by the altar, it is nothing; but whoever swears by the gift on it is bound by it.'

¹⁹ You blind men! Which is greater, the offering or the altar that sanctifies the offering?

²⁰ Therefore whoever swears by the altar swears by it and by everything on it.

²¹ And whoever swears by the temple swears by it and by Him who dwells in it.

²² And whoever swears by heaven swears by the throne of God and by God who sits on it.

To further emphasize the truth of Jesus, the author borrows the gospel of Saint Matthew: Regarding the tax payment to Caesar, they sent their disciples along with the Herodians to Jesus, saying: "Teacher, we know that you are a truthful man and teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You do not show partiality to anyone, for you do not judge people by their appearance" [Mt 22:16; Mc 12:14]. Even though they had only evil intentions, wanting to trap and harm Him, they themselves had to acknowledge the truth in Jesus.

The reality of truth in human relationships and the significance of Jesus' ideology of truth in the present period.

No one can obscure the truth, no one can distort the truth. However, throughout history, people have brazenly changed the truth, and falsehood has covered all areas of life. How terrible! Saint Peter prophesied: "The way of truth will be blasphemed" [2 Pet 2:2].

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So, how does truth reign in **real human life**? Nowadays, falsehood is still common, so common that people sometimes consider it a culture. Look at the works that have been awarded and recognized for their excellence in novels, poetry and other literary genres. Do those works reflect the truth? If the content is not true, describing things that do not exist in real life, then it is false and vice versa.

In literature: How to Win Friends and Influence People is a self-help book, the best seller of all time. This book was written by Dale Carnegie and was first published in 1936, it has sold 15 million copies worldwide. It was also the New York Times bestseller for 10 years. The work is considered the first and best book of its kind, having a life-changing influence on millions of people around the world. However, the basic content of the book is **to win people's hearts**, and to win people's hearts means we have to flatter others. And flattery is falsehood, not the truth. Therefore, we must guide people to the truth, even though that truth sometimes makes the work dry and uninteresting for the reader. However, it is better to be dry and true than false.

In the material relationship between people: First of all, why is there war? Everyone is aware that war is bloodshed, and as humans, no one wants to shed blood. So why does blood still flow in war? It is because people are living without respecting the truth or living falsely. Our ancestors have lived on this land for generations, I also have a family with children who are living happily with their loved ones. You were also born on another land, also attached to your ancestors and you also have a family with happy children like me. We have not done you any harm, so why did you invade my country, exploit my people and destroy my family, causing us to separate. The answer has many reasons, but in general you have lived falsely, you are living falsely (looting, greed is false). So if people live honestly with each other, there will certainly be no war and of course no bloodshed or suffering.

The author examines the truth in the relationship between people in a particular nation. Why are there rich and poor people?, why do people despise one and respect another? Some people argue that the reason there are rich and poor people is because people have differences in intelligence and health. Therefore, people are different in terms of property ownership. This explanation sounds very reasonable and I agree with it to some extent. However, it does not convince me completely, because those people live without truth **in loving** each other. If people live truthfully, they will love and share with each other, then private property will have no place in us. Therefore, to have complete happiness, we must **eliminate lies**. If humanity eliminates lies, it means that courts will have no work, laws will not be needed... Then the state will inevitably disappear. In a world where only truth exists, people will inevitably enjoy complete happiness. Complete in both body and soul. And God does not suffer when He looks down on the world.

The deception (falsehood) in trade exchange: the author analyzes it bluntly, without using flowery language as people think about trade exchange, foreign trade, or transactions. However, its essence is deception, the deception between people). When the seller decides to sell his product, he must have thought a lot to decide on the price of his goods. The same goes for the buyer, he must also decide to buy the product for himself. Meanwhile, the seller wants a high price, the buyer wants a low price. However, the two people must sit down and discuss to reconcile and agree on the price in the exchange.

However, the scheme exists in the consciousness of both the buyer and the seller. Regarding the scheme, this calculation is very rich in each person, the author presents specific schemes in the relationship of buying and selling real estate products such as: The seller calculates that his land in this area is sparsely populated, the traffic is not convenient and they decide to sell it for 1 billion. The buyer sees that this is an area in a very feasible project to build a commercial area, buying it after a short time will make a profit and decides to buy it for 1 billion. So who is cheating whom? Suppose the buyer calculates correctly, he will make a high profit, very happy and vice versa, the seller is wrong, he will suffer and be sad. Therefore, the buyer successfully cheats the seller. And in the opposite direction, the buyer does not get what he calculated, he will suffer and vice versa. Therefore, the seller successfully cheats the buyer. Thus, suffering is only transferred from one person to another, and its main cause is the deception we ourselves create for each other. And personally, I firmly believe that Jesus would not support or interfere with the injustice, deception and intrigue created by humans themselves. Because Jesus is a just, kind, and infinitely charitable person, and especially He always takes **the truth** as the center to educate people.

Dear believers, we now see around us so many people embracing false humility, hiding behind humanism, pushing the truth of Jesus into oblivion. Some even consider themselves servants of God, deciding to change the true word of God with their own erroneous interpretations. It is good when someone calls for help to the poor, the unfortunate and the economically disadvantaged in society. However, there are many actions that are not for the sake of truth but instead are actions for personal purposes to be admired, to be praised by the world for so-called good actions, and to use them as a means to gain personal fame from the Holy Name. Those who are doing so, who are thinking of doing so, wake up - as Saint Paul said to awaken the false nature of man: "For what I want to do, I do not do, but what I hate, I do." [Rom 7:15].

Many Christians are always searching for love; hope; grace ...in Jesus. Here the author finds it correct but not enough, because love, hope or grace are only one aspect of the truth. That means if we live the truth according to Jesus, love, hope and grace will inevitably appear. For example: you and I live near each other, my house runs out of rice "food" so I go to your house to borrow some to survive, and in fact your house still has a lot of rice, but you say my house has run out of rice. So, you do not lend me when I am in trouble, so you are not living truthfully, from there there will be no love in you for me. Or a friend comes to my house to play, I am

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so happy, I go borrow money to entertain my friend, then I cannot repay the debt and my friend knows that, so if you are that honored guest, will my friend be happy? Likewise, in family relationships, is it happy to live honestly with each other? If we live honestly with each other, there will certainly be no concept of adultery, but perhaps just baseless anger. But let us live truthfully like the widow Zarephtha with the prophet. Elijah: "As the Lord God lives, I have no bread, only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. Here, I am gathering a few sticks and cooking for myself and my son, that we may eat, and then die" [Mark 12:38-44]. In educating children and grandchildren. We should pay attention to the truth in education, and consider whether to set a goal to pressure our children to achieve or not. Because if we achieve that goal, our children themselves must have tried hard and gone through a lot of fatigue for that success, or in other words, they must trample on the truth to achieve that goal. If we do not achieve that goal, the child will suffer and the parents themselves will also suffer in disappointment. Therefore, whether successful or not, we will hurt our children. On the contrary, we must guide our children to live the truth in life relationships, then peace and happiness will always be in the hearts of the children.

Dear religious, be vigilant in your mission, without fear, without worry, without sorrow and without confusion which are surrounding you today. Always cling to the Truth of Jesus, bring that Truth into the life of believers, escape the shadow of the ancient scribes, build the Truth of Jesus in the true sense of both words and deeds. Remember your consecrated role to nourish the Flock of Jesus with the Truth and bring more souls to God.

Thus, through Jesus' honest criticisms, we learn the lesson that we should live truthfully with God as a child with his father, and not pay too much attention to the law. Whenever we do something, our first question should be: "**Does what I do please God?** ", not: "**Is what I do according to the law?** " The law is only a measure to keep people from going too far, not to measure the level of human holiness and morality.

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