



### 03/12/2023 “Canceling Christ”

Last week we talked about speaking the truth to love, but truth can be hard to receive. Too often relationships break down when truth is spoken too strongly or when truth is rejected. This week, we’ll look at lower our defensiveness and softening our delivery.

1. What things tend to set you off—make you angry? (These can be serious or silly)
2. What is your conflict style? How is it different with co-workers, friends and family?

In Luke 4, the people of Nazareth respond to Jesus with amazement and then with anger. In Greek, the word for anger is *thumos* (θυμος)—“angry, heat, anger boiling up and soon subsiding again, indignation.” Their quick emotional shift results from Jesus speaking the truth. Over-and-over we see Jesus disrupting people’s expectations and speaking directly to what’s in people’s hearts (John 2:24-25).

Read Luke 4:16-30

1. What stands out you from these verses? Why?
2. How do you think Nazareth’s relationship (their familiarity) with Jesus impacted their hearing of his message?
3. What was the overall point Jesus was trying to make? Why do you think Nazareth became so blind to the message of hope Jesus had just spoken?

Read Luke 8:4-15

4. What are some of the things that keep the good news of Jesus from being heard and received?
5. What do these verses say is the key to receiving the good news of God’s kingdom?
6. Throughout scripture a hard heart is the source for separation from God and others (See Ephesians 4:18). How does anger and defensiveness contribute to having a hard heart?

Read Hebrews 3:12-15

7. It seems from Hebrews 3 that hardening or softening one’s heart is an intentional act. What decisions can you make to open your heart to God’s message?
8. Are there any barriers that you have put up between you and God? Are there areas you have not allowed God to influence or speak to?
9. What response do you need to make to this week’s message and scripture?