



**CHRISTIAN  
ENDEAVOUR**  
*for Christ and the Church*



# God the Son

## He spoke the words of truth

*The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. John 6:63*

### Setting the scene

We tell the truth by relating facts honestly as far as we know them. The words of Jesus are our pattern, *“He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.” 1 Peter 2:22.*

Truth is much more than telling and hearing. It is a living power - the words of Jesus were ‘spirit and life’. To listen to Jesus is to meet with the living God.

### He spoke truth to eager crowds

*After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!” Mark 1:14-15*

Jesus began His public ministry by preaching in the towns and villages of Galilee. His words electrified His hearers; Good News, God is taking over control - change your ways, accept the new day, the time has come. The shame of public and private life was being challenged; the lies and dishonesty, greed and cruelty. To turn from that would mean to commit oneself to the reality of God’s great purpose.

### He spoke truth to the troubled mind

*Some men brought to him a paralytic, lying on a mat. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven.” Matthew 9:2*

More than once, Jesus used the words we translate ‘Be of good cheer’, or ‘Take heart’, that is ‘cheer up’. It was no shallow, conventional remark. There was the truth of God in it, a reason for gladness. The sick man doubtless feared that his affliction was a sign of God’s anger; he needed to know above all that God cared for him. Jesus’ words, *“Your sins are forgiven”*, set him free.

### He spoke truth to malicious enemies

***“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the kingdom of heaven in men's faces. You yourselves do not enter, nor will you let those enter who are trying to.” Matthew 23:13***

The word ‘hypocrite’ is often unfairly used of inconsistent Christians. It means a settled intention to deceive, to act a part, and is a terrible attitude of rebellion against the truth. Jesus so addressed Scribes and Pharisees who rejected God’s truth and harmed other lives. Love speaks a word which destroys the make-believe.

### He spoke truth to burden bearers

***“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” Matthew 11:28***

Here is a word of truth for those who feel unhelped and alone - God cares, “Come, let me share your load and give you rest”. Who is it that speaks? It is the only One who really knows God and can reveal Him, ***“All things have been committed to me by my Father. No-one knows the Son except the Father, and no-one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.” Matthew 11:27.***

### A point to emphasise

Truth is something we find hard to live with. How much half-truth, self-deception, second-hand opinion and petty pretence marks our life? More deeply, sin is a lie, pretending that God cannot see, does not care, will not help. Jesus lived in reality. He was truth. His words are true and truth both hurts and heals us.

## Discussion

- Can the word ‘hypocrite’ be applied to some people in the church today and, if so, to whom?
- Christ often attacked the attitude of the Scribes and the Pharisees. Are there people in the church today who have the same attitude?