



Hearing Hard Truths

Hard truths of God's promises are more difficult when everything seems _____.

When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said, "Come, make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don't know what has happened to him." Exodus 32:1 (NIV)

When we rush the _____, we _____ the office
of those who shepherd us.

Naming Our Golden Calves

... "Take off the gold earrings... and bring them to me." So all the people took off their earrings and brought them to Aaron. He took what they handed him and made it into an idol cast in the shape of a calf... Then they said, "These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt." Exodus 32:2-4 (NIV)

In society and in church, _____ can put walls up
around _____.

"... Now leave me alone so that my anger may burn against them and that I may destroy them. Then I will make you into a great nation." Exodus 32:10 (NIV)

And [Moses] took the calf the people had made and burned it in the fire; then he ground it to powder, scattered it on the water and made the Israelites drink it. Exodus 32:20 (NIV)

Even in God's anger, God _____.

Instead of bringing disaster upon the people, God shows that faithfulness
to a promised people has the last word.

Reclaiming Who We Are In Christ

- An identity in Christ is imparted to us in _____, not predicated on something we determine or desire.

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God... Galatians 2:20 (NIV)

- Jesus stirs us up _____, not _____.

...My kingdom is not of this world... John 18:36 (NIV)

- Embracing the kingdom of God in our midst is about welcoming a truth that cannot be distorted or flawed.

The hope in re-adopting a Christ-centered identity is _____
our ownership of truths that are not ours to challenge.

...In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me. John 18:37 (NIV)

- Kingship is _____. Lordship is _____.

The Communion Table: Where Christ Meets Us

- The bread and the cup are _____.
- The communion table shows the way God can speak forgiveness, healing and reconciliation into a landscape of differences.
- The _____ is not something we craft to our own liking. It is the _____ of a God who remains faithful even in the midst of a broken world.

Thoughts to Chew On...

Who are the truth-tellers in your life?

What golden calves get in the way of your faith?

How will you seek God's faithfulness in the decisions you make?

How does Communion reshape the lens in which you view our current world?