

Truth and Dare!

4th in a series of 6

Welcome to Timberline Church. Welcome to our fifth edition of Truth or Dare... which means we have actually survived 4 weeks of this. So... do we still have 2 volunteers willing to play this game?

Truth questions:

1st Service Only:

1. What is the greatest number of days that you have gone without showering?

2nd Service Only:

1. If you woke up tomorrow morning and found that you were invisible... what is the first thing you would do?

Either:

1. What is the funniest thing that you have gotten into trouble for?
2. What do you think is your best feature?
3. What is your earliest Childhood memory?
4. If you had to change your first name... what would you change it to and why?
5. If you could change one thing in the world what would that be?

Dare Challenges:

1st Service Only

1. Show us your best dance move.
2. Sing a nursery rhythm.
3. Give us all a gorilla face and stance.

2nd Service Only

1. Stand on your head.
2. Wear this tag
3. Try yodeling while the congregation counts to five.

Either:

1. Walk the entire way around the auditorium with your eyes shut.... As fast as you can
2. Scream your loudest scream.
3. Lick your elbow.
4. Say the alphabet backwards.
5. Make your funniest face.

Alright... let's stand up and greet someone we don't usually greet and then remain standing for a time of worship through singing.

Kids Adventure Kamp: marlin

- As you can see we are getting all geared up for our TL Adventure Kamp. The Zip Line is up and running... so for safety reasons... please stay off of it this morning.
- Prayer for staff and kids

After showing several video clips last week concerning the difference between men's brains and women's brains... remember that... a woman sent me this e-mail.

Slide #1 Men: if you ever wanna know what a woman's mind feels like, imagine a browser with 2,857 tabs open. All... The... Time!

I don't know if we want to know what a woman's mind feels like... but now we know!

The Apostle Paul writes:

Slide #2

1 Timothy 3:14-15 Although I hope to come to you soon, I am writing you these instructions so that, if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.

Timberline is one unit of God's household, which is the Church of the living God, and Paul's concern is that we act like it. I remember during my teenage years my parents would often have a parting comment for me when I went out the door...they would say... remember who you are! In other words, don't forget what we have taught you. The bottom line was really this...don't embarrass us!

And Paul is saying... the same concept applies to the Church. TL is the pillar and foundation of the truth... there is a certain way that TL people should live and we refer to it in our Clarian Call as 'Rebuilding Relationships'. And since behavior impacts relationships... we bring you these messages.

Slide #3 Truth and Dare!

Truth and dare is a series of sermons about behavior and it is designed to dare us into behaving in love. So with each truth about love... we give you a dare to act upon. The title of the message this morning is...

Slide #4 Love dares to not be rude!

The dictionary defines 'rude' as... discourteous, not having or showing concern or respect for the rights and feelings of other people. Offensively impolite or ill mannered.

Slide #5 Assumption: No one enjoys being around a rude person.

There would be no point to this message this morning if all of us enjoyed being around rude people. None of us look for rude people to hire or rude people to play golf with or

rude people to vacation with... and yet the reality is.... there are some incredibly rude people living around us. Why? Why are some people rude? What is underneath it all? Let's go to the mic.

Roving Mic Response:

I meet monthly with our Creative Ministries Team and they came up with the following...

Slide #6 Creative Ministries Response:

- 1) Frustration
- 2) Exhaustion
- 3) The Trickle-down Effect – people around us are rude...so we in turn are rude to others... or it can be a generational thing
- 4) Self Pain – we feel hurt by others... so we want others to feel our pain... and so we treat others the way we have been treated
- 5) Revenge – you're rude to me so I'm going to make sure you suffer and I'm going to be rude to you.
- 6) A Sense of Justice – we see someone being 'taken advantage of' so we overreact and respond with rudeness

Slide #7 Steven and Alex Kendrick, authors of the 'Love Dare' have their own perspective and they narrow it down to two basic reasons:

- 1) Ignorance
- 2) Selfishness.

There are many reasons why people are rude... but rudeness is unnecessarily saying or doing things that are unpleasant for another person to be around. To be rude is to act unbecoming... or to embarrass or irritate another person. It can be a foul mouth, poor table manners, or the habit of making sarcastic remarks.

Think about it... 'Rude behavior may seem insignificant to the person doing it, but it's unpleasant to those on the receiving end.'

Here is a truth that I find interesting, revealing, inconsistent and embarrassing... the manners we display at home are often much different than the manners we display to our friends and even to total strangers.

For example: We can be barking, pouting or grumbling around the house and when the doorbell rings or the phone call comes in... we can suddenly put on our best manners and become instantly polite. Something is wrong with this picture. If we can control ourselves and make sure that we put on our best manners for a total stranger... why should our wives or children, or those we love the most... ever... hear us yell, scream, curse or put them down!

'The bottom line is this... genuine love minds its manners.'

Slide #8 Good manners express the following messages:

- 1) I value you enough to exercise some self-control around you.
- 2) I want to be a person that is a pleasure to be with.
- 3) I want to raise the respect level of the environment around us.
- 4) I want to restore honor to our relationship.

Unfortunately not everyone displays good manners and this morning I want to take you to the OT and tell you about a guy named Nabal.

Slide #9

1 Samuel 25:2-3 A certain man in Maon, who had property there at Carmel, was very wealthy. He had a thousand goats and three thousand sheep, which he was shearing in Carmel.

Slide #10 His name was Nabal and his wife's name was Abigail. She was an intelligent and beautiful woman, but her husband, a Calebite, was surly and mean in his dealings. The NIV calls him surly and mean, the NASB calls him harsh and evil, the KJV calls him churlish, The LB calls him uncouth, stubborn and ill mannered, the Msg calls him brutish, the NLT calls him crude... so this morning I'm going to put them all together and say... he was rude... he was a rude dude!

David at this time was on the run from King Saul and he was basically a Robin Hood type of a guy with a band of merry men and that roamed the hills and unofficially kept peace in the area. So David sent a delegation to Nabal and said, we have never mistreated you or any of your servants and we have protected your men and made sure that others have not harmed your ranch... so please consider blessing us with some goodies for providing police protection for you and your men.

Here was Nabal's response.

Slide #11

1 Samuel 25:10-11 "Who is this David? Who is this son of Jesse? Many servants are breaking away from their masters these days.

Slide #12

Why should I take my bread and water, and the meat I have slaughtered for my shearers, and give it to men coming from who knows where?"

Not only was Nabal rude, but he was also not very bright. David had a reputation. He was the guy who had killed Goliath. He was the legend that had slain thousands of Philistines. He was the former shepherd that had killed both a lion and a bear with his bare hands... this guy was not to be trifled with... and Nabal had just trifled with him. And David... true to his reputation... went into action!

Slide #13

1 Samuel 25:13-17 David said to his men, "Put on your swords!" So they put on their swords, and David put on his. About four hundred men went up with David, while two hundred stayed with the supplies.

David was about to take Nabal out!

Slide #14 One of the servants told Nabal's wife Abigail: "David sent messengers from the desert to give our master his greetings, but he hurled insults at them. Yet these men were very good to us. They did not mistreat us, and the whole time we were out in the fields near them nothing was missing.

Slide #15 Night and day they were a wall around us all the time we were herding our sheep near them. Now think it over and see what you can do, because disaster is hanging over our master and his whole household. He is such a wicked man that no one can talk to him."

The servants were concerned that there was about to be a blood bath and they were trying ward it off.

Now Abigail was not only beautiful but she also had much more discernment than her husband. So she robbed the pantry and packed up gifts of bread, wine, mutton, grain, raisins and figs, without telling her husband, and loaded them on her donkey and set out to find David before David found them, and she succeeded.

When she met him on a mountain ravine she quickly got off her donkey and bowed down before David and apologized for her husband's rudeness, and this is what she said...

Slide #16

1 Samuel 25:25 May my lord pay no attention to that wicked man Nabal. He is just like his name-- his name is Fool, and folly goes with him. But as for me, your servant, I did not see the men my master sent.

She then offered him gifts and begged for understanding... and David accepted it and sent her back home in peace.

Now that's a good story with a fine lesson about the stupidity of rudeness... and the brilliance of negotiation... but there is more!

Slide #17

1 Samuel 25:36-39 When Abigail went to Nabal, he was in the house holding a banquet like that of a king. He was in high spirits and very drunk. So she told him nothing until daybreak.

Slide #18 Then in the morning, when Nabal was sober, his wife told him all these things, and his heart failed him and he became like a stone. About ten days later, the LORD struck Nabal and he died.

Slide #19 When David heard that Nabal was dead, he said, "Praise be to the Lord, who has upheld my cause against Nabal for treating me with contempt. He has kept his servant from doing wrong and has brought Nabal's wrongdoing down on his own head."

This would also be a happy ending... but again there is more to the story.

Slide #20

1 Samuel 25:39-42 Then David sent word to Abigail, asking her to become his wife. His servants went to Carmel and said to Abigail, "David has sent us to you to take you to become his wife."

Slide #21 She bowed down with her face to the ground and said, "Here is your maidservant, ready to serve you and wash the feet of my master's servants." Abigail quickly got on a donkey and, attended by her five maids, went with David's messengers and became his wife.

Well that's one way to find a wife! But do you remember the arrogant words of this rude dude? Do you remember what he said when David asked for provisions?

Slide #22

1 Samuel 25:10 Who is this David? Who is this son of Jesse?

And the answer is... he is the guy who ended up marrying your wife.

Love dares to not be Rude! As always, love has something to say about rudeness.

Slide #23

1 Corinthians 13:4-5 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

The word 'rude' in this verse comes from a Greek word that means shapeless and inelegant.

In other words... there is just nothing pretty about rudeness! We need to get that into our heads this morning... there is just nothing pretty about rudeness!

When we are driven by love, we intentionally avoid rudeness... we avoid things that cause discomfort to others and we behave in a way that makes us more pleasant to be around.

Let's go to our notes. This morning in closing I want to share with you...

Slide #24 Three rudeness busters:

1. Guard the Golden Rule.

Luke 6:31 Do to others as you would have them do to you.

Jesus said this and it just makes sense! Treat other people the way you want to be treated.

Slide #25 Steven and Alex Kendrick make this comment... 'Nothing irritates others as quickly as being rude!

So bottom line...intentionally live the Golden Rule. Imagine what would happen in our TL culture, in our work environment, at school and in our homes if we would treat others... as we would want to be treated!

Slide #26 Three rudeness busters:

2. Say 'No' to Double Standards.

Matthew 15:7-9 You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you: "These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men."

There is nothing that irritates others like a double standard and Isaiah was saying... you say one thing... but you do another!

Jesus is quoting Isaiah because thousands of years later he was facing the same issue... and how about today? What is the #1 reason people don't go to church... it's filled with what... hypocrites. So let's say 'no' to rudeness... by saying 'no' to double standards.

Slide #27 Three rudeness busters:

3. Honor Requests:

Matthew 5:38 Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

Jesus is saying... honor requests. If we want to cut rudeness out of our lives... cheerfully give to others.

Each week I have been giving you ways to give to others... and I want to close once again with our Weekly Dare. Let's write it down.

Slide #28 Dare for the week: Ask one of your most trusted friends for three things about you that cause discomfort or irritation.

I'd like to invite the Worship Team up:

This one may not be as much fun as some of the other dares... but this is a gift we can give to a best friend.

We can give them the opportunity to speak into our lives. We can give them the chance to say things they have wanted to say but have never been given the opportunity.

And when they tell us... let's not defend ourselves, or justify ourselves or try to explain it away... but rather allow the Holy Spirit to speak to us through it.

Slide #29 Prayer & Reflection:

How has the Truth and Dare sermon series impacted your life? Do you have a story to share as a result of taking the dare or as a result of receiving from the dare? Email me or send me a note.

Benediction:

Might we exhibit grace...

As we face rude or coarse behavior,

As we suffer the words of the desperate or insecure, and as we look for words to help or correct,

Might we, who move according to Your Spirit,

Experience your grace and show your grace.