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Your Story Matters - Lesson 3 Outline

Remember Truthfully

Accurate language

“We routinely disqualify testimony that would plead for extenuation. That is, we are so persuaded of the rightness of our judgment as to invalidate evidence that does not confirm us in it. Nothing that deserves to be called truth could ever be arrived at by such means.”

Marilynne Robinson, *The Death of Adam*

Story

“Spiritual abuse, then, is when a spiritual leader—such as a pastor, elder, or head of a Christian organization—wields his position of spiritual authority in such a way that he manipulates, domineers, bullies, and intimidates those under him, as a means of accomplishing what he takes to be biblical and/or spiritual goals.

People who find themselves at odds with a spiritually abusive pastor, will often feel isolated, shamed, ostracized, silenced, and made to feel like they are unsubmissive, insubordinate, and one who undermines the church’s God-given leadership.”

[Spiritual] “abuse usually happens because a pastor is desperately trying to control his situation.”

Mike Kruger, Spiritual Abuse series, Canon Foder, February 2021.

Language ~ Naming Evil for what it is

Q. 151. What are those aggravations that make some sins more heinous than others?

A. Sins receive their aggravations,

1. From the persons offending: if they be of riper age, greater experience or grace, eminent for profession, gifts, place, office, guides to others, and whose example is likely to be followed by others.
2. From the parties offended: if immediately against God, his attributes, and worship; against Christ, and his grace; the Holy Spirit, his witness, and workings; against superiors, men of eminency, and such as we stand especially related and engaged unto; against any of the saints, particularly weak brethren, the souls of them or any other, and the common good of all or many.
3. From the nature and quality of the offence: if it be against the express letter of the law, break many commandments, contain in it many sins: if not only conceived in the heart, but break forth in words and actions, scandalize others, and admit of no reparation: if against means, mercies, judgments, light of nature, conviction of conscience, public or private admonition, censures of the



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church, civil punishments; and our prayers, purposes, promises, vows, covenants, and engagements to God or men: if done deliberately, wilfully, presumptuously, impudently, boastingly, maliciously, frequently, obstinately, with delight, continuance, or relapsing after repentance.

4. From circumstances of time and place: if on the Lord's day, or other times of divine worship; or immediately before or after these, or other helps to prevent or remedy such miscarriages: if in public, or in the presence of others, who are thereby likely to be provoked or defiled.

1. God takes sin seriously, so should we

a. Take any one of the aspects of your story. Does it fit under any of those categories?

Call it what it is.

b. Accurate words

i. Premiere episodes with Melissa Affolter and Darby Strickland

2. Memory is a fickle thing

a. Israelites

5 We remember the fish we used to eat in Egypt for nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic, 6 but now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at. (Num. 11:5-6)

b. Vs the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John)

3. Consider yourself

a. Consider the other person

i. Resist assigning motivation or intent

b. We remember in two ways

i. Passive

ii. Active

iii. Both shape us



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“What we remember often deeply affects what we do” (Volf, 68-69) “We don’t just remember suffered wrongs; we *use* our memories of them.”

iv. Particularly *important* with memory of wrongs.

Remembering truthfully is a just use of memory that constrains misuse (Volf, 71)

4. Remembering truthfully is important to healing

We can’t heal from what didn’t happen

5. **Proverbs 18:17, Perspective, and the NFL**

“We need to filter out the poison...” Volf, *The End of Memory*, 41.

“We are not just shaped by memories; we ourselves shape the memories that shape us.” Miraslov

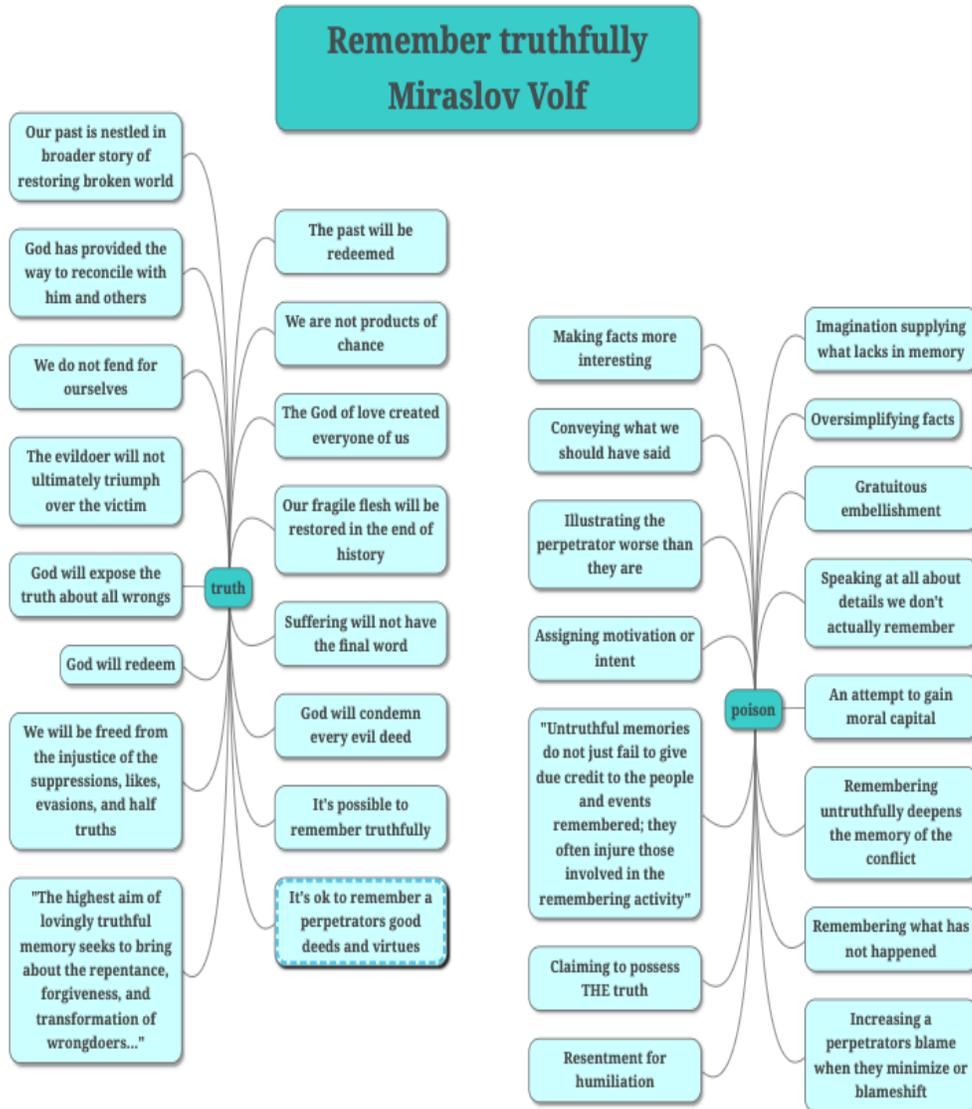
“To triumph fully, evil needs two victories, not one. The first victory happens when an evil deed is perpetrated; the second victory, when evil is returned. After the first victory, evil would die if the second victory did not infuse it with new life.”

Miraslov



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What might cloud our memories? DESNOS

Disorder of extreme stress not otherwise specified

6. Complex PTSD

Chronic

Acute Stress Disorder

7. DESNOS

Diagnostic

8. Disclaimer

Be who(se) you are - As believers we are truth-tellers, confident in God's promises (vengeance, justice, love for you)

In Isa. 49:16 the prophet tells us - Look, I have inscribed *you* on the palms of my hands; (CSB)

Engraved,

Your person

Your image

Your “case”

Your circumstances (Eccl. 3:1-8)

Your sins

Your temptations

Your weaknesses

Your wants

Your works



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Everything about you

All that concerns you

Situated firmly in his gifts (Eph. 1:4-17)

	Verse	Gift
1.	1.3	Every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places
2.	1.4	He chose us
3.	1.4	He made us holy and blameless before him
4.	1.5	He predestined us (also 1.11)
5.	1.5	He adopted us
6.	1.6	Blessed us in the beloved
7.	1.7	Redemption (in Him)
8.	1.7	Forgiveness for our trespasses
9.	1.7	Riches of his grace
10.	1.8	Lavished us
11.	1.9	Made known the mystery of his will
12.	1.10	United us
13.	1.11	Gave us an inheritance
14.	1.12	Made us the praise of his glory
15.	1.13	Sealed us with the promised HS
16.	1.14	Guaranteed our inheritance
17.	1.17	Give a spirit of wisdom
18.	1.17	Give revelation of the knowledge of him



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19. 1.18 Enlighten our eyes
20. 1.18 Know the hope to which we are called
21. 1.18 Know the riches of his glorious inheritance
22. 1.19 Know immeasurable greatness of his power toward us
23. 1.20 God worked in Christ for us, raised him from the dead, seated him at his right hand
24. 1.22 Put all things under Christ's feet
25. 1.22 Gave CHRIST as the head of the church
26. 2.4 Rich in mercy toward us
27. 2.4 Loved us
28. 2.5 Made us alive together in Christ
29. 2.5 Saved us by Grace
30. 2.6 Raised us up with Christ
31. 2.6 Seated us in the heavenly places in Christ
32. 2.8 Salvation (Gift from God)

33. 2.10 Ability to do good works
34. 2.12 United to Christ
35. 2.12 Joined with Israel
36. 2.12 Familiar with the covenants of promise
37. 2.12 Have hope
38. 2.12 With God in this world
39. 2.13 Brought near



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- 40. 2.14 Peace
- 41. 2.14 One with God
- 42. 2.14 Broken down dividing wall of hostility
- 43. 2.15 Abolished the law of commandments
- 44. 2.15 Created one new man in himself
- 45. 2.15 Made peace
- 46. 2.16 Reconciled us with God
- 47. 2.16 Killed hostility
- 48. 2.17 Sent son
- 49. 2.17 Preached peace
- 50. 2.18 Gave access to him
- 51. 2.19 Gave citizenship

- 52. 2.19 Became family
- 53. 2.22 Became a dwelling place for God
- 54. 3.5 Revealed mystery
- 55. 3.6 Became fellow heirs
- 56. 3.6 Became members of one body
- 57. 3.6 Became partakers of the promise
- 58. 3.8 Recipients of the grace give to Paul to preach
- 59. 3.10 Manifold wisdom of God made know to
- 60. 3.11 Eternal purposes of Christ realized
- 61. 3.12 Boldness



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| 62. | 3.12 | Confidence |
| 63. | 4.1 | Called |
| 64. | 4.1 | Ability to walk worthy |
| 65. | 4.2 | Humility |
| 66. | 4.2 | Gentleness |
| 67. | 4.2 | Patience |
| 68. | 4.2 | Ability to bear with one another in love |
| 69. | 4.3 | Unity |
| 70. | 4.3 | Bond of peace |
| 71. | 4.4 | One body |
| 72. | 4.4 | One Spirit |
| 73. | 4.4 | One hope |
| 74. | 4.5 | One Lord |
| 75. | 4.5 | One faith |
| 76. | 4.5 | One baptism |
| 77. | 4.6 | One God |
| 78. | 4.6 | One Father |
| 79. | 4.6 | Authority |
| 80. | 4.7 | Grace (according to Christ's gift) |
| 81. | 4.8 | Gifts |
| 82. | 4.11 | Apostles |
| 83. | 4.11 | Prophets |



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- 84. 4.11 Evangelists
- 85. 4.11 Shepherds
- 86. 4.11 Teachers
- 87. 4.13 Unity
- 88. 4.13 Knowledge of the Son
- 89. 4.13 Maturity

- 90. 4.13 Stature of the fullness Christ
- 91. 4.14 Maturity
- 92. 4.15 Maturity
- 93. 4.16 Unity, growth, love

The Help[H]er

Questions about my story (to the best of my knowledge a true account)