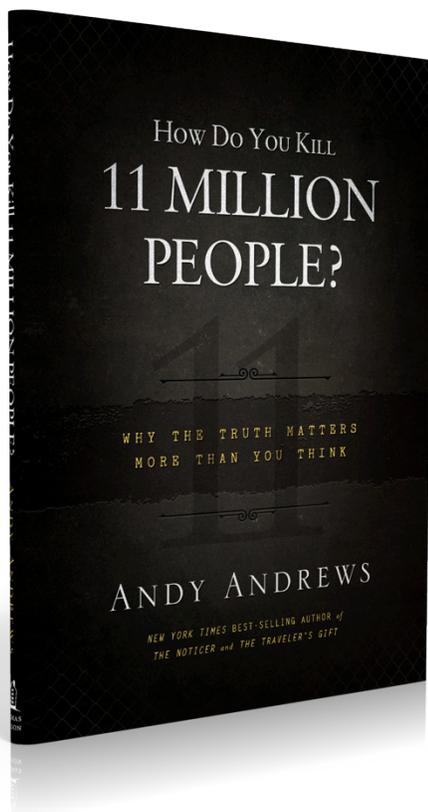


How Do You Kill 11 Million People?

by Andy Andrews



Sermon

The Importance
of Truth

This message is designed to be a guide for pastors / teachers seeking to amplify the primary message of Andy Andrews' book. It may be used in its entirety, in part, as a series, or it may serve as a "thought starter" for a different approach to the subject matter.

Focal text: John 8:32

Supporting texts: John 1:14; John 14:6; Ephesians 4:25; I John 1:5-7; Leviticus 19:11-16; Psalm 15;

Psalm 24:3-6; Psalm 5:4-10; Proverbs 6:16-19; Proverbs 14:7, 25; Proverbs 15:4;

Proverbs 17:4; Isaiah 5:20; Daniel 6; Amos 5:6,7

"...and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."

Spoken by Jesus, John 8:32

Truth can facilitate freedom spiritually and in all of life. Absence of truth creates bondage. Absence of truth comes dressed as ignorance, rejection, denial, distortion and manipulation of truth, half-truth, and lying. The presence or absence of truth matters for each and all of us.

I.

Know the truth: A privilege and stewardship

- A. God is light / truth; objectively and eternally – I John 1:5-7
 - 1. Spiritually: Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life – John 14:6
 - 2. Relationally: God is the author of true love, selflessness, and intimacy
 - 3. Practically: Biblical principals serve as trustworthy guides for the details of life
- B. We build our lives on some version of "truth"; build on God's truth
- C. Assess claims of truth carefully; employ prayerful discernment

II.

Live the truth: The greatest vehicle for influence is role-model

- A.** Apply truth to your heart; your motives and intentions – Proverbs 16:2
 - 1. Motive drives the way I do anything / everything
 - 2. Motive frames my “use” of truth – Daniel 6, Matthew 4: 1-11, Acts 5:1-11
 - 3. We are accountable for motives and actions – Proverbs 16:2, 21:2, 24:11-12
- B.** Apply truth to your conversation – Proverbs 15:4, 28; Ephesians 4:25
 - 1. Words reflect the heart – Luke 6:45
 - 2. Words matter to God – Matthew 12:36-37
 - 3. Words have consequences – II Peter 2:1-3
- C.** Apply truth to your behavior / methodologies
 - 1. Reflect Christ generally in your overall life-message – Matthew 5:16
 - 2. Reflect Christ in specific behaviors – Matthew 5:21–7:29; Ephesians 4:17-6:9

III.

Expect truth from others: We get what we expect or what we tolerate.

- A.** It is healthy, productive, and necessary to hold people accountable for words and actions
- B.** Truth is the basis of healthy relationships
 - 1. Friends – Psalm 141:5; Proverbs 27:6; Amos 3:3; Ephesians 4:25
 - 2. Marriages – Ephesians 5:22-33
- C.** Truth is the basis of sound leadership and decision-making
 - 1. Proverbs 8, Proverbs 24:5-6
 - 2. Proverbs 22:17-21
 - 3. Luke 14:25-31
- D.** Truth is essential to a healthy society and government
 - 1. The book of Ester: Haman manipulated truth to create and use a law that would have destroyed an entire race

2. The book of Daniel: Political influences twice manufactured laws with a motive of silencing or eliminating those who would not conform (Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego; Daniel)
 3. Matthew 14: 1-12: John the Baptist was slain because he challenged the King on matters of righteousness, morality, and Godliness
- E.** Those who disregard or manipulate truth cannot endure for long
1. The Biblical history of the nation Israel (see the book of Amos)
 2. Long-term and recent history
 3. Clear evidence in our day

IV.

Protect the Truth: *If it really matters, we must actively protect it.*

- A.** In matters of truth, justice, and righteousness, neutrality is not an option
1. Proverbs 11:11; 14:34
 2. Matthew 25:31-46
- B.** Support causes and people that reflect truth and right – Philippians 4:8
- C.** Support those who live / serve complementary to Biblical standards for leaders: Joshua 1: 1-9; Psalm 24:3-6; Proverbs 13:5; Proverbs 21:28; Proverbs 28:12; Acts 6:3-4; Titus 2:7-8

Sermon Content created by Rick and Jan Loy

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