

# 25-1112wc - Detailed Summary

## 25-1112wc - *The Engagement Project, Tour 7, Scott Reynolds*

This detailed summary by Grok / X, (Transcription by TurboScribe.ai)

Class Resources: [EP-Tour links](#), Our website: [wschurchofchrist.org/education.php](http://wschurchofchrist.org/education.php) Del's site: [deltackett.com](http://deltackett.com)

See the transcript: [Transcript HTML](#) - [Transcript PDF](#)

## 25-1112-Tour 7

### The Royal Vision - Engaging with Truth, Part 1

**Summary - of Transcript (0:04 - 9:02), Teacher: Scott Reynolds**

#### Introduction to Tour 7 (0:04 - 1:52)

Dale Tackett's Engagement Project advances in Tour 7, titled "The Royal Vision: Engaging with Truth." This first part establishes a core focus on integrating truth into Christian engagement, rooted in biblical teachings and personal stories that demonstrate how truth should be combined with grace, wisdom, and love in relationships. It references Christ's testimony about truth and encourages contemporary believers to live it out in this era of engagement, empowered by the Spirit of truth to uphold the royal law.

The session begins with a reflection on John 18:37, where Jesus tells Pilate, "For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth." Tackett underscores that truth is essential, not as a tool for confrontation or an intangible idea, but as the core element directing our dealings with others.

In the present age after Christ's ascension, He has dispatched the Holy Spirit, described as the Spirit of truth in John 16:13, to guide believers into all truth. This spiritual direction is vital for enacting the royal law from James 2:8. Tackett describes this as involving three linked steps: forging profound, meaningful connections; interacting with others through grace and wisdom; and courageously weaving truth into these interactions. Absent truth, engagements may turn shallow or deceptive.

#### Scriptural Foundations (1:53 - 3:46)

To anchor this perspective, Tackett reviews pivotal Bible passages that outline the correct application of truth in interactions. Starting with 1 Peter 3:15, which directs believers to be ready to defend the hope within them to anyone who inquires, but to do so with gentleness and respect. This passage stresses readiness alongside a mild approach, making sure truth is conveyed respectfully rather than forcefully.

Likewise, 2 Timothy 2:24-26 depicts the servant of the Lord as someone who gently teaches those in opposition, hoping God will provide them repentance that leads to knowing the truth. This mild teaching seeks to aid others in regaining clarity and breaking free from the devil's snare. Tackett links these to Colossians 4:5-6, which recommends acting wisely toward those outside the faith, optimizing every opportunity and redeeming key moments.

Speech should consistently be gracious and seasoned with salt, enabling one to respond appropriately to each individual. Seasoning speech with salt involves adding truth that preserves and improves, similar to how salt affects food. At the heart of this part is Ephesians 4:15, which calls for speaking the truth in love.

Tackett highlights that truth and love cannot be separated. Without one, the other warps God's purpose. Truth needs to be expressed for the genuine benefit of the other person, not for winning debates, asserting dominance, or turning engagement into a contest.

### **Integrating Truth and Love (3:47 - 6:07)**

Engagement should proceed through strata of wisdom and grace, always within a solid relationship. Tackett cautions against the dangers of being a faithful witness when it's ego-driven, emphasizing personal virtue over the other's welfare. Viewing truth as the final objective might lead to focusing on proclamation rather than change, resulting in estranging or damaging exchanges.

In a society filled with doubt, establishing trusting bonds is crucial for truth to be received well. Tackett explains that truth's goal isn't just spreading information but is tied to authentic agape love, which pursues the shalom—or peace and completeness—of others with sacrificial commitment. This base of relationship enables truth to reach hearts without quick dismissal.

The talk then examines feelings tied to declaring truth: thrill for some, anxiety for others. The thrilled may haste to announce truth sans love, resembling the empty noise of a resounding gong or clanging cymbal in 1 Corinthians 13:1—sound lacking depth.

On the other hand, the anxious may confuse love with quietude, steering clear of stating moral imperatives. Tackett critiques this societal twist, where love becomes uncritical endorsement that avoids ethical realities. However, both Testaments mandate candor.

Zechariah 8:16 calls to speak truth to each other, and Ephesians 4:25 reinforces, having discarded lies, each should speak truth to their neighbor. The simple routes—truth devoid of love or love devoid of truth—create disequilibrium. Believers must dedicate to voicing truth since the other's well-being requires it, always filtered through wisdom, grace, and strong ties.

### **Rosaria Butterfield's Testimony (6:08 - 7:28)**

A striking feature of Part 1 is the account of Rosaria Champagne Butterfield, once a lesbian activist and professor at Syracuse University, who underwent profound change. Tackett relates how her Christian neighbors, Ken and Floy Smith, welcomed her into their home without hidden intentions. Butterfield recalls, "I lived in rebellion for years and years and then the Lord sent a neighbor to come and get me."

Initial casual talks grew into over 500 shared meals at the Smiths', cultivating trust that permitted truth to arise organically. Tackett presents challenging queries to listeners: If neighboring someone like Dr. Butterfield, deeply rooted in contrary beliefs, would we offer even a single invite? Would we converse with her? Even deeper, do we trust God can facilitate such shifts, not only in the neighbor but via us? Tackett asserts yes, as believers hold all necessities: God's truth and His indwelling Spirit.

## **Application and Conclusion (7:29 - 9:02)**

This narrative illustrates the outlined principles: bonds developed gradually, truth expressed to the extent the connection permits, and love that endures without schemes. It urges attendees to assess their readiness to connect with doubters, noting God's might operates through everyday loyalty. Briefly touching on Part 2 for backdrop, Tackett restates we possess the Spirit, Word, and community to support these endeavors.

Yet Part 1 independently sparks the vision. It advocates moving from apprehension or excess zeal to a balanced sharing of truth in relationships. In the end, Part 1 of Tour 7 motivates a royal outlook where truth is not standalone but embedded in affectionate engagement.

Through forging deep bonds and communicating with grace and wisdom, believers can attest to truth like Christ, aiming for others' lasting benefit. This method opposes cultural doubt, strengthens via the Spirit, and reflects God's agape love. As groups contemplate this during the week, it encourages introspection.

Are we prepared and eager for God to employ us in life-altering manners? The response, grounded in Scripture, is a firm yes.