

7/18/21

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Sermon – The Power of the Lie

Scripture - John 8:44 Proverbs 14:25 KJV, Pro 29:12

Main Message – A lie causes a cascade of events that destroys everything.

Everyone wants an out. That is why humans lie. Just like Jack Nicholson said in the 1992 movie, A Few Good Men, “You can’t handle the Truth,” when speaking about the cover up of the murder of a marine. In one sense, he actually spoke a hard truth. The truth can be uncomfortable. Think of these questions,

- 1) When is it smart to lie?
- 2) Can you lie believing you’re not?
- 3) What exactly is a white lie and do they really matter?
- 4) How many times are you lied too?
- 5) Is it okay to lie to save someone’s feelings?

My own parents lied to me in a number of ways. Sometimes they lied through a lack of knowledge and sometimes out of convenience. I can’t think of an example where they lied in order to hurt me. In any case, nothing about my life, my growth, my situation or my ability to navigate the world improved because of those lies.

I lied to my parents. I lied because I didn’t want to get into trouble. I lied because I didn’t want them to think less of me. I lied because I didn’t want them to think less of my friends. In all those cases they were less able to guide me, help me, strengthen me to face this world because they didn’t know the truth. That has led to a cascade of events in my life that left me struggling as I continued to mature until Jesus started the reshaping of my mind.

Of course, we all know the lies told to Adam and Eve. That deception has also led to a cascade of events that have affected all of humanity. Here is what Jesus said in **John 8:44**. This is the great power of the lie and the enemy uses it to great effect. It is why lies are still spoken, and will be spoken. The truth is that you, me and everyone else could speak concerning lies for hours.

Here is a true statement: *A true witness delivereth souls: but a deceitful [witness] speaketh lies.* - **Proverbs 14:25 KJV**
How about this one, *If a ruler hearken to lies, all his servants [are] wicked.* - **Proverbs 29:12 KJV**

I picked these two because they speak to the pervasive behavior of the lie and how it destroys. Let us not be deceived. All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. You may say, “I never lie” and some are more truthful than others, but all have lied. If this was the only single commandment instead of the 10 we have, none of us would still make it into heaven by our perfect submission to the truth.

SPOILER ALERT - How many parents perpetuated the lie of Santa Claus. As a child my parents tried to make the magic of Christmas special through this well know tactic. Growing up I looked forward to the coming of Santa Claus more than the coming of Jesus. These days, the commercialism of Christmas is about getting stuff and it has contributed into a greedy, overindulgent world in which expectations are falsely perpetuated by this lie. Do you put this in the category of a white lie and does it really matter? I use this example because we all know Santa Claus isn’t real, but the magic shouldn’t be about him, but about the birth of our Lord and Savior. Interestingly everyone comes to know by a young age the Santa Claus isn’t real. How many these days don’t believe Jesus is real? *A true witness delivers souls...*

You’ve all heard of Watergate. I think it is the last time someone lost their job in the government because of lies. Nixon was the first president to resign from their term in office. *If a ruler hearken to lies....* A blurred line in the world has become the point by which secrets and lies are decided. Everyone says, secrets need to happen for security sake. If you don’t believe that’s true, please give me more bank account number, social security number, etc.. But lies have snuck in.

If someone wants your money, chances are they are lying to you. These days the phone calls, emails, messages of any kinds all center around deception and the moving of money from your hand to theirs. It isn’t anything new. Charles Ponzi was so famous in scamming people out of money that this method of fraud got named for him. By 1919 he wasn’t the first fraud, he was just extremely skilled at deception. Many fell victim to it. People today are falling victim to it. If someone wants your money, then just say NO! Kinda like if someone offers you drugs. Just say no. **Proverbs 21:20**