



IX

DO
NOT
LIE

Exodus 20:16

*“You shall not bear false witness
against your neighbor.”*

REFLECT

What did you hear? _____

What do you think? _____

What will you do? _____

Now talk with God... _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Exodus 20:16; 23:1-3; Ephesians 4:25, 29.
2. What are the ramifications and extenuating consequences when one is dishonest?
3. Sometimes, telling the truth is “scary!” How does one, who follows Christ, overcome that fear?
4. What are some of the motivators for dishonesty?
5. How does dishonesty/honesty show up in business dealings?
6. How is dishonesty rectified? What is the necessary restorative process?
7. What are the benefits/blessings that come from honesty?
8. Restate this command in a positive light. How would this command read?

DAY 41 - DO NOT LIE

Freedom

Proverbs 3:1-8

There is no such thing as a secret! Sooner or later, the truth comes out, doesn't it? One lie begets another lie, which begets another lie, and on and on the lie grows! Bigger and bigger! The longer the lie grows, the greater the fall out when the truth finally comes to light.

The writer of Proverbs writes to his son, admonishing his son to pay attention to his parent's teaching, and should his son listen and obey, "*...length of days and years of life, and peace they will add to you!*" (Proverbs 3:2). The first instruction of a father to his son is to embrace truth and kindness and hold on to these attributes tightly, never to let them go (Proverbs 3:3)! Truth and kindness bring a peaceful, long life! They actually bring freedom to one's life. There is no shame in a truthful life. There is no regret to a truthful life. There are no skeletons in one's closet when one lives a truthful and honest life. True freedom comes when a life is characterized by truth and kindness.

Notice what is at the core of a life of honesty, truthfulness, and kindness. It is trusting in the Lord with all of one's heart (Proverbs 3:5)! It is fear and an attempt to control one's life that often leads one to lie and cover up a secret. But the loving father encourages his son to trust the Lord with all of his heart and allow the Lord to direct his steps (Proverbs 3:5-6).

Application: The Lord invites us to fully trust Him with our lives. If you are holding onto a deep secret, bring it to light with a close friend and seek the freedom God desires to bring to your life and watch Him work!

REFLECT

What did you hear? _____

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DAY 42 - DO NOT LIE

A Friend Who Gossips Loses Trust

Proverbs 11:13

You know that friend, the one who always has lots to say about everyone...the one who always knows all the juicy information and doesn't hesitate to share it. The problem is, I never know what they are saying about ME when I'm not there! It's unlikely that I am the sole person left out of their mouth. Eventually, that friendship withers because there is no trust.

Gossip feeds that sinful nature that we all have...it makes us feel important to know information that others don't, and sharing it elevates us, or so we think. Therefore, it requires self-control to curb that part of our sinful nature, to refrain from gossiping. Our tongues can cause damage, and gossip never builds others up, it tears people down. We need to do what our moms taught us; "Think before you speak," and just pause. Does this build up the person I am talking to? Is this necessary? Is this kind? And choose NOT to share that juicy information. When we choose to not gossip, we are people of our word. We are trustworthy. We are shining Jesus' light in our relationships as we handle others with respect and kindness.

Application: How can you be more careful with your words today? Start with prayer: "Lord, help us to choose the high road, to be mindful of our words, and to be trustworthy friends. Amen."

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The War On Truth

Matthew 5:33-37

We are living in a time where one thing never tolerated before is now welcomed and even expected. That one thing is simply telling a lie (false witness). Exodus 20:16 says *"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor"* which is nothing more than telling a lie and *"against your neighbor"* I believe means everyone.

Sadly, our current leaders in every level of government "bear a false witness" openly while our media embraces it brazenly. It has become the de facto modus operandi of our world. The anonymous internet emboldens this behavior to the common man and its worldwide reach has made lying commonplace and extremely dangerous. Anything this easy and profitable makes the temptation practically impossible to resist. Even for Christians, the pressure to join in with telling even "little white lies" is sometimes almost overwhelming.

Romans 6:23 tells us that ALL sins are equally offensive to God which should include all lies, big and small. What about "helpful" lies to spare someone's feelings ("your pigs feet casserole is delicious") or "vanity" lies ("I only weigh 110 pounds" or "I'm only 36 years old")? James 5:12 says *"your yes is to be yes and no, no, so that you may not fall under judgment"*. I think this implies a black and white standard. Tell the truth...all the time.

It's easy to avoid big lies but when discussing the smaller important issues, even if they don't harm anyone directly, they harm what God wants to accomplish with us in the world. John 8:44b says of the devil *"whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies"*. When we speak any lie, we are speaking from the devil's nature. Is that the nature you want?

Application: How can you stop lying? Pray, "Dear God, thank you for clear direction on lying. Please help me to never lie again, no matter how small or how harmless it may seem. Amen."

Contributed by Darryl One

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DAY 44 - DO NOT LIE

Just Tell The Truth

III John 1-15

The Lord God Almighty is the source of all truth. John 17:17 talks about how God is truth and everything God says is truth. Furthermore, God wants us to tell the truth. God wants the things that come from our mouths to reflect God's truth, which is the only truth. In Ephesians 4:25, the Apostle Paul encourages us to *"put off falsehood and speak the truth."* Just tell the truth!

Truth is the foundation of wisdom. The entire Book of Proverbs is an encouragement to the godly to seek wisdom. Wisdom comes from understanding which comes from knowledge. And this knowledge is of what is true and what is not. Proverbs is a long dissertation on what is true and what is not, and how that truth is acted out in daily life.

Telling the truth not only brings honor to us, it helps those to whom we tell it to make decisions based on reliable information! The entire book of III John (all 15 verses) talks about the eternal value of walking in, working in and getting our reputation from the truth. Just tell the truth!

At times we must "just tell the truth" gently, for Paul also encourages us to tell the truth "in love"—the concern for the well-being of others (Ephesians 4:15). When we speak the truth we help others make decisions based on how things really are! Remember, "the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth!"

Application: "Father in Heaven, help me to be a person of my word, so that my yes is yes, and my no, no. Help me to trust you in every way and to walk humbly, admitting when I am wrong. Amen."

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Lies: The Cause & The Cure

John 17:16-17

There can be little argument that we have a truth deficiency in our society today. The words “fake news” have become commonplace and fears about dis-information campaigns are widespread. No one seems to know how to stem the rising tide of lies and deception in our increasingly secularized culture.

Jesus diagnosed the cause of this problem when He spoke to those who refused to listen to Him. He said, *“You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father’s desires.”* (John 8:44). He called the devil “the father of lies.” John said, *“The whole world lies in the power of the evil one.”* (1 John 5:19). What this means is that our propensity to lie is in-bred and can be traced back to the Garden of Eden, when Adam and Eve bought the lie of the devil.

Thankfully, Jesus also provided us with the cure to the epidemic of lies. He said, *“If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciple, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”* (John 8:31-32). He claimed that if we will listen to Him and believe His words, then we will be freed from the power of the devil’s deception. The first step towards the Truth is listening to the Word of God. Open the Scriptures and seek the truth as it is in Jesus Christ, and you will find it.

Application: Pray that you would be sanctified in the truth. Pray for a deeper desire to listen to Jesus’ words.

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