

One Another – Do Not Lie

Text : **Jeremiah 9: 1-9 , Ephesians 4: 17-25**

INTRODUCTION :

A. In a white paper published in August of 2010 by Dyske Suematsu (Excerpts)

“So, let’s not fool ourselves. Lying as a social skill is not good or bad in and of itself. We should not be telling our kids to always tell the truth. I’m happy that my 5 year old daughter can lie. I wish I was a better liar myself. To use lying appropriately, we have to be able to predict what the truth would do to the other person’s feelings. And, based on that prediction, we would have to artfully figure out the appropriate response. This is a sophisticated social skill. Most 3-year-olds are not capable of such a feat. Depending on the situation, lying is the right response (e.g “Thank you, I love your gift”) while other times, you may be able to get away with not saying anything. The last thing you would want to do is to tell the truth consistently, or you would be deemed “socially retarded”.

“Truth is disruptive, hurtful, and damaging in many cases. We all learn to lie appropriately, and that’s how this society functions smoothly. Lies are the lubricant of social interactions. Without them, every social interaction would be unnecessarily abrasive. Lying is an important skill for us to master.”

B. A Study by the University of Massachusetts in Amherst found that :

The most popular students in school sometimes are the best liars, according to a study conducted by University of Massachusetts psychologist Robert S. Feldman and published in the most recent Journal of Nonverbal Behavior.

We found that convincing lying is actually associated with good social skills. It takes social skills to be able to control your words as well as what you say non-verbally," said Feldman.

C. In An article by Richard Perez-Pena published in Sept. of 2012 :

Large-scale cheating has been uncovered over the last year at some of the nation’s most competitive schools, like Stuyvesant High School in Manhattan, the Air Force Academy and recently, Harvard.

Studies of student behavior and attitudes show that a majority of students violate standards of academic integrity to some degree, and that high achievers are just as likely to do it as others. Moreover, there is evidence that the problem has worsened over the last few decades.

Experts say the reasons are relatively simple: Cheating has become easier and more widely tolerated, and both schools and parents have failed to give students strong, repetitive messages about what is allowed and what is prohibited.

“I don’t think there’s any question that students have become more competitive, under more pressure, and, as a result, tend to excuse more from themselves and other students, and that’s abetted by the adults around them,” said Donald L. McGabe, a professor at the Rutgers University Business School, and a leading researcher on cheating.

“There have always been struggling students who cheat to survive,” he said. “But more and more, there are students at the top who cheat to thrive.”

D. Lying has become the established standard of the world.

1. USA Today poll established that only **56%** of parents teach honesty to their children.
2. A recent Louis Harris Poll reports that **66%** of students cheat on important exams.
3. Peer pressure on those who don't cheat is enormous.

E. In his book “The Day America Told The Truth” James Patterson said that “

1. **91 %** of people lie about things they consider unimportant.
2. **36 %** lie about things they consider important.
3. **86 %** of children lie to their parents regularly.
4. **75 %** of people lie to their friends.
5. **73 %** of people lie to their children.
6. **69 %** of married people lie to their spouses.

Christians are told that we must be transformed, we must be radically different because we live in a totally corrupted world. Our text could be today.

I. What is God's attitude toward lying ?**A. There is no clearer contrast between good and evil than one's truthfulness.**

1. The devil is continually referred to in reference to falsehood. **II John 7 ... deceiver**
2. Jesus identified Himself as “**I am the way, and the truth, and the life...**” **John 14: 6**

B. Notice how God's prophet describes His attitude toward truthfulness :

- a. “**You desire truth in the innermost being ...**” **Psa. 51: 6**
- b. Truthfulness must be the very nature of the godly person.

C. All deceit is repugnant to God.

1. God hates lying. (*All lies ... no distinction ... not size, color, or motive*)
 - a. **Prov. 6: 16-19** There are six things which the Lord hates, Yes, seven which are an abomination to Him: ¹⁷ Haughty eyes, a lying tongue, And hands that shed innocent blood, ¹⁸ A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that run rapidly to evil, ¹⁹ A false witness who utters lies, And one who spreads strife among brothers.
2. Deceitfulness is an abomination to God. (**abomination** : *disgusting, wicked*)
 - a. **Prov. 12: 22** – **Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord,**
But those who deal faithfully are His delight.
 - b. Deciding whether to lie is deciding God's opinion of us .. abomination or a delight.

3. God views a liar as a domestic terrorist.
 - a. **Prov. 26: 18-19** Like a madman who throws Firebrands, arrows and death,
¹⁹ So is the man who deceives his neighbor,
 And says, “Was I not joking?”
 - b. In God’s eyes, the liar is a madman who kills indiscriminately.
 - c. When we lie, this is how God views us. *Like madmen who kill for pleasure.*

II. Why is lying so common ? Why do people find it so easy to lie ?

A. People are deceitfulness because their hearts are wicked.

1. **Jer. 17: 9** – The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked;
 Who can know it? (NKJV)
2. **Isa. 59: 13** – (*Describing evil people*) Transgressing and denying the Lord,
 And turning away from our God, Speaking oppression and revolt,
 Conceiving in and uttering from the heart lying words.
3. **Matt. 15: 18** – But the things that proceed out of the mouth come from the heart,
 and those defile the man.

B. People lie because they have many kinds of fears.

1. They lie because they fear harm. (Abraham ... **Gen. 12: 10f** ; **20: 1-18**)
2. People lie because they fear punishment. (Sarah ... **Gen. 18: 15**)
 - a. There never was a guilty child. (*Did you do your homework ?*)
 - b. People hide mistakes at work.
 - c. Criminals blame others ... even frame others.
3. People lie to avoid conflict.
 - a. Wife asks, “*Does my hair look okay?*” Most husbands and all boyfriends will lie.
 - b. When I called, why didn’t you pick up ?
4. People lie to avoid loss :
 - a. I really did my homework, but _____.
 - b. Many routinely lie to the IRS when doing their taxes.
5. People lie out of fear of rejection.
 - a. People boast to gain approval.
 - b. They will lie about likes and dislikes. (sports teams, music, food, etc.)
6. At its core *fear* is basically a lack of faith.
 - a. When people lie it is because they do not trust the relationship with his victim.
 - b. When one lies it is because he does not trust God to protect him.

C. Many justify lying on purely altruistic grounds.

1. People feel good about lying to make others feel good.
 - a. Dentists all lie, “*Relax and open wide, this isn’t going to hurt at all.*”
 - b. Parents lie to children, “*If you do that again you’re really gonna get it.*”
2. Flattery is a lie that often comes from a desire to encourage.
 - a. Distorts one’s view of reality. He believes himself to be something he’s not.
 - b. Flattery can cause a person to be built up with pride.
 - III. – *An adult bragged on a child that was learning to ride a bicycle at family reunion. Filled with false confidence, he tried stunts w/ big boys and knocked out a tooth.*
3. We must be as encouraging as possible (**I Thes. 5: 11,14**) but never flatter.

D. Lying is more often about self than about the victim of the lie.

1. Flattery is used by those with an agenda.
 - a. Lying, particularly flattery is a tool most often used for manipulation.
 - b. People use flattery to make other people like them.
2. False teachers use flattery to woo followers.
 - a. **Jude 16** – These are grumblers, finding fault, following after their own lusts; they speak arrogantly, flattering people for the sake of gaining an advantage.
 - b. **Rom. 16: 18** – For such men are slaves, not of our Lord Christ but of their own appetites; and by their smooth and flattering speech they deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting.
 - III. – *The most successful conmen are beloved by their victims.*
3. The bible condemns flattery as deceit of one of the worst kinds.

Psa. 12: 2-3 They speak falsehood to one another; With flattering lips and with a double heart they speak. **3** May the Lord cut off all flattering lips,
The tongue that speaks great things;

III. Why Christians must not lie.**A. To deceive anyone in any way is an unloving act.**

1. **Prov. 26: 28** – A lying tongue hates those it crushes,
And a flattering mouth works ruin.
2. Therefore, deceitfulness violates the very foundation of Christianity ... LOVE.
 - a. **Matt. 22: 36-40**
 - b. **John 13: 34-35**

B. As Christians we are directly commanded to be truthful at all times.

1. This is a very clear command ... direct, blunt, not at all arbitrary.
Col. 3: 9-10 Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices, ¹⁰ and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him— (cf. Eph. 2: 10)
2. Honesty is fundamental to the character of the Christian.
Eph. 4: 22-25 ... in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, ²³ and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, ²⁴ and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth. ²⁵ Therefore, laying aside falsehood, speaking truth each one of you to his neighbor, for we are members of one another. **** This is all inclusive .. each and every Christians ! ****
 - a. Change from old self to new self ... different heart. (**Rom. 12: 2**)
 - b. Old self was directed by “lusts of deceit.” *We must surrender our old selves.*
 - c. New man is righteous and holy ... godly ... like God. RE-created in God's image
3. This change of lifestyle is not optional ... **Change is absolutely mandatory.**

C. To abstain from dishonesty identifies the Christian with God.

1. The prophet refers to God as the “**God of truth**.”
Psa. 31: 5 – Into Your hand I commit my spirit; You have ransomed me, O Lord, God of truth.
2. Jesus referred to Himself as “**the truth**.”
John 14: 6 – Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.
3. God cannot lie. *It would violate His very nature.*
 - a. **Num. 23: 19** – God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent; ...
 - b. **Titus 1: 2** – ... in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised ...

D. Lying identifies one with Satan.

1. Jesus identified Satan as the father of all liars.
John 8: 44 – You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

2. From the beginning of the bible to the end Satan is identified with deceitfulness.
 - a. **Gen 3** ... Deceived the woman bringing sin into the world. (*corrupting man*)
 - b. **Rev. 12: 9** – And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

E. Lying provides only temporary benefit.

1. **Prov. 12: 19** – Truthful lips will be established forever,
But a lying tongue is only for a moment.
2. **Prov. 21: 6** – The acquisition of treasures by a lying tongue is a fleeting vapor,
the pursuit of death.

Ill. – Bernie Madoff ... The rest of his life in prison and then he faces God.

F. All who deceive others become the enemy of God.

1. **Psa. 5: 5-6** The boastful shall not stand before Your eyes; You hate all who do iniquity. ⁶ You destroy those who speak falsehood:
The Lord abhors the man of bloodshed and deceit. (cf- **Psa. 11:5**)
2. If you want to make sure God doesn't like you, just deceive others.

G. Lying will keep people out of Heaven.

1. The New Jerusalem (Heaven), where God dwells is called the “**City of Truth.**”
Zech. 8: 3 – Thus says the Lord, ‘I will return to Zion and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. Then Jerusalem will be called the City of Truth, and the mountain of the Lord of hosts will be called the Holy Mountain.’
2. All dishonest people will be barred from God's holy city.
Rev. 22: 14-15 Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter by the gates into the city.
¹⁵ Outside are the dogs and the sorcerers and the immoral persons and the murderers and the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices lying. Cf – **Rev. 21: 8** ... lake of fire , **Psa. 101: 6-8**

CONCLUSION :

A. This lesson is a matter of life and death.

1. It addresses the clearest demarcation between Christians and the world.
2. God has made His will abundantly clear.
Eph. 4: 25 – Therefore, laying aside falsehood, speak truth each one of you
with his neighbor, for we are members of one another.

B. God is calling you to come out from the world and to be His.

II Cor. 6:17 – Therefore, come out from their midst and be separate,” says the Lord.
“And do not touch what is unclean; And I will welcome you.”

READ ... Psa. 15 – Cf – **Rev. 21:8**

Jeremiah 9: 1-9

1 Oh that my head were waters and my eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people! **2** Oh that I had in the desert a wayfarers' lodging place; that I might leave my people and go from them! For all of them are adulterers, an assembly of treacherous men. **3** They bend their tongue *like* their bow; lies and not truth prevail in the land; for they proceed from evil to evil, and they do not know Me," declares the LORD. **4** "Let everyone be on guard against his neighbor, and do not trust any brother; because every brother deals craftily, and every neighbor goes about as a slanderer. **5** Everyone deceives his neighbor and does not speak the truth, they have taught their tongue to speak lies; they weary themselves committing iniquity. **6** Your dwelling is in the midst of deceit; through deceit they refuse to know Me," declares the LORD. **7** Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts, "Behold, I will refine them and assay them; for what *e*/se can I do, because of the daughter of My people? **8** "Their tongue is a deadly arrow; it speaks deceit; with his mouth one speaks peace to his neighbor, but inwardly he sets an ambush for him. **9** "Shall I not punish them for these things?" declares the LORD. "On a nation such as this shall I not avenge Myself?

Ephesians 4: 17-25

17 So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, **18** being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; **19** and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness. **20** But you did not learn Christ in this way, **21** if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, **22** that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, **23** and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, **24** and put on the new self, which in *the likeness of* God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth. **25** Therefore, laying aside falsehood, SPEAK TRUTH EACH ONE *of you* WITH HIS NEIGHBOR, for we are members of one another.