

Do Not Lie

Series: Where Life Flourishes: Engaging the 10 Commandments
Jimmy Reyes– August 21, 2016

Exodus 20:16 (NIV)

“You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

Leviticus 19:11b-12 (NIV)

... “Do not lie. “Do not deceive one another. ¹² “Do not swear falsely by my name and so profane the name of your God. I am the Lord.

Psalms 116:11

1. Reasons why we lie:

- To _____ ourselves
- To get a _____
- To _____ someone

2. Ways in which we lie:

- Perjury
- Flattery

Psalms 12:1-2 (NIV)

- Slander/Gossip
- False teaching

1 Timothy 4:1-2 (NIV)

- Deception

3. Results of lying:

- Lying hurts others and _____ trust in our relationships
- Lying _____ our wholeness
- Lying _____ our relationship with God

Proverbs 6:16-19 (NIV)

There are six things the Lord hates, seven that are detestable to him: ¹⁷ haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, ¹⁸ a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, ¹⁹ a false witness who pours out lies and a person who stirs up conflict in the community.

Proverbs 12:22 (NLT)

The Lord detests lying lips, but he delights in those who tell the truth.

4. Overcoming lying:

- _____ to the source of Truth

John 14:6 (NIV)

Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

John 8:42-44 (NIV)

- _____ to bear the Truth

Colossians 3:7-10 (NIV)

You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. ⁸ But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. ⁹ Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

Psalms 19:7-14 (NIV)

1

Do Not Lie

Today we are continuing in the Series we have titled: Where Life Flourishes, where we are engaging the 10 Commandments. Through this series we have been seeing how God has given us these commandments so that we would be able to reflect his heart and character. We are now up to commandment number 9.

2

Let's look at it...

Exodus 20:16 (NIV)

“You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

In other words: Do Not Lie. Got it? Ok that's it... sermon is over. Let's just put in into practice now... let's go home! Ok maybe I'm lying a bit... we are not going home just yet!

3

In Leviticus we find a more detailed explanation of the 10 commandments and in 19:11b-12 (NIV) it says:

... “Do not lie. “Do not deceive one another. ¹² “Do not swear falsely by my name and so profane the name of your God. I am the Lord.

Science tells us that many of us have been lying since we were 2-3 years old (maybe some of the more gifted ones here since they were one, I don't know). Our childhood was more than likely filled with moments when our parents scolded, disciplined and told us not to lie; yet we've continued to lie. We got the brushing our teeth part and the taking a shower advice, but what happened to not lying? It seems that many of us have battled with years of being deceptive and getting away with habitual lying.

4

Psalm 116:11 (KJV)

I said in my haste, All men are liars.

Oh wow, some of the women here are probably thinking I knew it... AMEN!

5

Let me use another more gender inclusive translation...

Psalm 116:11 (NIV)

in my alarm I said, "Everyone is a liar."

Whew... Ok, now everyone is in the same boat...

We see that lying is not just a bad habit but it is a disease of the heart of a fallen humanity.

6-7

We are all probably surrounded by lies on a daily basis...

Let's look at some... Famous American Fibs

- The check is in the mail.

- I'll start my diet tomorrow.

- We service what we sell.
- Give me your number and the doctor will call you right back.
- Money cheerfully refunded.
- One size fits all.
- This offer limited to the first 100 people who call in.
- Your luggage isn't lost, it's only misplaced.
- Leave your resume and we'll keep it on file.
- This hurts me more than it hurts you.
- I just need five minutes of your time.
- Your table will be ready in a few minutes.
- Open wide, it won't hurt a bit.
- Let's have lunch sometime.
- It's not the money, it's the principle.

8 And I'll add a Christianese one... I will be praying for you...
You see lies are all around us...

9 Recently, during these political times I have been amazed at how many lies surround the presidential campaigns (I'm sure it has always been like that, but for some reason, it has been way easier to recognize them lately). Yes, there are lies on both sides; yes both sides manipulate the truth to their advantage. I was thinking the other day, how hard it is to even find unbiased news reports. It's all so frustrating, but it speaks about the times we are living in.

This past week four member of the U.S. Olympics swim team said that they had been robbed at gunpoint. It turned out that they were drunk, were unruly and trashed a bathroom at a gas station in Rio. After people found out that they fabricated the story, gold medalist Ryan Lochte sent out a vague apology. He expressed remorse for and I quote "not being more careful and candid". What ever happened to saying I apologize for being intoxicated and lying? Or he could have even used the new political term I might have short-circuited the truth. I can't wait for one of my kids to use this term!

Lies are not just around us but they are in us as well... It is amazing how we get so angry over those who lie, but we don't get angry with ourselves when we lie. We can all admit to lying, but would totally deny that we are liars.

We also live in a cynical era when truth is in short supply. I would even go as far as to say that we live in a post-truth world. We live in times when it seems that the truth does not matter as much. We see examples of this all the time in our courtrooms, when being guilty or innocent is not based on truth but on technicalities and how things are manipulated.

Our culture has also done a great job of eliminating the need of an absolute truth that guides everything in life. We are then left with relative truths, which basically leads us to believe that what matters most is how every person feels about things, each individual is the final judge of truth. It sounds nice, but in reality we end up living in a world that is

not guided by God, but by how we all feel. Public sentiment rules our times, and at the end it leaves us living far away from God's truth and the flourishing life He intended for humanity.

As you can see, we need to return to valuing the truth. We need it more than ever as a society, but it starts with each one of us as individuals realizing the need we have to live lives of honesty and integrity.

So let's look at some of the...

10

1. Reasons why we lie:

Have you ever thought about that? Why do we lie? Why is it so easy to open our mouths and deceive others? The reality is that we all have a sinful nature and that is why God gave these commandments, so that we would realize that things could be different through him.

11

So the first reason why we lie is

- **To protect ourselves**

We lie to cover our rear-ends. We don't want others to know that we messed up, or that we did something that we were not supposed to do, so we lie. We cover our shame up and protect an illusion of who we are with lies.

This week my wife and I watched the movie the Big Short. Well truthfully I meant we finished watching the movie this week... With kids we end up watching pieces of movies at different times. I think this one took us 5 sittings to finally finish it. There was a line that really impressed me in the movie. Dr. Michael Burry (one of the guys who predicted the subprime meltdown) shared how he met his wife on match.com. His profile read, "I'm a medical student with only 1 eye, an awkward social manner, and \$145,000 in student loans." She responded with something like: you are all I've ever wanted... an honest man! I loved that because when I heard her response I was like what? Really? What you've always wanted? But then I heard the next part when she mentioned honesty and I was like wow that was deep...

12

Another reason we lie is

- **To get a prize**

To get what we want... Maybe we want to gain an advantage, get more money, or a job. We desire something and we are going to get it at all costs. We will fill the application with lies or we will cheat on our taxes. We want someone to like us and think highly of us, so we will lie about ourselves.

Talking about that... A heard that a minister told his congregation, "Next week I plan to preach about the sin of lying. To help you understand my sermon, I want you all to read Mark 17." The following Sunday, as he prepared to deliver his sermon, the minister asked for a show of hands. He wanted to know how many had read Mark 17. Every hand went up. The minister smiled and said, wow that is great that you all took the time this

week to study this passage, but "Mark has only sixteen chapters. I will now proceed with my sermon on the sin of lying."

Oops... People wanted the minister to think highly of them... It gets the best of us all.

13

Another reason why we lie is...

- **To *punish* someone**

Someone hurt us so we want them to pay for what they did. It may involve raising false accusations, hurting reputations and coming against them with exaggerations.

As you can see all these reasons do not come from a restored sense of reflecting the heart of God unto others. We would say... the reasons we lie are because we can be immature, selfish and just plain mean.

14

Let's also look at some of the

2. Ways in which we lie:

- **Perjury**

That is what the 9th commandment is initially talking about... You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor. It is talking about having a commitment to be truthful in the court of law. To tell the truth, the whole truth, nothing but the truth so help me God. Wouldn't court proceedings be so much easier if people were really honest? How would marriages be different? Friendships? How would it be to live in a society where truth reigned?

15

- **Flattery**

16

Psalm 12:1-2 (NIV) says

Help, Lord, for no one is faithful anymore; those who are loyal have vanished from the human race. ² Everyone lies to their neighbor; they flatter with their lips but harbor deception in their hearts.

17

Flattery is insincere and exaggerated praise that is used to manipulate someone. If you ever feel down about yourself, maybe go to a car dealership, you might feel a bit better after hearing some of the compliments you might get...

So let's be mindful of these tactics as we try to sell things or try to get more business. I once heard that flattery is saying something to someone's face that you would never say behind their back.

18

This leads us to the opposite...

- **Slander/Gossip**

Saying something behind someone's back that you would never say to their face. Once we open our mouths to spread rumors and false information about someone, it is not easily stopped. These words spread like wild fire. We need to be more careful with how we speak about others with our words, emails, texts and through social media. Let's

check the facts before we share something with others, we could be used to pass along false information.

There was a man who had a hard time with gossip so he went to the parish to ask for help. The priest told him to take a pillow to the top of the hill and let the feathers go. The man did that and came back to the priest the next day thinking he was absolved. The priest then asked him to go back to the place where he had let the feathers go to pick them up. The man answered that is impossible to do, the wind has taken the feathers everywhere. The priest responded: the same is true with our words, once they come out from our mouths the wind takes them and we cannot get them back.

19

- **False teaching**

20

1 Timothy 4:1-2 (NIV)

The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.² Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron.

21

We have to guard ourselves against false teachers and we also have to examine our hearts to make sure that we are not spreading false teachings that at the end of the day stir people away from the God of love, mercy, truth and justice.

22

- **Deception**

This includes speaking falsehood, being careless with the truth, little white lies and at times being silent to withhold some truth (guys are typically good at this one, right women?). We use any of these options that might not look so bad, but in reality our motives are to deceive and confuse others.

Wouldn't it be easier to stop lying if we had the whole Pinocchio thing going? Every time we told a lie our noses would grow. I think that would help a lot right? But let me share with you the negative...

23

3. Results of lying:

Lying will not make your nose grow, but it will deform many areas of your life. We will not be able to have flourishing lives if we do not live with honesty and integrity. Jesus summarized the Old Testament 10 commandments into 2 commandments... He told us to love God over all things and to love our neighbors. Lying will affect these crucial relationships. I want us to look at the real effects of lying and see the damages it brings.

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- **Lying hurts others and destroys trust in our relationships**

As we lie to someone, we need to recognize that we are not demonstrating love towards them. We are usually reflecting selfishness as we try to manipulate and confuse them. Eventually we create a false reality that others will believe and take in their lives as their own reality. This is straight out evil; think about the serpent in the Garden of Eden and how it influenced Adam and Eve with lies. They eventually ate of the forbidden fruit and their reality was forever changed.

25

- Lying disintegrates our wholeness

God came to restore us from sin and death. He came to transform the way we live and to renew our minds. We need to strive to live lives of integrity because that is the heart of God. If you look at the word integrity it comes from the Latin word for integer, which is where we get the word for whole and complete numbers (not fractions, which come from the Latin word fractus which means broken). God heals us so that we can start living whole and complete lives now, here on this earth. As we surrender to him, He breathes life into our spirit, he renews our minds, and he restores our relationships. We receive his shalom, His perfect and holistic peace that touches all aspects of our lives. As we let lies surface and attach themselves to us, we see that they will affect some or all of these dimensions. We experience the process of disintegration where the lies damage our lives and our relationships with others.

26

And eventually

- Lying damages our relationship with God

We cannot have a true relationship with God if we are hiding behind deception and lies. We cannot come before him in freedom when we are hurting other people, as we manipulate, control and deceive with our words, thoughts and actions.

27

Proverbs 6:16-19 (NIV)

There are six things the Lord hates, seven that are detestable to him: ¹⁷ haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, ¹⁸ a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, ¹⁹ a false witness who pours out lies and a person who stirs up conflict in the community.

28

Proverbs 12:22 (NLT)

The Lord detests lying lips, but he delights in those who tell the truth.

Lying can be so trivial to us... Some of us even believe oh it is one of the smallest itty-bitty sins... besides everyone does it! But we can see how important this is to God, he actually mentioned lying in the things he hates and detests. He also thought that it was important that He stated do not lie as part of the 10 commandments.

29

So let's look at how we can grow in...

4. Overcoming lying:

This is something we cannot do on our own, by our own will power; we have to surrender our lives to God... We need to...

- Connect to the source of Truth

30

John 14:6 (NIV)

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

It comes down to accepting the Truth in our lives and allowing Him to govern our hearts. It means denouncing all ties to the way the world seek to gain power and control over others. When Jesus came to this earth some people didn't accept him as the Messiah because the father of lies was controlling them and blinding their eyes...

31

John 8:42-44 (NIV)

Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I have come here from God. I have not come on my own; God sent me."⁴³ Why is my language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say.⁴⁴ You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

Wow we can see that the devil is the father of lies. So basically we need to answer this question. Who's your daddy? Is it the devil the father of lies or God the faithful and True God who cannot lie?

32

As we receive God in our lives, we can then...

- **Commit to bear the Truth**

This means entering into a process of discipleship. Renewing our mind so that we can bear the image of God.

33

Colossians 3:7-10 (NIV)

You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived.⁸ But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips.⁹ Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

Things would be easier if once we came to Christ we were changed in all aspects of our lives. Do you remember the old Jim Carrey movie "Liar Liar"? He was a lawyer and was known to be a habitual liar. His son wished that his dad would not be able to tell one more lie and his wish came true... His dad was not able to say one lie. I remember it being such a funny movie, but wouldn't that be so scary and yet amazing if it happened immediately to us once we came to Christ?

But it is a process, just as in the beginning of our walk with God, telling the truth can be hard for us, as we grow in Christ, telling a lie becomes harder. The key in all this is spending time with God in worship and prayer. As we learn to abide in Him, hear his heart, meditate on his Word we learn what is important to him and it become important to us. We also learn what he detests and we begin to detest what God cannot stand.

34

This world desperately needs the truth. You and I know that truth and we need to stand up and reflect that truth. I'm not saying stand up and be obnoxious yelling the truth

without love, but I mean become a person of honesty and integrity. People will be able to sense that there is wholeness in you, that truth reigned in you... what you think, do and say are integrated and connected with the heart of the Father.

I want to end our time meditating on a Psalm that I think will help stir our hearts in the right place as we close in prayer. Sometimes when we talk about lying we can go to that place of shame, when we were caught lying as kids. Do you remember that? Horrible feeling! I'm not speaking on this topic so that you feel shame and feel bad. I want you to see that the wholeness that God offers is way better than what we are used to having in this world and experiencing in our brokenness. His commandments are pure, precious and perfect. Strive for that. Don't just try to get rid of things, but put on all that God has for you. As he asks us to let go of the lies, we can put on his truth, righteousness, and justice.

So I invite you to make these words part of your prayer this day.

35-36

Psalm 19:7-14 (NIV)

The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple. ⁸ The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes. ⁹ The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever. The decrees of the Lord are firm, and all of them are righteous. ¹⁰ They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb. ¹¹ By them your servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward. ¹² But who can discern their own errors? Forgive my hidden faults. ¹³ Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me. Then I will be blameless, innocent of great transgression. ¹⁴ May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.

37

Let's pray...