

TITLE: TELL THE TRUTH

John 8:42-47

Ephesians 4:29-32

Have you seen that Geico commercial on TV
where the woman comes into the kitchen and asks her husband:
“Do you think this dress makes me look fat?”
Do you remember what that husband says?
“Yes, of course it does!”

All across America, you can hear the collective groan of men
as they lift themselves out of easy chairs and shout:
"NO! Don't say that!"
That man may have told his wife the truth...
but that particular truth wasn't the smartest thing he ever said.
I much prefer the answer a man gave to his wife when she asked:
“Do I look fat?”
He replied:
“Do I look stupid?”

Even our history doesn't always tell the truth.

A tour guide was showing a tourist around Washington, D. C.

The guide pointed out the place where George Washington supposedly threw a dollar
across the Potomac River.

Tourish looking at the river said: "That's impossible, no one could throw a coin that far!"

The guide said: "You have to remember, a dollar went a lot farther in those days."

In the book “The Day America Told the Truth:

- a. 91% of American surveyed said that they lie on a regular basis.
- b. 86% said they lie to their parents regularly,
- c. 75% said they lie to their friends;
- d. 69% said they lie to their spouses.
- e. 50% said they regularly called in to work sick when they weren't

Could you function if you always had to tell the truth?

In the movie ‘Liar, Liar’ Jim Carey plays a slick lawyer Fletcher Reede,

Who had no problem bending the truth whenever he needed to.

But things change when his son Max

Makes a wish on his 5th birthday that his

Father would not be able to tell even the smallest lie.

The wish comes true, and now whenever Fletcher opens his mouth,

the only thing that comes out is the truth.

Problem is, Fletcher doesn't think he can function without the capacity to lie.

And it doesn't come home to him until he realized

How bad it made his son feel.

Lying affects all we do and
 It affects all our relationship in life.
 In the end it will destroy you.
 Why should we "Tell the Truth:" BECAUSE

I. IT IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO.

It is of God.

Jesus called himself the Truth:

John 14:6 I am the way, the truth and the life, no one comes to the father but by me.

John said the truth came through Jesus.

John 1:17 For the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Truth is the evidence and testimony that you are a Christian.

And have accepted Christ who is the truth.

Isaiah 45:19b I the Lord, speak the truth; I declare what is right.

It should be the desire of every born again believer to speak,

To live and display the truth.

The first evidence of the world creeping into our lives is a distortion of the truth.

Romans 1:25 They exchange the truth about God for a lie

Winston Churchill once said, "Occasionally men stumble over the truth. Most pick themselves and go on, as if nothing had happened."

Jesus says: Lying show which family you belong to.

John 8:44 You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. 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.

In the Seinfeld sitcom Jerry was asking George if he told his female friend the truth when George was describing himself to the girl. George responded: "Yes, I did" and Jerry replied "As you see it" George's response was: "remember, its not a lie if you believe it."

We tell the truth because it is of God.

And IT IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO

We tell the truth because:

II. IT SET THE PERSON FREE

Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him.

If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. 32 Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. John 8:31-32

People don't usually lie to protect OTHERS feelings or lives.

Most people lie to protect themselves.

They lie to cover their sins or hide their failures.

If a mother walks into a living room and sees a glass of spilled milk.

The mother looks at her child and says "Did you do this?"
 Now even though there is no one else in the room.
 The child replies: "Not me! I didn't do it"
 The mother knows and the child knows she knows.
 But the child will still lie hoping to escape punishment.

The problem with lying is that we not only hurt others,
 But we hurt and deceive ourselves.

Augustine once observed: "Before God can deliver us, we must first undeceive ourselves."

Proverbs 16:25 says: There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.

It's like the couple speeding down the highway when a State Trooper pulled them over. He asked the man to step out of the car and show him his license.

The trooper asked, "Did you realize you were going 85 miles an hour back there?"
 The man said, "Officer, that would be impossible. I'm law-abiding driver and never exceed the speed limit, no matter my circumstances."

The policeman leaned into the window of the car and asked the wife, "Is that true?" "No Officer, it's not, he drives like a maniac, he speeds wherever he goes, his driving scares me to death." The policeman wrote out a ticket. Then he said, "I also noticed you didn't have your seat belt on." "Officer," the man said, "with all due respect, I value my life. Buckle up, that's my motto." The policeman asked the wife, "Is that true? "

"Are you kidding? I've never seen him wear the thing, you'd probably find cobwebs in his seat belt." The policeman began to write him another ticket. About that time, the man leaned in the window and screamed, "Woman, what are you trying to do to me? Keep your big fat nose out of my business!" The officer said, "Ma'am, does he always talk to you like that?" She replied, "Only when he's drunk."

Once you start down the slippery slope of one lie everyone else gives way.
 And you become completely untrustworthy.

I Peter 3' 10 Whoever would love life and see good days must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from deceitful speech.

Because truth is the soap that cleanses us from the inside out.

Psalms 51:6-7 Surely you desire truth in the inner parts, you teach me wisdom in the inmost place. Cleanse me with hyssop and I will be clean, wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

King David should know the cleansing power of the truth.
 He committed adultery with Bathsheba
 He told a lie.
 His lie led to the murder of her husband Uriah.
 His life was miserable.

God called Nathan the prophet to come to set him free
And clean him up.

When David confessed his sin. He was set free.
From the guilt and sin, but
Not from the consequences of the lie.

“I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity, I said, I will confess my transgression to the Lord and you forgave the guilt of my sin.”

Psalms 32:5

The judgment fell and his son with Bathsheba died.

In speaking truth you must come completely clean.
Psychologists found that in spite the exaggerations and deceptions and consequences,
still 70% of liars surveyed said they would tell their lies again.

When truth is not spoken we remain in slavery.
Isaiah 59:14 says

“So Justice is driven back and righteousness stands at a distance;’ truth has stumbled in the streets. Isaiah 59:14

Lies destroy us.

Truth restores us.

WE MUST TELL THE TRUTH BECAUSE

III. IT RESTORES ORDER AND OFFERS A NEW BEGINNING

Satan is a murderer and he is the Father of lies.

That is exactly what his lies do in us

They kill our soul.

Destroy our lives

Dismantle our relationships.

Lying steals from us the ability to think rationally.

To love purely

Psychologist tell us it causes us to be paranoid, depressed,

Suspicious, separated from others and from God.

It destroys self-esteem, leaves us with guilt and remorse?

No wonder truth and honesty are highly valued commodities
in any society, whether Christian or not.

How many of you hate it when people lie to you? (most hands went up).

How many of you would dislike being called a liar? (all hands went up)

We are to speak the truth in love.

I like the lady whose printer was showing need of cleaning and called a local computer repair shop. The man informed her that the printer probably needed only to be cleaned. Because the store charged \$50 for such cleanings, he told her, "You might be better off reading the printer's manual and trying the job yourself. The woman was surprised by his candor and asked "Does your boss know that you discourage business?" "Actually it's my boss's idea," the employee replied sheepishly. "We usually make more money on repairs if we let people try to fix things themselves first."

Do you want to do business with a company like that.

The truth restores order.

Lies destroy nations

Jeremiah 7 says the nation has gone backward not forward vs 23 28 This is the nation that has not obeyed the Lord its God or responded to correction.

Note why!!

Truth has perished; it has vanished from their lips. Cut off your hair and throw it away. Take up a lament on the barren heights, for the Lord has rejected and abandoned this generation that is under his wrath. Jeremiah 7:23-28

Never in all my years of ministry have I seen a relationship restored that has been broken or betrayed, if the person continued to deceive or not tell the truth.

You can't have trust without truth.

That is where Jesus Christ helps from the inside out.

When we accept Christ we become a life of truth.

Christ keeps us truthful.

To keep our ears truthful. TO listen to what is said, not to what is heard.

To keep our eyes faithful. To see what is real not what is expected.

To keep our mouth guarded to say what is true, not what is advantages.

To keep our mind transformed To think what is right and not for our gain.

To keep our soul focused to look on what is eternal and not worldly.

John 14:16 I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever--- the Spirit of truth.

Before you become a Christian you must make a decision.

Will you accept and believe the truth.

When you are a Christian --

Will you live the truth.

When we accept Christ we accept truth as a way of life.

It is our standard of new beginning every day.

It is our defense against guilt, nightmares and sleeplessness
paranoia and panic.

It is our defense for peace.

We don't have to worry about what we did yesterday or this morning.

Because we live life with integrity.

Paul said put on the belt of truth.

That is what holds up the defense to protect our feet from stumbling
 When you have a Belt on it keep your pants from falling.
 And we definitely need belt of truth to keep our pants up in America today.

You see, the key to being honest with ourselves
 is to be honest with God.
 To repent of our sins.

**I John 1:9 if we confess our sin God is faithful and just to forgive our sins and
 cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

If you do this
 I believe the world will began to respect us again.

Sports Illustrated carried the following story

The game was played in Wellington, Florida. In it, a 7-year-old first baseman, Tanner Munsey, fielded a ground ball and tried to tag a runner going from first to second base. The umpire, Laura Benson, called the runner out, but young Tanner immediately ran to her side and said, "Ma'am, I didn't tag the runner." Umpire Benson reversed herself, sent the runner to second base, and Tanner's coach gave him the game ball for his honesty. Two weeks later, Laura Benson was again the umpire and Tanner was playing shortstop when a similar play occurred. This time Benson ruled that Tanner had missed the tag on a runner going to third base, and she called the runner safe. Tanner looked at Benson and without saying a word, tossed the ball to the catcher and returned to his position. Benson sensed something was wrong. "Did you tag that runner?" She asked Tanner. His reply: "Yes." Benson then called the runner out. The opposing coaches protested until she explained what had happened two weeks earlier. "If a kid is that honest," she said, "I have to give it to him." The world looks at our lives, and they listen to our speech to determine whether we live our lives to glorify our God Then they decided if they will follow this same Jesus that we follow.

God doesn't want to destroy us.
 He wants to build us up.
 He wants to strengthen our marriages and our relationships.
 Will you start today by being totally honest.
 Not only with God but yourself
 And with your children and your spouse.
 IF YOU DO

YOU SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH AND THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE.