BEARING FALSE WITNESS

**DATE: 4/22/2018 am**

**TEXT: Exodus 20:16; John 8; Genesis 3; Proverbs 6**

**INTRODUCTION**

Our theme for the year is **Seeking the Old Paths**

And we are now winding down our study of **the 10 Commandments** (we only have 2 left)

In which God as showed us some clearly defined paths

We have called this series **A Perfect Ten for a Perfect Life**

We now come to the 9th Commandment

Which says - ***“Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour”***

So, what exactly does it mean to Bear False Witness?

We don’t use that kind of terminology today, do we?

Bearing False Witness is talking about Lying

In particular, it’s talking about telling Lies about other people

The word ***“bear”*** means *to speak or testify*

The word ***“false”*** simply means an *untruth*

The word ***“witness”*** means *to give a testimony*

The word ***“neighbour”*** literally means *an associate*

But it’s not limited to the person who lives next door or down the street

It’s a word that speaks about friends, family, and all acquaintances, everyone

What the 9th Commandment is telling us is that we are not to tell Lies about anyone

The 9th Commandment speaks of someone wanting to hurt the reputation or cast doubts on the character of an individual

God warns us about this, because He knows that people have a major problem in this area

Our old sinful nature loves to stretch the truth, embellish, exaggerate, add and subtract from something

For whatever reason, … and there are a lot of reasons out there

But we find here, God telling us … Don’t do it!

So, let’s pray and I want to look at some very interesting thoughts about …

**“Bearing False Witness”**

**~~~Prayer~~~**

First, let’s look at …

**I. THE ORIGIN OF THE LIE**

In **John 8:44** Jesus tells us where all lies originate

We read - “***Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it”***

Jesus tells us that the origin of the lie, began with the devil

We see in **John 8:44** Jesus describing (2 things) for us …

**A. The ‘Character’ of the Devil**

**1.** Notice that Jesus speaks of the devil as ***“a murderer from the beginning”***

We all know what a ***“murderer”*** is

It is someone who takes the life of another, intentionally

It’s interesting that the Lord links Murder and Lying together

-- Satan’s first and foremost objective is to dishonor God

-- His next great objective is to Destroy man

**John 10:10 –** ***“The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy:”***

He wants to destroy us because we are the object of God’s affection

He seeks the destruction and ruin of every life

**2.** Next notice that Jesus says that he ***“abode not in the truth”***

This statement takes us back to his fall

Why doesn’t the devil abide in the truth?

Jesus said it was because there is ***“no truth in him”***

He is evil to the core and that evil nature is being constantly manifested

Men’s hearts are the same

**Genesis 6:5 –** ***“And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually”*** (That hasn’t changed)

**3.** And because there is no truth in him - ***“he speaketh a lie”***

He ***“is a liar”*** and the ***“father”*** of all lies

It’s the devil’s nature to lie … or as Jesus put it …

***“he speaketh of his own”***(It comes naturally)

He is the world’s first liar and the world’s greatest liar

-- He lies when he tells people to wait for a later time to be saved

-- He lies when he tells people that they will really be happy in a life of sin

-- He lies when he tells people that they have plenty of time

What’s so sad is that people believe his lies every day

We are deceived because we don’t know the Truth

Nor do we care to know the Truth

But Jesus said we can know the Truth and it will set us Free

Jesus not only speaks of **the ‘Character’ of the Devil**,

But He also mentions …

**B. The ‘Children’ of the Devil**

**1.** In **John 8:44** Jesus also said to the Pharisees …

***“Ye are of your father the devil”***

He calls these religious hypocrites the children of the devil

Understand this; you are either a child of God or the child of the devil

You are either one or the other

There is no in between

If you are saved you are a child of God

If not, you are a child of the devil

You either belong to God or you belong to the devil

If you are not sure if you are a Child of God,

Why don’t you let us show you from the Bible so you can be sure?

**2**. Jesus said to the Pharisees ***“the lusts of your father ye will do”***

Children have the tendency to behave like their parents

The children of the devil act like their father

Occasionally we’ll hear someone say –

*“You remind me of your father”*

When a person Lies about another person they are acting like the devil

They are acting like their father

I have known people who have said terrible things about someone else

When I read what Jesus said, I can’t help but come to the conclusion they have never been saved

If they are, they are certainly not acting like it

A child of God does not Slander, Bear False Witness and Lie about people

Such behavior is characteristic of those who have not been saved

That’s the behavior of a child of the devil

Humor – A fellas was pulled over for doing 80 in a 65. The police officer asked for his license and he said, “*I’m sorry officer, but my license was suspended.”* The police officer then asked for his registration and the fellow said, *“It’s in the glove compartment, but it’s not in my name because I stole this car in a car-jacking and I killed the woman who owns the car. Her body is stuffed in the trunk.*” At this point the police officer asked the man to step outside the car and radioed for backup. In a few minutes his supervisor showed up. The police officer told him what the man had said. The supervisor walked over to him and said, *“Let me see your driver’s license.”* The guy handed his license over and it was valid. The supervisor then asked for the registration of his car. The guy reached into the glove compartment and handed him the registration. Everything was in order. Next the supervisor asked him to open the trunk. The fellow opened the trunk and the only thing there was a spare tire. The supervisor looked at the fellow and said, *“The officer said you were driving on a suspended license, driving a stolen car and you had a body in the trunk.”* The fellow looked at him and said, *“Really, and I bet he told you I was speeding too!”*

Lying is characteristic of those who are not saved

**THE ORIGIN OF THE LIE**

**II. HOW A LIE WORKS**

Why and How do people Lie about someone else?

First, let’s take a look at the Why

**A. The ‘Motives’**

Why would someone say something False about someone else?

The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines Lying as

-- Making an untrue statement with the intent to deceive, or To create a false or misleading impression

When a person Bears False Witness they are motivated by the desire to cast doubts on a person’s character and injure their reputation

They want to hunt someone, get back, get even

The father of Lies gives us a good example of Why people Lie about others

In **Genesis 3:1** we read about Satan appearing to Eve in the Garden and saying –

***“Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?”***

Notice he’s asking a question, he’s casting a doubt

That’s not what God said

Let’s look at what God actually said in …

**Genesis 2:16,17 - *“Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:”***

***“But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die”***

It was not every tree but one tree

**1.** Satan made a misleading statement about what God said

Then he even went as far as accusing God of being a Liar

God clearly said at the end of **v. 17 -** ***“for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die”***

Satan said to Eve in **Genesis 3:4 - *“Ye shall not surely die”***

Satan was telling Eve that God had Lied to her

What was he trying to do?

He was attacking the character of God with an untrue statement for the purpose of making God look bad in Eve’s eyes

That was his Purpose and Motive

**2.** On another occasion, we not only see Satan trying to make God look bad to man, but we also see him trying to make man look bad to God

In **Job 1:9** we hear Satan asking God –

***“Doth Job fear God for nought?”***

It was a question that was asked to raise suspicion as to Job’s sincerity and motives for serving God

Satan was insinuating that Job had selfish reasons

Again, the motive was to make Job look bad in the eyes of God

Satan Lied to man about God, and he Lied to God about man

In each case, it was to hurt the name and reputation of the other

Whenever someone Lies about another person the motive is always to hurt the name and reputation of person, as well as cast doubts on that person’s character

Again, they are acting like the devil himself

**The ‘Motives’ for Bearing False Witness**

Next, let’s look at …

**B. The ‘Methods’**

We’ve looked at the Why, now let’s look at the How

The Methods for Bearing False Witness

The Bible has many descriptions of Lying and Bearing False Witness

**1.** Let’s look at those who *Tell* the Lies

The Bible speaks of the **Slanderer**

**Psalm 101:5** speaks of someone who ***“privily slandereth his neighbour”***

The word ***“privily”*** means *to cover*

It would be descriptive of someone placing a cover over something to conceal it

The word speaks of someone Slandering someone else secretly

Or as we might say, *behind their back*

The word ***“slandereth”*** literally means *to wag the tongue*

I have met a few tongue wagers in my life

**Ill.** - I think of the great evangelist Sam Jones. He was uncouth and cut no corners and held back no punches in his preaching. One night in one of his meetings a lady came down that was known for her gossiping. She said she wanted to lay her tongue on the altar. Jones looked at her and said, *“Ma, it’s gonna take up the whole pew!”*

I’ve known some people who would need a tractor trailer to carry their tongue around because it been waged so much!

The idea behind the word ***“slandereth”*** is to accuse someone of something for which they are not guilty

The Bible says in **Proverbs 30:10 - *“Accuse not a servant unto his master”***

The word ***“accuse”*** here is the same word translated as ***“slandereth”*** in **Psalm 101:5**

Slander is a form of Bearing False Witness

The Bible also speaks of a **talebearer**

**Proverbs 11:13 - *“A talebearer revealeth secrets: but he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth the matter”***

The word ***“talebearer”*** speaks of someone who spreads gossip, rumors, and lies

**Ill.** - The owner of a large earth-moving equipment company once told this story. He said “We used to have a scarper known the model ‘G.’ Somebody asked one of our salesman one day what the ‘G’ stood for. The salesman replied, *‘The ‘G’ stands for gossip, because like gossip, this machine moves a lot of dirt and moves it fast”*

A talebearer is someone who goes around spreading dirt about other people

The Apostle Paul describes these kinds of people in **I Timothy 5:13** (where we read) - ***“And withal they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not”***

The Bible also speaks of a **whisperer**

**Proverbs 16:28 - *“A froward man soweth strife: and a whisperer separateth chief friends”***

***A “Froward man”*** is someone who is guilty of fraud and cheats another person, He’s a twister

A ***“whisperer”*** is someone who goes behind a person’s back and talks about them

Paul wrote to the Corinthian Church …

**II Corinthians 12:20 *– “For I fear, lest, when I come, I shall not find you such as I would, and that I shall be found unto you such as ye would not: lest there be debates, envyings, wraths, strifes, backbitings, whisperings, swellings, tumults:”***

Not only does the Bible talk about the Person who does the Lying

But also …

**2.** The Person Who *Listens* to the Lying

**Proverbs 26:20 - *“Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out: so where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth”***

A simple translation of what that verse says is –

*“If you will quit listening to gossip, the talebearer will not have anyone to gossip to”*

I’ve had people say to me – *“I wish so and so would quit calling me and talking about everyone else!”*

Oh, don’t they sound so spiritual?

Someone ought to give them a medal for humility

They aren’t tired of it, they love it!

If they were really tired of it they would stop it

If you don’t want to hear it, then tell them you don’t want to hear it

Rebuke them! / Hang up on them!

Put a lid on the trashcan!

I have a sure-fire way to handle gossiping

When someone comes up to you and begins to bad mouth someone else

Ask them to come with you to that person, because you want to find out if that’s true

That will put an end to it right there

**Humor** – Some “Country Advise”

-- Don’t wrestle with pigs. You’ll get muddy and the pigs love it

-- A bumblebee is faster than a John Deere tractor

-- Teachers, moms, and owls sleep with one eye open

-- Don’t corner something that is meaner than you

-- Every path has puddles

-- And keep skunks and gossipers at a distance

That’s some good advice, don’t you think

**Exodus 23:1 - *“Thou shalt not raise a false report: put not thine hand with the wicked to be an unrighteous witness”***

God forbids you to start a rumor …

***“Thou shalt not raise a false report”***

And God forbids you in having a hand in passing on that rumor

***“put not thine hand with the wicked to be an unrighteous witness”***

I want to be perfectly honest with you

It does not compliment someone if people feel free to share their gossip with them (It tells on you)

Let me also remind you that if a person will gossip to you, they will gossip about you

There is one person that I don’t have any patience or sympathy with and that is a Liar and a Gossiper

Quit putting wood on the fire and the fire will go out!

**Ill.** One ancient writer said that both the talebearer and those that listen to gossip ought to be hanged: the talebearer by the tongue and the listener by their ears. Amen!

When it comes to talking about others behind their back, it would do us well to remember the old saying,

*“There is so much good in the worst of us, and so much bad in the best of us, that it ill behooves the best of us, to talk about the rest of us”*

So, so far, we have seen …

**THE ORIGIN OF THE LIE**

**HOW A LIE WORKS**

Lastly, let’s look at …

**III. THE RESULTS OF LYING**

We sometimes speak of little white lies but as far as the Bible is concerned all lying is black as the ace of spades

We sometimes excuse and condone gossiping, but the Bible does not tolerate Lies of any kind, especially those that involve Bearing False Witness

The Bible says in **Ephesians 4:25 - *“Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another”***

Why should Lying be put away and Truth always be the standard?

First off, because Bearing False Witness is …

**A. ‘Hurtful to Others’**

Oh, the damage that a Lying tongue brings to the reputation and good name of a person

**Psalm 52:2 - *“Thy tongue deviseth mischief’s; like a sharp razor, working deceitfully”***

The Bible speaks of the Gossiping and Lying tongue as being like a sharp razor

A Lying tongue *cuts deep*

**Psalm 55:21 - *“The words of his mouth were smoother than butter, but war was in his heart: his words were softer than oil, yet were they drawn swords”***

The Liar’s tongue is also compared to a drawn sword

*Piercing*

**James 3:8** says - ***“But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison”***

The tongue is like a poisonous snake sending out its deadly poison

The Bible says in **Proverbs 26:28 - *“A lying tongue hateth those that are afflicted by it; and a flattering mouth worketh ruin”***

Many a person’s reputation and good name has been Discredited, called into Doubt, and even Destroyed by the Lies of others

I think of how David’s own son Absalom stole his father’s reputation

As far as I am concerned, it takes a person that is wicked to the core and has a black, evil heart that will start a Lie about another person with the intent of hurting and defaming that person

Someone that would stoop so low as to fabricate a Lie with the intent of destroying someone else …

… and then spread that Lie, is nothing more than a heinous, evil wolf of hell

When we Bear False Witness about someone else, we show just how wicked we really are!

Secondly, we are to put all Lying from us

Because it is …

**B. ‘Hated by God’**

God hates Liars!

In **Proverbs 6** there are six things listed that are hated by God and a seventh that is called an abomination to God

**Proverbs 6:16 –** ***“These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him:”***

Two of the six things that the Bible says God hates are a ***“lying tongue”* (v. 17)** and a ***“false witness that speaketh lies”* (v. 19)**

The abomination to God is - ***“he that soweth discord among brethren”* (v. 19)**

The word ***“abomination”*** speaks of that which is *“disgusting”* and *“abhorred”* by God

A person that will Bear False Witness against someone else is disgusting in the eyes of God

They make God sick!

In fact, God hates a Liar so much that He promises that those who do … will be dealt with

Again **Psalm 101:5 - *“Whoso privily slandereth his neighbour, him will I cut off”***

The words ***“cut off”*** mean *to destroy*

God will destroy the person who would seek to destroy and defame someone else

In short, God says that the person who slanders his neighbor will not get away with it

In fact, the Bible is very clear about the kind of person who Bears False Witness

**Revelation 21:8 - *“But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death”***

First, God classifies a Liar with murderers, whoremongers and the like

What a terrible group to be identified with

Secondly, the Bible is Not saying that if you tell a Lie it will cause you to go to hell

What it is saying is that a person who would tell a Lie is only revealing what they already are

They do not know Christ as their Saviour

No doubt when you were a kid you heard someone say

*“Liar, liar, your pants on fire”*

God says it a little differently –

*“Liar, liar, your pants will be on fire”*

**CONCLUSION**

Even if you have told only one Lie, it still makes you a Liar

**Revelation 21:8 *– “But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death”***

As we have gone over the 10 Commandments …

I pray God has spoken to your heart about your spiritual condition before Him

Are you sure where you will spend eternity?

Do you have that settled?

If Not, won’t you do that today?

**THE ORIGIN OF THE LIE**

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