

The Weight of Our Words: Measuring the Impact of What We Say

**To Tell the Truth: Beguilement,
Deceit, Lying, and False Witness**

Introduction

- In our introduction we looked at five principals regarding the tongue out of James 3.
 - Principle 1: Controlled Speech Is a Measure of Maturity—James 3:2
 - Principle 2: The Tongue is Small but Significant—James 3:3-5
 - Principle 3: Our Words Are Potentially Combustible—James 3:6
 - Principle 4: The Tongue is Like a Wild and Deadly Beast—James 3:7-8
 - Principle 5: The Tongue Tends to Promote a Double Standard—James 3:9-12
- Ephesians 4:9-21
- Today we are going to begin looking at different forms of corrupt communication and evil speaking by considering the issue of telling the truth.

Why is Telling the Truth So Important?

- The Scriptures emphasize the serious nature of tampering with the truth.
 - Exodus 20:16—lying is forbidden in the 10 Commandments
 - Psalm 51:6—God desires truth to live within us.
 - Proverbs 6:17—a lying tongue is included in the list of items that the Lord hates.
 - Revelation 21:8—liars are included with those whose eternal sentence will be the lake of fire.
- Why is truth so important to God?
- ***Reason 1: Truth Aligns Us with God***
- God's intense concern for truthfulness centers on his very nature.
 - Psalm 25:10
 - Psalm 31:5—God is a God of truth.

Why is Telling the Truth So Important?

- List Continued:
 - Titus 1:2—God cannot lie.
 - John 1:14—Jesus Christ was full of Grace and truth.
 - John 4:24—without truth we cannot worship God.
 - John 14:6—Jesus Christ the way the truth and the life.
 - John 17:17—the word of God is the only source of objective truth.
- ***Reason 2: We are Redeemed to reflect God's Character***
- Romans 8:29—our very purpose as believers is to be conformed to the image of Christ. If God is truth then we too must portray truth to accurately reflect God's image in our lives.

Why is Telling the Truth So Important?

- *Reason 3: Truth-telling is a Matter of Submission to God's Will*
- God's Word commands us to speak the truth—regardless of the cost.
 - Proverbs 13:5
 - Colossians 3:9

Beguilement

- The word beguile appears twice in the Scriptures.
 - Colossians 2:4, 18
- The Greek word translated beguile carries the following meanings:
 - to reckon wrong, miscount
 - to cheat by false reckoning
 - to deceive by false reasoning
 - to deceive, delude, circumvent
- Beguilement is the sin of disseminating false conclusions. It is to delude or be deluded. Although often done innocently, it is devastating. It plants seeds of mistrust, doubt, and confusion.

Deceit

- We tend to equate the facts with truth, yet its amazing how “facts” can be arranged to distort the truth.
- Consider the following sentences as examples.
- Woman without her man is a beast!
- Woman—without her, man is a beast!
- Genesis 3:1—notice that at this point Satan is dealing with factual information.
- Genesis 2:16-17—after reading what God actually said we ought to be struck by his generosity and love.

Deceit

- Satan presented truth in a way that deceived Eve into thinking wrongly about God. He twisted the facts to gain an advantage this is what the Scriptures define as deceit.
 - Genesis 3:13
 - II Corinthians 11:3
- The word beguiled come from a different Greek word than one we looked at earlier. The one in II Corinthians is translated other places as deceive.
 - Romans 7:11
 - Romans 16:18
 - I Corinthians 3:18
 - II Thessalonians 2:3

Deceit

- Deception has become a widely used technique for manipulation, self-advancement, and self-protection.
- Proverbs 20:17
- Proverbs 12:20—deceit is a sign of a wicked heart.

Lying

- Both beguilement and deceit tamper with, twist, and distort the truth. Lying is the direct communication of untruth.
- Lying is the base of Satan's strategy.
- Compare Genesis 3:4 with Genesis 2:17.
- Romans 1:25
- John 8:44-- when we lie, we follow the Satan's course for this world.
- Colossians 3:9-10—lying is part of our old nature.
- Ephesians 4:15—this does not mean we should blast people with the truth.
- Colossians 4:6

False Witness

- The expression false witness is found in 21 verses in the King James Bible.
 - Exodus 20:16
 - Exodus 23:1
 - Deuteronomy 19:16-18
- False witness refers to those who bear false testimony against another person, often for some personal gain.
- I Kings 21:1-16
- Matthew 26:60-61
- False witness is so offensive because it strikes injury, often irreparable, to innocent people, their reputations, livelihoods, and families. It had the power to kill Naboth and to crucify Christ.

Conclusion

- Beguilement, deceit, lying, false witness are all methods of Satan to defeat God's glory in us and through us. It is through these flesh patterns that he enlists us into his network of "nontruth" and gets us to participate in his lie program.
- Beguilement = disseminating information gleaned from false conclusions.
- Deceit = he willful manipulation and distortion of facts.
- Lying = the direct communication of untruth most often for selfish reasons.
- False Witness = willful false testimony spoken against someone else.