

## What Did Jesus Say About...

### “Lying”

(John 8:44)

- Introduction:
1. One of the greatest compliments ever extended was in Matthew 16:13-14, while one of the greatest insults was spoken in John 8:44.
  2. Jesus came out on the record concerning lying in Matthew 5:37).
  3. Beyond what Jesus said, God places a high price on truth (Proverbs 23:23) and despises anything less than that (Proverbs 6:16-19).
  4. And yet...we are a nation of liars.
    - a. Politicians, Merchants, Spouses, and even (and maybe that should be) especially Preachers.
    - b. People lie about big matters, and little matters. They lie to get out of trouble, and sometimes they lie for no apparent reason at all.
    - c. “The Day America Told the Truth” (1991) – James Patterson and Peter Kim – It was discovered that 91% of Americans lie regularly.
    - d. Have you ever heard someone say, “Do you want me to be honest with you?” or “To be perfectly honest with you...” Should we have to preface our statements with such statements?
  5. The aim of this lesson is intended to awaken our awareness of the need for truth and honesty, and to challenge ourselves to a greater degree of integrity.

#### I. What Lying Does to Our Brains

- A. In a 2016 study, researchers discovered that the more one lies, the smaller and smaller neurological reactions occurred in the brain.
- B. In short, the more you lie, the more you lie!
- C. Now that’s a huge problem if you want to go to Heaven (Revelation 21:8)!
- D. (Ephesians 4:19; Hebrews 3:13; 1 Timothy 4:1-2).

#### II. Honesty & Situation Ethics

- A. After arguing for “15 Times it is Right to Lie,” a religious website concluded with, “As you can see, there are times when lying can be beneficial to you and the people you are lying to. It doesn’t always have to be bad. Pick and choose when you lie, and you could remove the negativity from your life and experience the actual positive benefits of telling a fib.”
- B. “Lying is universal – we all do it; we must do it. Therefore, the wise thing is for us to diligently train ourselves to lie thoughtfully, judiciously; to lie with good object, and not an evil one; to lie healingly, charitably, humanely, not cruelly, hurtfully, or maliciously.” – Buff Scott, The Reformer.
- C. “Today I bet the truth to be kind, and I have no regret, for I am far surer of what is kind than I am what is true...Love expressed in kindness hides some truths

(Facts) that are better hidden than revealed. Truth can be ‘bent’ because love is kind. But be very careful that you have the right motive, the greater good.” – The Examiner (May, 1988).

D. (Romans 3:5-8; Revelation 21:8).

### III. Why Lying Is So Consequential

A. God has entrusted us with a message that people must believe in order to be saved (Mark 16:15-16).

B. If I lie, I destroy my credibility!

Conclusion:

1. You can color lies: White and Black.
2. You can size lies: Big and Small.
3. You can rename lies: Fibs, Misstatements, Misinformation.
4. But the truth of God’s word is still there saying “All liars shall have their place in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone” (Revelation 21:8).