

KINGDOM LIFE

OUTRAGEOUS HOPE
FOR ORDINARY LIFE

A WORSHIP SERIES THROUGH
JESUS' SERMON ON THE MOUNT



How & Why We Lie



How & Why We Lie



"Oh! What a tangled web we weave, when first we practice to deceive." – Sir Walter Scott

The Boy Who Cried Wolf

"We'll help you look for the lost sheep in the morning," he said, putting his arm around the youth, "Nobody believes a liar...even when he is telling the truth!"



Matthew 5:33-37

“Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.’³⁴ But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God,³⁵ or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King.³⁶ And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black.³⁷ Let what you say be simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything more than this comes from evil.



³⁴ But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, ... ³⁵ or by the earth,

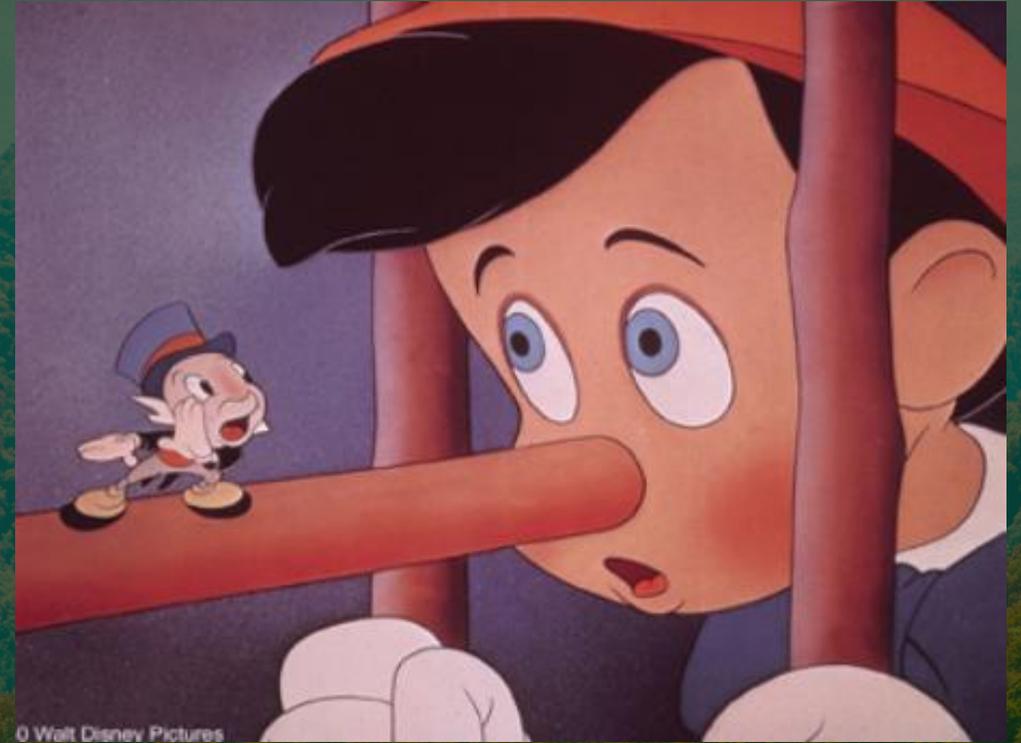
Deceitful Words

To validate our story...

- Cross my heart and....
- I swear on a stack of bibles

To rationalize our lies...

- It was only a white lie
- I was just kidding



³⁷ Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil.

Truth & Love: with God

John 6:47

Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life.

God doesn't love the YOU that you present, He loves the REAL You.

Lay out your true self before him. Honestly confess your divided heart.

Also lay out your Praise and your Passions, asking him to make you more like Him.



³⁴ But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, ... ³⁵ or by the earth,

How & Why We Lie

Deceitful Lives



WHY do we “lie”
(stretch the truth, little white lies)

I want to be liked, and if you knew the real me, you might not (won't) like what you see.

I'm ashamed, embarrassed and terrified of the consequences



³⁴ But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, ... ³⁵ or by the earth,

Deceitful Lives

To Others

We are value-fragile
and want others to
give us significance.

If you really knew me...

To God

Deep down we don't
trust God. If he only
knew ____, He'd ____.

To Ourselves

“Lying to ourselves is
more deeply ingrained
than lying to others.”

— Fyodor Dostoevsky

We forget the gospel-gift of value we have in Jesus



³⁷ Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil.

“Truly, truly” = “Amen, Amen”

saying it *before* he speaks reveals truth and power.

John 8:58

Jesus said to them, “**Truly, truly**, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.”

John 14:6

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

He speaks the TRUTH because He IS the TRUTH



³⁷ Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil.

John 12:24 **TRULY, TRULY**, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit

John 14:12-17

“TRULY, TRULY, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.... ¹⁵ “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, ¹⁷ even the ***Spirit of Truth***...for he dwells with you and will be in you.

TRULY, TRULY, we have been given identity, value and power



³⁷ Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil.

Evangelical truth does not admit an oath since every word of a believer is considered an oath.
- Saint Jerome (c. 400_{AD})

Ephesians 4:15
Rather, **speaking the truth in love**, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ...

Truth & Love: with Myself, God and Others



³⁷ Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil.

Truth & Love: with Myself

John 6:47

Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life.

I am safe and free to admit to myself how deceptive I can be; how I present a "tweaked" version of myself to others.

I can also admit to myself that I am more love, valuable and powerful than I can fathom.

Need to BE KNOWN...can't when I have a shell around the "real me"



³⁷ Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil.

Truth & Love: with Others

Love them enough
to mutually grow in
Christ-likeness

Love them enough
to not make it all
about you

“Love without truth is sentimentality; it supports and affirms us but keeps us in denial about our flaws. Truth without love is harshness; it gives us information but in such a way that we cannot really hear it. God’s saving love in Christ, however, is marked by both radical truthfulness about who we are and yet also radical, unconditional commitment to us. The merciful commitment strengthens us to see the truth about ourselves and repent. The conviction and repentance moves us to cling to and rest in God’s mercy and grace.”

– Tim Keller, *Meaning of Marriage*

³⁷ Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil.

2 Corinthians 1:20-22

For all the promises of God find their **Yes in him**. That is why it is through him that **we utter our Amen** to God for his glory.

