

Ten Tall Tales We Tell Ourselves

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

- A. "Above all, don't lie to yourself. The man who lies to himself and listens to his own lie comes to a point that he cannot distinguish the truth within him, or around him, and so loses all respect for himself and for others. And having no respect he ceases to love." (Fyodor Dostoyevsky)
 - 1. "Rationalization is a process of not perceiving reality, but of attempting to make reality fit one's emotions." (Ayn Rand)
 - 2. "How pitiful is an intelligence used only to make excuses to quieten the conscience." (Ignazio Silone)
 - 3. "He that is good for making excuses is seldom good for anything else." (Benjamin Franklin)

I. "I DON'T HAVE TIME"

- A. It is a matter of your chosen priorities - Ecc. 12:13-14; Matt. 6:33
- B. Matt. 16:26 - Will it matter in the Judgment if you get all the laundry done, lawn mowed, car washed, TV watched, promotion acquired, education completed, and your soul is lost

II. "I HAVE PLENTY OF TIME"

- A. Is it laziness and procrastination? - Prov. 6:6, 9, 10:26
- B. Is it failure to believe that time is passing swiftly? - 1Peter 1:24; James 4:14

III. "NO ONE WILL SEE ME"

- A. Num. 32:23; 2Sam. 12:7; Acts 5:1-11
- B. "No one will see me: On the Internet, at the party, when I think evil thoughts"
- C. Gen. 16:13 - Hagar called Jehovah Elroi - "God Who sees me"
 - 1. Prov. 5:21; 1John 3:20; Heb. 4:13

IV. "GOD UNDERSTANDS THAT'S THE WAY I AM; HE MADE ME THAT WAY"

- A. God made you perfect - Ez. 28:15; James 1:17
- B. We choose to sin - Ecc. 7:29
 - 1. We choose the thoughts we think, the words we say, the acts we do
- C. God commands that we repent - Acts 17:30; Luke 13:3

V. "I CAN ASK FOR FORGIVENESS LATER"

- A. This is a misuse of God's grace, a manifestation of immature rebellion
- B. If one purposes to commit sin, can his repentance ever be trusted to come from the heart? - Rom. 6:17
- C. Are you certain you will have an opportunity to repent later?

VI. "IT'S OK IF MY INTENTIONS ARE GOOD"

- A. Was that true for Uzzah? 2Sam. 6:6-7; 1Chron. 15:13
- B. Remember Uzzah:

1. When you tell a little lie to spare someone's feelings.
2. When you engage in sin to feed your family.
3. When you lie to get a job, or promoted, or elected
4. When it's for something you believe to be a good cause

VII. "I'M SURE GOD IS PLEASED WITH IT"

- A. It feels right - 1Samuel 15:10-23
- B. The majority feels it's okay - Ex. 23:2; 1Kings 18:17
 1. Any sin or error can be viewed with approval by the majority; that will never make a wrong into a right
 1. Col. 3:17; 1Cor. 4:6; 2John 9-11

VIII. "I'M TOO YOUNG"

- A. Not too young to be an example - 1Tim. 4:12; Titus 2:6-8
- B. Not too young to overcome - 1John 2:13

IX. "I'M TOO OLD; I'VE DONE MY PART"

- A. Who is to teach younger women? - Titus 2:3-4
- B. Who is to lead the congregation? - Acts 15:22
 1. "Too old?" Finally old enough!

X. "THEY WILL NEVER CONVERT"

- A. Rom. 1:16; Luke 1:37; Acts 9:1, 20; 1Cor. 6:9-11