

# When Lying Feels Right

# When Lying Feels Right

- What does the world think about the morality of lying?
- It will be based, more often than not, on situation ethics.

# When Lying Feels Right

- Some believe lying is necessary
  - “This is an absurd moral, for you and I both know that sometimes not only is it good to lie, it is necessary to lie.” (Lemony Snicket)
- Some lie to protect themselves from embarrassment or harm
  - “Lying is not only a defense mechanism; it’s also a coping mechanism and a survival technique.” (Monica Raymund)
- Some lie to others for the same reason
  - “The thing about lying to your parents is, you have to do it to protect them. It’s for their own good.” (Sophie Kinsella)

# When Lying Feels Right

- Some believe that when lying is intended for kindness, it is acceptable.
- Some believe that when lying will prevent harm, or keep someone out of trouble, or save a life, it is acceptable.
- Some believe that when lying helps someone who is at a disadvantage, it is acceptable.
- Some believe that when a lie makes someone feel better, it is okay.
- Some believe that if a lie does no harm to anyone, it is acceptable.
- Some believe that when a lie hinders or hurts an evil person, it is overlooked by God.

# What Does God Say About Lying?

- Eph. 4:21-25 - “If indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: 22 that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, 23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness. 25 Therefore, putting away lying, Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor, for we are members of one another.”

# Put Away Lying

- For some folks, lying is a part of their nature that needs to be deliberately put aside
  - Col. 3:9 - “Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds”

# Put Away Lying

- Lying is a part of the world's ethics. It has never been part of God and His moral nature. It may be accepted by the world, but it is not accepted by God
  - Titus 1:2 - "In hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began"
  - 1John 1:5 - "This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all."

# Put Away Lying

- We have to be set free from sin
  - Rom. 6:17-18 - “But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. 18 And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.”

# Put Away Lying

- That means we put to death and bury the old man of sin
  - Rom. 6:6-7 - “Knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. 7 For he who has died has been freed from sin.”

# Put Away Lying

- And it means leaving the old man of sin in the grave
  - Rom. 6:1-2 - “What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?”

# Put Away Lying

- We cannot speak truth until we stop lying. They are incompatible opposites
  - Prov. 12:17 - “He who speaks truth declares righteousness, But a false witness, deceit.”
- Our words must be reliably truthful
  - James 5:12 - “But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath. But let your Yes, be Yes, and your No, No, lest you fall into judgment.”

# Put Away Lying

- We speak truth because of love
  - Eph. 4:15 - “but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head--Christ”
- Love is without hypocrisy; it is not an act
  - Rom. 12:9 - “Let love be without hypocrisy.”
- Love not just with words, but in actions and in word
  - 1John 3:18 - “My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.”

# Put Away Lying

- We speak truth because we are bound to one another
  - Rom. 12:5 - “so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.”
- Lying, at its root, is a selfish act.

# Why Do People Lie?

- The liar thinks there will be a benefit to himself
  - Ananias and Sapphira lied because they wanted the recognition without the cost - Acts 5:3-4
  - Abraham lied about his wife because he thought it would save his life - Gen. 12:12-13
  - Gehazi lied because he believed the foreign oppressor Naaman should pay for the prophet Elisha's help - 2Kings 5:20

# Why Do People Lie?

- Some people lie instinctively to avoid trouble
  - Peter did this when challenged - Luke 22:55-60
  - We believe the harm that could come to us is greater and more important than the harm we do to our souls with our lies.

# Why Do People Lie?

- Others plan their lies with care; it is still progressively self-destructive
  - Isa. 59:13-15 - “In transgressing and lying against the LORD, And departing from our God, Speaking oppression and revolt, Conceiving and uttering from the heart words of falsehood. 14 Justice is turned back, And righteousness stands afar off; For truth is fallen in the street, And equity cannot enter. 15 So truth fails, And he who departs from evil makes himself a prey. Then the LORD saw it, and it displeased Him That there was no justice.”

# Why Do People Lie?

- Jeremiah criticized the powerful liars of his day
  - Jer. 9:2-8 - “Oh, that I had in the wilderness A lodging place for travelers; That I might leave my people, And go from them! For they are all adulterers, An assembly of treacherous men. 3 And like their bow they have bent their tongues for lies. They are not valiant for the truth on the earth. For they proceed from evil to evil, And they do not know Me, says the LORD. 4 Everyone take heed to his neighbor, And do not trust any brother; For every brother will utterly supplant, And every neighbor will walk with slanderers. 5 Everyone will deceive his neighbor, And will not speak the truth; They have taught their tongue to speak lies; They weary themselves to commit iniquity. 6 Your dwelling place is in the midst of deceit; Through deceit they refuse to know Me,” says the LORD. 7 Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts: Behold, I will refine them and try them; For how shall I deal with the daughter of My people? 8 Their tongue is an arrow shot out; It speaks deceit; One speaks peaceably to his neighbor with his mouth, But in his heart he lies in wait.”

# Why Do People Lie?

- Some will lie to bring harm to others
  - Naboth was lied about to get him killed - 1Kings 21:13
  - It was attempted against Jesus - Matt. 26:59-61
  - It was done to Stephen - Acts 6:9-13

# Why Do People Lie?

- Still others lie out of habit
  - Jesus said Satan's native tongue was lies -  
John 8:44
  - Some have lost the capacity to tell the truth -  
Psalm 5:9

# Why Do People Lie?

- Regardless of the reason for the lie, the outcome is still the same
  - Rev. 21:8 - “But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and *all liars* shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”