

Is there anyone you may have recently hurt — instead of built up — by an unwise choice of words?

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Ask God to help you reconcile that relationship. Ask Him to help you tell the truth consistently, completely — and in love! Thank the Lord that He is completely truthful yet also completely loving! Ask for His truthful AND loving nature to be exhibited through you as well!

Friday

Read Matthew 15:17-29 and Matthew 12:33,34. What is the point of these two passages, and how is it similar to the Sermon on the Mount?

Look back at the list of motives for our various lies at the top of the message notes. Which of these motives do you sometimes struggle with?

Why do these vices motivate us to lie?

How can an understanding of who you are in Christ help to change your heart so that you no longer feel the need to lie?

Ask God to change you from the heart so that you are a person of loving integrity! Ask Him to help you remember your new identity in Christ!

Saturday

If you don't have it memorized yet, memorize the verse at the top of page 2. And finish any devotions you may have missed this week. Again, please pray that God would be honored in this weekend's services. Thanks!

5 common lies:

- _____ lie Motive: _____
- _____ lie Motive: _____
- _____ lie Motive: _____
- _____ lie Motive: _____
- _____ lie Motive: _____

“Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘Do not break your oath, but keep the oaths you have made to the Lord.’ But I tell you, Do not swear at all: either by heaven, for it is God’s throne; or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black. Simply let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No,’ ‘No’; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.” *Matthew 5:33-37* (NIV)

How to tell the truth:

1. Tell the truth _____

2. Tell the truth _____

3. Tell the truth _____

“...speak the truth in a spirit of love...” *Ephesians 4:15* (GN)

The solution is _____ not _____

“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.” *Ephesians 4:29* (NIV)

You can make a _____ without making an _____

Why do we struggle with truth-telling?

“For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks.” *Matthew 12:34b*

“For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander.” *Matthew 15:19*

Bottom line:

The heart of the issue is the _____ of the _____

Daily Meditations

Take a few minutes every day to read Scripture, pray, and answer some thought-provoking questions pertaining to this week's topic.

Monday

Read Matthew 5:33-37. How did Jesus update the ancient proverb about oaths?

Look over the 5 types of lying from the message notes. Which type of lie do you struggle with most?

Often our society's version of oath-taking involves phrases like: "Trust me"; "Would I lie to you?"; "I really mean it this time." What would Jesus say about such phrases (see verse 17)?

At first glance, this seems to be the easiest part of the Sermon on the Mount to apply: "Let your yes be yes, and your no be no." But in what circumstances could this be difficult?

Ask God for His strength to be a person of integrity!

Tuesday

Read Exodus 20:16 (part of the 10 Commandments). Compared to the rest of the Ten Commandments contained in Exodus 20, lying seems so minor. Why is lying included with all these other "major" offenses like murder and adultery?

Why is it so important to society, to our families, and even to our own sanity, not to lie?

What unfulfilled promise have you made that you need to carry out this week?

Ask the Lord today to help you tell the truth! Thank Him for being a truthful, loving God!

Wednesday

Read Psalm 34:12-13. What are the rewards of telling the truth consistently, according to this verse?

Why are these the natural outgrowths of consistent truth telling?

In which of these situations is truth telling ever difficult for you? Explain why.

___ Casual commitments and conversation

___ Corporate commitments (at work)

___ Kingdom commitments (in ministry, or among Christians)

With whom do you really need to be honest this week?

Ask God to help you stay honest — and not be misleading in any way.

Thursday

Read Ephesians 4:15,29. We need to do two things: Both "speak the truth" AND do so "in love". Why is this so difficult at times?

In some dysfunctional families, one wins out to the exclusion of the other: Either the truth is spoken harshly and hurtfully, or, in the name of "love", the real truth is simply never brought up. Have you ever been in a situation where the Lord enabled you to speak the truth in a loving way? Explain:



Memory Verse

"Simply let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one." *Matthew 5:37 (NIV)*

over