

ABRAHAM: The High Price of a Little Lie

THE GLORY:

Abraham: Faith Personified

Hebrews 11:8-19/ Genesis 12:1– 25:11/ Romans 4:16/ Galatians 6:3-9/ James 2:23

BEYOND THE GLORY:

The Little Lie with Big Consequences

- **“She’s my Sister”**

Genesis 12:10-13:2/ Genesis 20:1-14

- **Unintended Consequences**

Genesis 12:10-13 & 20:1-2, 10-13/ Genesis 26:7-10/ Genesis 27:19-36/ Genesis 37:31-35

Abraham – A half truth to a stranger

Isaac – A full lie to a stranger

Jacob – A “justifiable” lie to his father

Jacob’s sons – An inexcusable lie to their father

TABLE TALK:

The Truth About Deception

Proverbs 19:22/ James 2:25, Joshua 2:1-7 & Exodus 1:15-21/ Matthew 12:3-7

- ❶ A truth designed to deceive is a lie.
- ❷ Don’t wreck the birthday party!
- ❸ Do lose the sale.
- ❹ Sometimes a lie is justified.
- ❺ Remember: The kids are watching!

Growth Group Homework

For the week of November 11, 2007

QUICK REVIEW: This week we heard about the High Price of a Little Lie. Was there one point that particularly caught your attention, challenged you or confused you more than the others?

MY STORY

1. Thinking back to your childhood can you remember a time when you were tempted to lie, actually did or even got caught? If so, explain.

2. There's a wide range of reasons people find themselves not telling the complete truth. Based on the list below what do you think are the top three reasons people choose to not tell the truth? Which one(s) do you think people tend to take most lightly?

- Avoid conflict or tension
- Maintain privacy
- Protect self
- Feel a sense of belonging with others
- Avoid getting caught
- Cover up a personal mistake
- To look better
- Please someone else
- Get ahead
- To cover someone else's mistake
- Make the story sound better/worse than it is
- Other

DIGGING DEEPER

1. This week we heard about the "High Price of a Little Lie." The early church is intently reminded of this truth in the midst of its rapid growth in Acts 4:32-5:11. As you read the story what surprises you?

Acts 4:32-5:11

All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had. [33] With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all. [34] There were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned lands or houses sold

them, brought the money from the sales [35] and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone as he had need.

[36] Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means Son of Encouragement), [37] sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet.

[5:1] Now a man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, also sold a piece of property. [2] With his wife's full knowledge he kept back part of the money for himself, but brought the rest and put it at the apostles' feet.

[3] Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? [4] Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied to men but to God."

[5] When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard what had happened. [6] Then the young men came forward, wrapped up his body, and carried him out and buried him.

[7] About three hours later his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. [8] Peter asked her, "Tell me, is this the price you and Ananias got for the land?"

"Yes," she said, "that is the price."

[9] Peter said to her, "How could you agree to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look! The feet of the men who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out also."

[10] At that moment she fell down at his feet and died. Then the young men came in and, finding her dead, carried her out and buried her beside her husband. [11] Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events. [NIV]

The consequence handed down by God for their deception of "making things look better than they seem" would seem to many, to be over the top. Can you think of any reason why it was so important for the early church to understand this? How about us?

2. What do the following verses tell us about the effects or consequences of compromise when it comes to truth telling?

Proverbs 26:18-19

Like a madman shooting
firebrands or deadly arrows
[19] is a man who deceives his neighbor

and says, "I was only joking!" [NIV]

Proverbs 26:24-26

A malicious man disguises himself with his lips,
but in his heart he harbors deceit.
[25] Though his speech is charming, do not believe him,
for seven abominations fill his heart.
[26] His malice may be concealed by deception,
but his wickedness will be exposed in the assembly. [NIV]

Jeremiah 8:5-6

Why then have these people turned away?
Why does Jerusalem always turn away?
They cling to deceit;
they refuse to return.
[6] I have listened attentively,
but they do not say what is right.
No one repents of his wickedness,
saying, "What have I done?"
Each pursues his own course
like a horse charging into battle. [NIV]

1 Timothy 4:2

Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron. [NIV]

Which one do you think most people don't realize?

Which one is most important for you to remember?

3. Whether it was intentional or not, most of us have wrestled with truth telling at some point in our lives. Fortunately, because of God's grace, we have the opportunity to re-establish our trustworthiness. What might be some of the benefits of being a person of dependability and putting Proverbs 6:2-3 into action? What are the potential risks?

Proverbs 6:2-3

if you have been trapped by what you said,
ensnared by the words of your mouth,
[3] then do this, my son, to free yourself,
since you have fallen into your neighbor's hands:
Go and humble yourself;
press your plea with your neighbor! [NIV]

TAKING IT HOME

1. Looking back at the “Table Talk” section in this week’s teaching, is there one that particularly caught your attention? If so, why?

2. We’ve looked this week at the importance of “Truth-telling.” As you have studied and thought through this topic is there anything you would like prayer for, an action you need to take/change, or a person you need to talk to?