

## SERIES: 'CONNECT WITH GOD' 4/27/25 (#5) PASTOR LEE

- Pastor Lee poses an 'introductory question': "IS IT EVER OK TO LIE?" (Church's reaction: mixed-shy-subdued)
- Pastor throws out a number of hypothetical scenarios... which might present conundrums. Examples: A 'surprise party'....or, just a fib...maybe to avoid hurt 'feelings'....how about an exaggerated story...or, covering a co-workers' potentially costly mistake...or, protecting the innocent....or, serving in an official 'under-cover' military/police role, etc. Pastor Lee tells a personal story of the seemingly perfect pastoral applicant who, upon verification, was found to have grossly lied on his resume (not uncommon!).
- So...lying is common, woven into our culture- -many folks hiding behind 'plausible deniability' or 'over-rationalizing'.....causing many of us to be suspicious and 'on-guard'....very warranted...we know from our own experiences which are even backed up by polls which suggest the average person lies twice...or more...every day. Kids are great detectors of even parents lying to them.
- Some tough issues intertwined in this whole topic- -some people in Scripture of large/ blessed stature (Abraham, Jacob, Rahab, etc., etc. ) committed lies. Examples of the tension revolving around all this:

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*Exodus 20:16- - "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor."*

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*Proverbs 12:22- -Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, but those who act faithfully are His delight.*

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*Col 3:9- - Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices.*

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- **God has put the Holy Spirit in your lives.....lying shouldn't be part of your vocabulary. (Note: we are led to imitate Christ....did Jesus lie?...what does He say about the subject?**

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*John 8:34- - "You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies."*

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- **Satan has four "plays": 1. he's a murderer; 2. he's a divider; 3. He's a deceiver (liar); 4. He's a destroyer. Satan's 'heart language' is lying.**
  - **Pastor Lee recounts David's story (ie. slaying Goliath; Saul jealous/intimidated, wants to kill him...David in a long-term state of running, confusion, fear. Have you ever been in such a running-scared, and confused state? Listen to the following:**

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*Psalm 13- - How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? (2) How long must I take counsel in my soul and have sorrow in my heart all the day? How long shall my enemy be exalted over me? (3) Consider and answer me, O LORD my God; light up my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death, (4) lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed over him," lest my foes rejoice because I am shaken. (5) But I have trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation. (6) I will sing to the LORD, because He has dealt bountifully with me.*

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- **Like David, when we are in a dark place (ie. "The Wilderness") ...when a core tenet that we believed in, becomes shaken....we turn and do or say things we would normally not consider doing...because we feel pressured or chased. Like David, our faith can weaken/falter, our connection appear with God appear less bright.**

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*1 Samuel 21:1-6— - Then David came to Nob to Ahimelech the priest. And Ahimelech came to meet David trembling and said to him, "Why are you alone, and no one with you?" (2) And David said to Ahimelech the priest, "The king has charged me with a matter and said to me, 'let no one know anything of the matter about which I send you, and with which I have charged you.' I have made an appointment with the young men for such and such a place. (Note to Reader: David is desperate and lying) (3) Now then, What do you have on hand? Give me five loaves of bread, or whatever is here." (4) And the priest answered David. "I have no common bread on hand, but there is holy bread—if the young men have kept themselves from women." (5) And David answered the priest, "Truly women have been kept from us as always when I go on an expedition. The vessels of the young men are holy even when it is an ordinary journey. How much more today will their vessels be holy?" (Note to Reader: another lie) (6) so the priest gave him the holy bread, for there was no bread there but the bread of the Presence, which is removed from before the LORD, to be replaced by hot bread on the day it is taken away.*

- **David's lies were driven by sheer fear! Remember this: fear always makes you a false prophet in your own life.....leading you down some very wrong paths. So....using David as an example: Is it ok to lie if you are fearful enough- -or hungry enough? How about if someone else might be at risk if you told the truth? How about a 'half-truth' (ie. David used to work for the king). Finally, how about when the object of your lie (ie. Saul) is pure evil?**
- **Right answers to these questions are so troublesome and hard to grasp....but easy to see the tension and the complexity of the issues.**

**-Jesus reflects on the very event (David and Ahimelech):**

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*Luke 6:1-5 - On a Sabbath, while He was going through the grainfields, His disciples plucked and set some heads of grain, rubbing them in their hands.(2) But some of the pharisees said, "Why are you doing what is not lawful do on the Sabbath?" (3) And Jesus answered them, "Have you not read what David did when he was hungry, he and those who were with him: (4) how he entered the house of God and took and ate the bread of the Presence, which is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and also gave it to those with him?" (5) And he said to them, "The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath."*

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- **Jesus is saying: rules and traditions are fine...but Christ is first!.....and He should be our focal point as well (not rules). ((He's complimenting Ahimelech....He is silent on David))**
  - **Returning back to 1 Samual 21, David, receiving the bread, also asks for a weapon- - again, lying to explain his need...Ahimelech gives him (ironically?) the sword of Goliath. Note that David...in this current wilderness (darkness) doesn't rely- -this time - on God and a sling- -but rather needs this mighty sword which God had delivered out of his enemy's hands.**
  - **Referring to Romans 14:23 (".... For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin")....David's faith had evaporated....replaced by overwhelming fear....and reacted accordingly.**
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*1 Sam 7- - Now a certain man of the servants of Saul was there that day, detained before the LORD. His name was Doeg, the Edomite, the chief of Saul's herdsmen. (Note To Reader: King Saul's spy).*

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- **Fast-forwarding this story, David leaves the temple with the bread...with the sword of Goliath...thinking what he did was reasonable/natural considering the situation (can't we all relate in our own lives as we rationalize?). The lie/the sin...never occurs to him (sound familiar?). Doeg goes back to Saul....reports that this priest aided/abetted David....Saul seeks retribution by having Doeg kill all 85 priests, including Ahimelech.**
- **So "lies snowball" (just as "sin splashes") .... as it happened in this case....from seemingly rational lie to complete murderous devastation.**
- **Pastor Lee relays his favorite childhood bible passage (1 Samual 3) about Eli raising the boy Samual in the temple...and the episode when Samual repeatedly (3x) hears God in the middle of the night and thinks its Eli calling him. Eli explains it was God and to say, next time, "Yes Lord, your servant hears". Its a story that we can all relate to...that is, WE ALL WANT TO CONNECT WITH GOD.**
- **Continuing this story and at Eli's insistance, Samual doesn't lie...he tells him a devastating but painful truth that Eli's house/ancestors will be punished forever for his sons' blasphemy and Eli's lacking reaction/discipline.**
- **So noteworthy and providential...when the 85 priests were killed by Saul's revenge, it is actually the fulfillment of what God told the young Samual years before.**
- **This is David's sin and he even acknowledges that in V 22 (1 Sam 22)!**
- **Since it was prophesied, was David's lie ok?...NO. But it is noteworthy that, despite our sin and whatever snowballing effect, whatever the consequences, God's plan WILL be accomplished! A great reminder!**

- Pastor Lee relays an old quote: ***“Sin will always take you further than you want to go. It will cost you more than you wanted to pay. And it will keep you longer than you wanted to stay.”***

**-Yet we are so quick to justify it.....without regard to the unfathomable sacrifice Christ made for all of us and His defeat of death and sin as reflected in His Resurrection which we just celebrated!!!**

**He is a gracious God...loves us...forgives us...but don't keep on sinning so that, rather, His Grace can abound.**

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*Gal 6:7 - -Do not be deceived,; God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, he will also reap”*

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*Numbers 32:23- - But if you do not do so, behold, you have sinned against the LORD, and be sure your sin will find you out.*

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*Prov 28:13- - Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.*

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- **Our choices matter.....when we chose to lie, we enter into sin. Or...we can obey...and when we fail...repent (like David).**

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*PSALM 119:28- - PUT FALSE WAYS FAR FROM ME AND GRACIOUSLY TEACH ME YOUR LAW!*

**OUR CHOICES MATTER**

**LIES/SIN HAVE CONSEQUENCES**

**REPENT**

**GOD IS IN CONTROL**

