

The Good and Beautiful God
Chapter 6 – Learning to Live Without Lying

DEFINITIONS

Lying: marked by or containing untrue statements
<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/lying>

: An intentional violation of the truth.
<https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Lie.php4>

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 5:37 – But let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No,’ ‘No.’ For whatever is more than these is from the evil one.

Genesis 3:4 - Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die.

Leviticus 19:11-12 – ‘You shall not steal, nor deal falsely, nor lie to one another. And you shall not swear by My name falsely, nor shall you profane the name of your God: I am the Lord.

Proverbs 19:5 – A false witness will not go unpunished, And he who speaks lies will not escape.

John 8:44 – You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.

Luke 8:17 – For nothing is secret that will not be revealed, nor anything hidden that will not be known and come to light.

Luke 16:10 – He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much.

Colossians 3:9 – Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds,

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.

Ephesians 4:15-16 – but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

Liars of another sort in Scripture include:

Rahab to the king of Jerico – Josh 2.4-6 (but also see **Heb 11.31**)

Abraham to Abimelek – Gen 20.20

Egyptian Midwives to the king of Egypt – Exod 1.17-21

David to Ahimelek – 1 Sam 21.2

Peter to the servant girl – Matt 26.72

The Lord uses confirmed false prophets to advance His purposes:

Prophet Micaiah's vision reveals false prophets lying to king Ahab – 1 Kings 22.17-23 –

Then he said, "I saw all Israel scattered on the mountains, as sheep that have no shepherd. And the Lord said, 'These have no master. Let each return to his house in peace.' "

And the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, "Did I not tell you he would not prophesy good concerning me, but evil?"

Then Micaiah said, "Therefore hear the word of the Lord: I saw the Lord sitting on His throne, and all the host of heaven standing by, on His right hand and on His left. And the Lord said, 'Who will persuade Ahab to go up, that he may fall at Ramoth Gilead?' So one spoke in this manner, and another spoke in that manner. Then a spirit came forward and stood before the Lord, and said, 'I will persuade him.' The Lord said to him, 'In what way?' So he said, 'I will go out and be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.' And the Lord said, 'You shall persuade him, and also prevail. Go out and do so.' Therefore look! The Lord has put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these prophets of yours, and the Lord has declared disaster against you."

QUESTIONS

"But let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No.' For whatever is more than these is from the evil one."

1. All things considered, do I lie?
2. Have I learned a few things about discretion in truth, in love?
3. Do I commit Q#2 when it might actually be Q#1?
4. Why do I lie, how do I justify it?
5. How does my Narrative differ from one expected as a member of Father's family?
6. How will my new Narrative actions play out from here?

How does **Radical Honesty** compare to **"Let your 'yes' be 'yes' and also to bless"**