

NORTHEAST HOUSTON COMMUNITY CHURCH
Sermon Notes- Six Things the Lord Hates Plus 1 (Part 2B)
#6 A False Witness Who Speaks Lies
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Acts 5:1–11 (NKJV) ¹ But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession. ² And he kept back part of the proceeds, his wife also being aware of it, and brought a certain part and laid it at the apostles' feet. ³ **But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself?"** ⁴ While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God." ⁵ Then Ananias, hearing these words, fell down and breathed his last. So great fear came upon all those who heard these things. ⁶ And the young men arose and wrapped him up, carried him out, and buried him. ⁷ Now it was about three hours later when his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. ⁸ And Peter answered her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for so much?" She said, "Yes, for so much." ⁹ Then Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out." ¹⁰ Then immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. And the young men came in and found her dead, and carrying her out, buried her by her husband. ¹¹ So great fear came upon all the church and upon all who heard these things.

Last week we were talking about the 6 things plus 1 that God hates and lying is mentioned twice. The first of the two mentioned was that God hates a lying tongue. Our focus passage is about the story of Ananias and Sapphira

These two lies were unnecessary lies. The property was theirs to do as they wished and there would be no sin in doing that. But, in an attempt to make themselves look better than they were (pride) they chose to lie.

These two were early Christians, perhaps good church members. They did not lose their salvation but they did lose their lives.

Now in case you do not believe that God never does something like this anymore and they lying in church or even to the pastor carries no consequences, I direct you to the following passage.

1 Corinthians 11:28–30 (NKJV) ²⁸ *But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.* ²⁹ **For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.** ³⁰ **For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep.** (a euphemism for death).

I am not saying that everyone today that lies in church or to the Pastor will get sick and die but who really wants to take that chance. When you tell those kinds of lies you are lying to the Holy Spirit and consequences are likely.

God in His mercy does not do a lot of that today because people still lie in church. They lie in giving the pretense that their life is pleasing to Christ. When ask "do you love God and Jesus?" many will say yes but few are keeping His commandments.

John 14:15 15 "If you love Me, keep My commandments. (NKJ)

Some will say, "I want to serve God and Christ but **I don't know what He wants me to do?**" That is not true because Jesus tells us what to do, we just do not want to do it.

Matt 28:19-20 19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen. (NKJ)

I heard is said that you can sing a lie just as well as telling a lie. We do so in our songs like "I surrender All", and others that I will not go into at this time. But if some are asked to surrender some time or money for the building of the kingdom of God, we find that they are not willing to surrender much.

We recite the "Lord's Model Prayer" and say verses such as "thy kingdom come, thy will be done", and when God exercises His will in our lives, boy do we holler: Lord why me?" We are more interested in our will than His.

One reason God hates a lying tongue is that He cannot lie and He does not want His children to lie. If we have a lying tongue then we tell the world that God is not our Father, but that the devil is.

*John 8:43-44 44 **You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. NIV***

Ps 5:6 6 You destroy those who tell lies; NIV

The second of the two related type of lies that God hates is:

(6) A False Witness Who Speaks Lies

This type of lie is worse than the other for telling a lie against someone has the ability to ruin a person's character, reputation and even their life. If we are asked something about ourselves, i.e.: like our age, or where we were born and we lie, even that is a lie that God hates.

But, if we tell a lie against someone else, that is giving false testimony and is a more grievous lie, both come from a lying tongue. The latter one was mentioned in the area of the law commonly called the Ten Commandments.

Ex 20:16 16 "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor. NIV

This kind of lie is very damaging. God gave another law to support the one in the Ten commandments
Deut 19:18-21 18 The judges must make a thorough investigation, and if the witness proves to be a liar, giving false testimony against his brother, 19 then do to him as he intended to do to his brother. You must purge the evil from among you. 20 The rest of the people will hear of this and be afraid, and never again will such an evil thing be done among you. 21 Show no pity: life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot. NIV

We are talking about giving a false witness and that a lie is "The untruth is a deliberate falsehood. **Conveying a false image or impression**"

Let's look at the part about **giving a false impression.**

Let say that you were a witness to a crime or wrongdoing and a person was brought in as a suspect. You in fact were the only witness and the authorities doubt that they can make the charge stick unless a witness comes forward. You see this appeal for anyone who has seen anything relating to this crime is asked to come forward. It is our first instinct to keep our mouths shut and let someone else go forward giving the impression we know nothing.

Let me tell you what God says about that attitude.

*Lev 5:1 1 "If a person sins because he does not speak up when he hears a public charge to testify regarding something he has seen or learned about, **he will be held responsible.** (NIV)*

The words that come out of our mouths are our words. People can take almost anything we have away from us but our word can only be given. When we give our word, it is an extension of ourselves and we are the ones that determine how good our word is.

How important is a person's word? Let's look at how God feels about His word.

*Ps 138:2 2 I will worship toward Your holy temple, and praise Your name for Your lovingkindness and Your truth; for **You have magnified Your word above all Your name.** (NKJ)*

I believe that He has preserved His word for that very reason. The promises He makes are recorded so that there is no mistake about what He has said.

The opposite of a lie is truth. We have seen here that God hates a lying tongue and it is impossible for God to lie. He wants there to be no doubt who His children are. (Not of the devil)

God wants us to be like Jesus. Jesus placed great value on the truth and also hated lies.

In the NIV it is recorded in the Gospels that Jesus made the statement "I tell you the truth" 78 times.

But let me take it just a little higher than that. The Bible tells us that **Jesus is the truth.**

*John 14:6 (NKJV) ⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, **the truth**, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.*

We cannot be the children of God if our tongue is constantly telling lies. We all may slip, but we must learn to first hate our lying tongue and learn to control our tongue. Then we will remove from our character that which God hates

Here are some notable quotes that relate to our topic today:

- When in doubt, tell **the truth**. —*Mark Twain*
- To fool the world, tell the **truth**. —*Bismarck*
- Nobody ever got hurt on the corners of a square deal.
- The trouble with stretching the truth is that it's apt to snap back. —*Saturday Evening Post*
- Half a fact is a whole falsehood. —*Old Proverb*
- Every man has a right to his opinion, but no man has a right to be wrong in his facts. ---*Bernard M. Baruch*
- Time is precious, **but truth** is more precious than time. —*Benjamin Disrael*

Message Scriptures: **Acts 5:1–11**, *1 Corinthians 11:28–30*, *John 14:15*, *Matt 28:19-20*, *John 8:43-44*, *Ps 5:6*, *Ex 20:16*, *Deut 19:18-21*, *Lev 5:1*, *Ps 138:2*, *John 14:6*

END