

Deuteronomy: God's Covenant People

[#23] *Jesus Testified to the Truth* – Deuteronomy 5:20

Sermon Outline – January 7, 2018

Children's Sermon: The Stories We Tell

The Moon & the Sun – (Tempt the Moon to Go it Alone)

- **Desire** to be like the Sun, **Pride**: I can be like the Sun on my Own

Genesis 3:1–5 (Satan told a different story)

¹ ... “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden’

⁴ ... “You will not surely die. ⁵ For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

- **Desire**: We can be like God **Truth**: We were created by God to be like him!
- **Pride**: We can be like God without God (Be God!) **Truth**: We are not God

We deceive & slander each other
because we are running from the truth about God.

#9 You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

(Dt. 5:20; Cf. Dt. 24:8–16)

Notes:

What is Israel to Understand?

Prohibited: (Heidelberg Catechism, Q. 112; p. 4)

1. Never give false testimony against anyone, in court and anywhere else, avoid lying and deceit of every kind.
2. Never twist anyone's words, nor gossip or slander.
3. Never join in condemning anyone rashly or without a hearing, nor assume guilt because of one's status.
(Cf. 24:16 – Poor; Fathers/Sons)

Required:

4. Love the truth, speak it candidly, and openly acknowledge it.
5. Guard and advance the good of one's neighbor.

Leviticus 19:11–12

¹¹ “You shall not steal; you shall not *deal falsely*; you shall not *lie to one another*. ¹² You shall not *swear by my name falsely*, and so **profane the name of your God:**

I am the Lord.

Today's Clear Biblical Bullet...

God's people should be true to their word,
and protect the good name their neighbor,
and above all, God's holy name.



Jesus the Living Word Saves Us

Jesus, the Truth, Will Set Us Free

1. What truth can set us free?
2. In what sense are we slaves? Why are we committed to lies & slander?
3. How exactly does Jesus free us with the truth?

John 8:28–47

²⁸ So Jesus said to them, “*When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own authority, but **speak just as the Father taught me.***” ²⁹ And he who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to him.” ³⁰ As he was saying these things, many believed in him.

³¹ **So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him,** “*If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples,*” ³² and you will know the truth, and **the truth will set you free.**”

³³ They answered him, “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, ‘You will become free?’”

³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin.” ³⁵ **The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever.** ³⁶ **So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.** ³⁷ I know that you are offspring of Abraham; **yet you seek to kill me because my word finds no place in you.** ³⁸ **I speak of what I have seen with my Father, and you do what you have heard from your father.**”

³⁹ They answered him, “Abraham is our father.” Jesus said to them, “If you were Abraham’s children, you would be doing the works Abraham did,” ⁴⁰ but now you seek to kill me, **a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God.** This is not what Abraham did. ⁴¹ You

are doing the works your father did.” They said to him, “We were not born of sexual immorality. We have one Father—even God.”⁴² Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me.”⁴³ ***Why do you not understand what I say?*** It is because you cannot bear to hear my word.⁴⁴ 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 does not stand in 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.⁴⁵ But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me.⁴⁶ Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me?⁴⁷ ***Whoever is of God hears the words of God.*** The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God.”

1. We are enslaved to a false story (desire & pride)
2. The cross tells the truth about our rebellion and God’s perfect love!
3. Jesus frees us by teaching us the truth about the truth! (We must be taught by God)

John 6:45

⁴⁵ It is written in the Prophets, ‘And they will all be ***taught by God.***’ Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me—

Built Up by the **Truth** into Jesus Our Head (Cf. Eph. 4:11-16)

Ephesians 4:24–32

...²⁴ and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

²⁵ Therefore, having ***put away falsehood***, let each one of you ***speak the truth with his neighbor***, for we are members one of another.²⁶ Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger,²⁷ and give no opportunity to the devil.²⁸ Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with

anyone in need. ²⁹ ***Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths***, but only such as is good for ***building up***, as fits the occasion, that it may *give grace to those who hear*. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Let all *bitterness and wrath and anger* and ***clamor and slander*** be put away from you, *along with all malice*. ³² Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, **forgiving one another**, as God in Christ forgave you.

...Fired at our Life & Heart

Only Jesus can free us from the false stories we believe
and teach us to be true.

Make knowing him your life obsession.



The Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 43

Q & A 112

Q. What is the aim of the ninth commandment?

A. That I never give false testimony against anyone, twist no one's words, not gossip or slander, nor join in condemning anyone rashly or without a hearing.¹

Rather, in court and everywhere else, I should avoid lying and deceit of every kind; these are the very devices the devil uses, and they would call down on me God's intense wrath.² I should love the truth, speak it candidly, and openly acknowledge it.³ And I should do what I can to guard and advance my neighbor's good name.⁴

1 Ps. 15; Prov. 19:5; Matt. 7:1; Luke 6:37; Rom. 1:28-32

2 Lev. 19:11-12; Prov. 12:22; 13:5; John 8:44; Rev. 21:8a>

3 1 Cor. 13:6; Eph. 4:25

4 1 Pet. 3:8-9; 4:8