**The Damage of Lies and Importance of Truth**

**1st Sam 20:42“**Jonathan said to David, “Go in peace, for we have sworn friendship with each other in the name of the Lord, saying, ‘The Lord is witness between you and me, and between your descendants and my descendants forever.’” Then David left, and Jonathan went back to the town.”

*“Covenant Friendship” – “Sworn Friendship”*

*42“Sworn friendship* in the name of the Lord.”

David left Jonathan and was on the run from Saul who wanted to kill him. He did not know who he can trust. He ran to the city of Nob, a village of priests to beg for bread.

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**1st Samuel 21:1-14 “**David went to Nob, to Ahimelek the priest. Ahimelek trembled when he met him, and asked, “Why are you alone? Why is no one with you?”

**2**David answered Ahimelek the priest, “*The king sent me on a mission and said to me, ‘No one is to know anything about the mission I am sending you on.*’ As for my men, I have told them to meet me at a certain place. **3**Now then, what do you have on hand? Give me five loaves of bread, or whatever you can find.”

**4**But the priest answered David, “I don’t have any ordinary bread on hand; however, there is some consecrated bread here—provided the men have kept themselves from women.”

**5**David replied, “Indeed women have been kept from us, as usual whenever I set out. The men’s bodies are holy even on missions that are not holy. How much more so today!” **6**So the priest gave him the consecrated bread, since there was no bread there except the bread of the Presence that had been removed from before the Lord and replaced by hot bread on the day it was taken away.

**7**Now one of Saul’s servants was there that day, detained before the Lord; he was Doeg the Edomite, Saul’s chief shepherd.

**8**David asked Ahimelek, “Don’t you have a spear or a sword here? *I haven’t brought my sword or any other weapon, because the king’s mission was urgent*.”

**9**The priest replied, “The sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom you killed in the Valley of Elah, is here; it is wrapped in a cloth behind the ephod. If you want it, take it; there is no sword here but that one.”

David said, “There is none like it; give it to me.”

**David at Gath**

**10**That day David fled from Saul and went to *Achish king of Gath*. **11**But the servants of Achish said to him, “Isn’t this David, the king of the land? Isn’t he the one they sing about in their dances:

“‘Saul has slain his thousands,
    and David his tens of thousands’?”

**12**David took these words to heart and was very much afraid of Achish king of Gath. **13**So he pretended to be insane in their presence; and while he was in their hands he acted like a madman, making marks on the doors of the gate and letting saliva run down his beard.

**14**Achish said to his servants, “Look at the man! He is insane! Why bring him to me? **15**Am I so short of madmen that you have to bring this fellow here to carry on like this in front of me? Must this man come into my house?”

**“Lies beget Lies” and reap destruction.**

David had taken his destiny into his own hands when he first left the house of Saul.

He was alone and needed food and a weapon. Instead of relying upon the Lord to provide, he decided to go to Nob, a village of priests and their families, and lie to them. He did not tell them that he was on the run from Saul who was trying to kill him, instead he told them

V. 2 “*The king sent me on a mission and said to me, ‘No one is to know anything about the mission I am sending you on.*’

This was a lie, but because he was a popular hero, or was just very convincing, Ahimelek the priest believed him and even offered him the “showbread” which according to Lev. 24 could only be eaten by Priests (David was not one).

One of Saul’s servants was there that day, Doeg the Edomite, Saul’s chief shepherd. Because David announced that he was on official urgent business from Saul, it got Doeg’s attention. He then asked for a weapon and lied again,

V.8 “*I haven’t brought my sword or any other weapon, because the king’s mission was urgent*.”

Because David was saying that his mission was being done under the authority of King Saul, Ahimelek once again responded by giving him the sword of Goliath, in full view of Doeg (the informant).

This resulted in severe consequences, not necessarily for David right away, but for all the priests of Nob and their families. They were all slaughterd by Doeg at the demand of Saul for helping his enemy David.

Saul summoned all Ahimelek and all the priests of Nob,

**1st Samuel 22:13**“Saul said to him, “Why have you conspired against me, you and the son of Jesse, giving him bread and a sword and inquiring of God for him, so that he has rebelled against me and lies in wait for me, as he does today?”

V.18-19**“**The king then ordered Doeg, “You turn and strike down the priests.” So Doeg the Edomite turned and struck them down. That day he killed eighty-five men who wore the linen ephod.He also put to the sword Nob, the town of the priests, with its men and women, its children and infants, and its cattle, donkeys and sheep.”

David’s visit to Nob, and his deceptive methods of acquiring bread and a sword, directly led to the death of the whole village of priests and their families.

*In fact* he admitted it to Ahimelek’s son Abiathar in the next chapter,

**1st Sam 22:20“**But one son of Ahimelek son of Ahitub, named Abiathar, escaped and fled to join David. **21**He told David that Saul had killed the priests of the Lord. **22**Then David said to Abiathar, “That day, when Doeg the Edomite was there, I knew he would be sure to tell Saul. I am responsible for the death of your whole family.”

What could David have done differently?

* What if he had been honest and confided in Ahimelek and *told him the truth* about being on the run from Saul.
* What if he had given Ahimelek enough time and notice to prevent Doeg from being aware of his visit and perhaps provided the bread and sword for him secretly.
* Perhaps Ahimelek would have helped him secretly or hid him until Doeg was gone, like Jachobed hid Moses in Egypt, and Rahab hid the spies in Jericho.

Instead, David’s lies made Ahimelek and the whole city of Nob *complicit* in his offense against Saul, who was a murderous madman, and it cost them their lives.

David did not come humbly and honestly to Nob. He came with a deceitful agenda and selfish ambition. Not concerned about the people of Nob, only himself.

**Phil. 2:3,4** ”Do nothing out of selfish ambition or empty pride, but in humility consider others more important than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.”

When David lied to Ahimelek, he was only thinking about himself, NOT about what this would do to Ahimelek and the priests of Nob.

As a result, his seemingly *insignificant lies* brought destruction upon them.

* **Proverbs 12:22** – “The Lord detests lying lips, but he delights in people who are trustworthy.”
* **Proverbs 19:9** – “A false witness shall be punished, and a liar shall be caught.”
* **Proverbs 10:9 – “**Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but he who makes his ways crooked will be found out.”

When we lie to others, we not only condemn ourselves, but we also feed others falsehoods that can cause *them* to mis-step and perhaps make grave errors.

*Example, If your Doctor asks if you drink alcohol, and you lie and say no, he may write a prescription that will kill you if you are a drinker. For example opioids and pain-killers.*

*(Xanax and alcohol are two substances that should never be mixed together. There have been countless cases of people who overdose by combining the two, primarily because each exaggerates the effects of the other and, both suppress your respiratory system and central nervous system, which can easily lead to overdose, coma, and death.)*

**The Importance of Truth, and the Problem of Lies**

Living in the Information Age we are often overwhelmed with information in the forms of; misleading messages, false narratives, propaganda, deceptive advertisements, and misinformation.

All of this adds to the *cacophony of lies* that we are barraged with every day, and probably have been our whole life.

What does that do to our perspective on truth?

How does that influence our attitudes, decisions and worldviews?

The world will tell you that “Truth is relative” – (Moral Relativism)

In other words, everyone decides their own truth, based on their individual perspective.

This thinking has seeped into education, politics and *even the church*.

Yet the Bible talks about Truth as an Absolute.

* “But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.” (John 16:13)
* “[God’s] word is truth.” (John 17:17)
* “The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who *suppress the truth by their wickedness*.” (Romans 1:18)

These days we *hear news*, *read posts* and *receive messages* constantly, like never before in history, so we have to constantly be on guard against falsehood.

We need the *“****Spirit*** *of truth, to guide us into all truth*” (John 16:13)

Here’s why.

**2 Cor 4:4** “The ‘god of this age’ has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”

There are false teachers out there (inside *and* outside the church). Who are intent on spreading lies and falsehoods. Their purpose is to deceive *“even the elect (chosen ones) if it’s possible” (Matt 24:24)*

 **2 Peter 2:1-3** **“**There will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them—bringing swift destruction on themselves. **2**Many will follow their depraved conduct and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. **3**In their greed these teachers will exploit you with fabricated stories.”

**V. 19“**They promise freedom, while they themselves are slaves of depravity—for “people are slaves to whatever has mastered them.”

Be careful what you read and hear. There are those who wish to deceive you, and bring you into their destructive ways.

They present themselves as authorities, but some of them are so deceived themselves that they don’t even realize that they are merely propagating deception.

Jesus says;

**Matt 15:14** “Leave them; they are blind guides. If the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a pit.”

It’s so important to seek God’s truth and not be *coerced* by those who do not.

**Prov. 14:12** “There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.”

So is it hopeless? Is it impossible to find truth in this world?

*NO!*

In fact the “Belt of Truth is the first item listed in Ephesians 6, when Paul talks about the “*Full Armor of God*”

**Eph 6: 14** “So stand firm. Put the belt of truth around your waist.”

***The Belt of TRUTH****: Speaking, Hearing and basing your life upon the truth of God and His Word.*

You CAN know the truth IF you abide in the word of God. THEN you won’t be bound up by fear but will be “set free”.

Final Word: (from Jesus)

**John 8:31-32** “**31**Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. **32**And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

How do we find truth in a world full of lies?

• Abide in His Word

• Know the truth

• Be set free

**Let’s continually ask the “*Spirit of truth, to guide us into all truth*”!**