

Day One – Recap of Ten Commandments: Lesson 9

Jared's sermon on Sunday was really ambitious and could easily have taken several hours if he had developed each point (to say nothing of a congregational mutiny!). This is important. Jared wasn't just giving us all the ways we might *apply* the 8th Commandment; that's what the commandment actually *means*. This may sound like splitting hairs but I think it's just one more cool thing about the Bible in general and the Ten Commandments in particular. The commandments "say" one thing and "mean" about as many things as you can imagine. Many interpretations, many applications...

There's not much to add, but I did want to point out a passage you have likely missed in your reading of Proverbs. It is more subtle than most proverbs and, like many subtle things, is packed with meaning:

The woman Folly is loud;
she is seductive and knows nothing.
She sits at the door of her house;
she takes a seat on the highest places of the town,
calling to those who pass by,
who are going straight on their way,
"Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!"
And to him who lacks sense she says,
"Stolen water is sweet,
and bread eaten in secret is pleasant."
But he does not know that the dead are there,
that her guests are in the depths of Sheol.

(Proverbs 9:13-18)

I have heard it said that if a picture is worth a thousand words then a metaphor is worth a thousand pictures. This is definitely a million-word proverb.

Stolen water really is sweet, and I don't think it should ever surprise us. Of all the different examples and reasons for stealing we discussed on Sunday, I don't know that it was ever mentioned that stealing just feels good. Deviance has always been the ultimate aphrodisiac.

I thought it might be helpful to mention this proverb as a caution for us all. This tendency to love evil for evil's sake is reality, no matter where we are spiritually.

Day Two – Read John 8:12-18

Of what did the Pharisees accuse Jesus?

What two witnesses show that Jesus' words are true? (The Bible requires the witness of two people to condemn a person. Jesus had two witnesses that His words were true.)

READ: Proverbs 30:5

How many of God's words prove true? What does this say about God?

If God is truthful all the time, what does that say about His Word, the Bible?

If God desires us to be like Him, what does that mean for our word?

Day Three – Read Genesis 39

How would you describe Joseph's work and character?

To whom did Potipher's wife bear false witness against Joseph?

How many lies did Potipher's wife tell? What did her lies say about Joseph character?

How many witnesses spoke against Joseph? Why is a two-witness rule good?

What harm came to Joseph because of the lies of Potipher's wife? What other harm came from Potipher's wife false witness?

Did Joseph seek revenge? Who does revenge belong to?

How was what happened to Joseph part of God's plan?

Day Four – Read Acts 5:1-11

What did Ananias do?

How was what Ananias did a lie? How was it a lie to the Holy Spirit?

Where did the desire to deceive come from? What do you think could have been the wrong desires in Ananias' heart?

Why did Ananias fall down dead? What does this tell you about the seriousness of sin?

What did Saphira do and what happened to her?

Why was there great fear upon the church?

What is so utterly foolish about lying to God?

Why should this story cause us to fear?

Day Five – Read 1 Samuel 18:12 - 19:7

What heart attitudes do you see in Saul? What did he do that showed the attitude of his heart?

What lies did Saul tell? What was at the root of these lies?

What did Jonathan do when his father spoke against David? Did Jonathan speak the truth about David, or did he make up lies to deceive his father?

What do Jonathan's heart attitudes and actions show us about how to treat others?

How did Saul respond to the gentle truth spoken to him by Jonathan?

How can Jonathan's example show you how to handle a situation in which someone speaks poorly to you about someone else?

Who defended David?

Who will defend you when others speak poorly of you? In what ways does God do this? Do you think God can be trusted? Why?

Day Six – Read John 8:44

What are Satan's desires?

What is Satan, according to this verse?

How strong is the language in this verse? How many times does Jesus say that he is a liar? Why does He say this so many times? What are these words saying about Satan's truthfulness? How does this compare with God's truthfulness?

Why does Jesus call Satan "the father of lies"?

What does this passage tell you about what Satan tells you? How often is it a lie?

What kinds of lies does Satan tell you?

What should we do when Satan "whispers" his lies? How did Jonathan fight lies? Where will you find the truth? How prepared are you to fight lies?