

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: To win, build and send Department of Defense leaders to live for Jesus Christ

Ten Commandments for the 21st Century

March 2013

LESSON # 10 – YOU SHALL NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS

INTRODUCTION

Why do we have difficulty telling the truth? (i.e. “Does this dress make me look fat?”)

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Note: “The last five of the Ten Commandments provide a wall of protection around those things we cherish the most. They are there to restrain evil conduct on the one hand and to provide peace of mind and comfort on the other.” The Ten Offenses by Pat Robertson. The Ninth Commandment is repeated in Deuteronomy 5:20. “In Exodus the meaning is lying or untrue; in Deuteronomy the meaning is insincere, empty, frivolous. The meaning is not essentially different, but the Exodus version concerns the nature of evidence while Deuteronomy emphasizes the spirit in which it is given.” The Ten Commandments by William Barclay.

Read Exodus 20:16

1. What does it mean to bear false witness? Ps 24:4; 12:2-4
2. What provision did God put in the law to help preclude this violation? (Duet 17:6 & 19:15)
Note: Man works cleverly to get around this rule. Jezebel, King Ahab’s wife, knew that she needed two witnesses to fulfill the law in 1 King 21:13. The Pharisees knew they needed two witnesses for Jesus to be put to death in Matthew 26:59-61. Both were false witnesses.
3. How might slander (“to speak critically of another person with the intent to hurt or defame”) or gossip (rumor, the spreading of reports about others) relate to being a false witness?

Read Acts 5:1-11

4. How was Ananias guilty of bearing a false witness (lying)?
5. What did Sapphira do to perpetuate the lie?
6. What did Ananias and Sapphira have to gain by lying about the money?
7. What does God think about lying? Why was this such a serious violation? Lev 10:2; Gal 6:7 2 Sam 6:7
8. In what circumstances do we lie to God? To man?

APPLICATION

- How seriously should we take the concept of lying and bearing a false witness? What actions can you take to conform to God’s standard?

Such law was never given by man; never dreamed of in his highest conceptions. Had man only been able to observe it, assuredly not only life hereafter but happiness and joy here would have come with it. As it was, it brought only knowledge of sin. Yet, for ever blessed be God: “The law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.”²⁷¹

***THE TRUTH, THE WHOLE TRUTH AND NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH
IS GOD’S EXPECTATION. WHAT IS YOURS?***

²⁷ John i. 17.

¹ Edersheim, A. (1997). *Bible History: Old Testament* (Ex 19–20:17). Oak Harbor: Logos Bible Software.