



SERIES: APRIL – YES, YOU CAN! OVERCOMING YOUR STRUGGLES

SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD

Wednesday, 04/27/2022

Scripture: Proverbs 12:19-22

TITLE: Choose Your Words

William Shakespeare said that “no legacy is so rich as honesty,” yet everyone struggles with lying from time to time.

According to Psychology Today, on average, 25% of Americans tell one or two lies per day. 1% admitted to lying 20 or more times per day! But as you dig deeper, you find that lying is more numerous than thought. According to SimplyHired, 98% of employees lie at or for work.

But what about the average person? According to the University of Wisconsin, 88.6% of lies are comprised of white lies, which aren't a big deal to the culture today. Do you struggle with this? Should you consider this a struggle? Is lying a big deal? Even little white lies?

Let's go back to the Bible for the answer. This is what Proverbs 12:19-22 (CSB) says,

Truthful lips endure forever, but a lying tongue, only a moment. Deceit is in the hearts of those who plot evil, but those who promote peace have joy. No disaster overcomes the righteous, but the wicked are full of misery. Lying lips are detestable to the LORD, but faithful people are his delight.

Proverbs was written by the wisest person who ever lived: King Solomon. King Solomon was far from perfect, but he was dialed into the best way to live. Now, a brief note, proverbs are general truths. In other words, they are not promises, but they are generally true.

So when we read this passage, we need to understand that “No disaster overcomes the righteous, but the wicked are full of misery” doesn't mean that bad things won't happen to good people. They will. It doesn't mean that the wicked won't prosper. They will. But the nature and the longevity of the disaster or the length and source of the prosperity will vary.

But the point Solomon is making is that truthful lips are a legacy that endures forever. Character is something you can't buy or cheat. The truth comes out if you're a hypocrite. A legacy of truth never needs to be hidden or reworked. A career of character doesn't need defense but reverence. As Mark Twain said, “If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything.”

So there is a real benefit to being honest. But above all is that lying, no matter the shape and size, are detestable to God. A better way to go is to be honest, and obedient. It is here we can confidently leave the consequences to God.

So here's my challenge for you today: choose your words wisely. The opportunities to lie are endless. The reasons we can present are compelling, but at the end of the day, it's God's standards that should prevail. So choose your words wisely. Your faithfulness is a delight to the Lord. Truthful lips endure forever.

When we choose our words wisely, we will win the day.