**Mouth Management – Lying 07/28/2024 - Transcript**

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Intro – block party – food sign ups.

We've talked about complaining. We've talked about criticizing. It’s been a little prickly – that’s actually good. Conviction is good – it’s God’s loving voice speaking to our hearts and showing us why we should control our tongues – Mouth Management.

Video -

How many of you would say that you've told a lie in the last week? Raise your hands, raise your hands. Let’s look at everyone I want you to look at everybody's who does not have their hand up in the air and say, the odds are you're actually lying. That's the odds, I'm not saying for sure, but the odds are if you didn't say you told a lie you're actually probably lying, because studies show that the average person actually lies about four times a day, about four times a day. There's one study done by the University of Massachusetts that says that 60% of people cannot meet a new person and have a 10 minute conversation without telling at least one lie. You can't meet, 60% of us can't meet someone new and have a 10 minute conversation without telling a lie, so this is going to be a nine minute message to make sure that I don't tell a lie in the middle of a message on lying.

We have to laugh about the humor behind it, but how do you think God feels about lying? You might be knew to the word of God and you think God might not have anything to say about these details of our lives – how we speak but He has a lot to say even about lying.

Let me show you exactly how our God feels. Proverbs 12:22 "The Lord detests lying lips, "but he delights in those who tell the truth." The Lord detests when we lie, but he rejoices or delights when we tell the truth. The Hebrew word that's translated as detests, comes from the word tow' ebah, and it means something disgusting, it means an abhorrence or an abomination, it means something that makes one nauseous. When we lie, you could imply, that this literally makes God nauseous, he hates it, he detests lying lips.

I am using Paul once again and in Ephesians 4:21 and following, he says this. He says, "Since you heard about Jesus "and have learned the truth that comes from him, "throw off your old sinful nature and your former way "of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. "Instead," he says, "let the Spirit renew your thoughts "and attitudes. "Put on your new nature, created to be like God, "truly righteous and holy." Now watch what Paul says. "So stop telling lies. "Let us tell our neighbors the truth, "for we all parts of the same body." Throw off that old nature, since you know about Christ, let him renew your thoughts and your attitudes. Stop telling lies. I heard an old southern preacher say, "You may never be more like the devil "then when you're telling lies." No, it wasn’t Mike. Pretty powerful. You may never be more like the devil then when you're telling lies.

Jesus apparently might agree with this statement. This is what he said in John 8: 44. He spoke of the devil and said that "The devil "was a murderer from the beginning, "not holding to the truth, "for there is no truth in him. "When the devil lies, he speaks his native language, "for he is a liar and the father of lies." Maybe this is one of the reasons why God hates lying so much, because his spiritual enemy, our enemy, the prince of darkness, the great deceiver, his number one weapon is to lie, to deceive, to take us away. Jesus is the truth, the truth sets us free. The devil is a liar and he uses the lies to take us out of the freedom of God's truth. I want to show you what I believe is our enemy's three point plan when it comes to lying. What is the devil's plan when he speaks his native language to coerce us away from the truth of Jesus using his great weapon, the lie? What does he want you to do?

First one, I believe Satan wants to get you to lie. He wants you to start speaking his native language, speaking the language of our enemy by getting you to lie. It could be something as simple as exaggerating a story to make yourself look better. It could be cheating on a test. It could be lying about where you were or where you are going to be. Really, Mom, I was at my friend's house. It could be making up something about someone that you don't like and figure it's kind of maybe partly true. It might be telling partial truths. You're not telling everything but you're just telling the story in the way that it makes you look better. It might be saying things like, and then I said to her, "You cannot talk to me that way, "and I pulled her aside and I said, If you ever "do that again, let me tell you what I'm going to do to you." And then sometimes you just want to say, "Did you really say that?" And if they were honest, they'd say, "Well, "I said it in my head, they're lucky I didn't say it, "I was thinking it." But it's exaggerating. It's amazing how often because of our sinful nature we will choose to speak the devil's language and lie.

I wish I could sit here and tell you that I never do this, but it's shocking to me on things that won't matter occasionally I'll find myself just telling a lie and speaking the devil's language. You know, we kind of laugh about that, but the tragedy is that we give in to Satan's schemes and end up speaking his native language. Dumb things, important things, things we are ashamed of, things we are afraid of the consequences, avoidance, all kinds of things associated with finances, making ourselves look better we think lying about how much money we make, how generous we are, even about our giving – oh I tithe , like Dave mentioned in the offering last week – is his case it was about not understanding what tithing is, but in some cases we totally understand and we are struggling and don’t want to admit it ….so we lie. I remember a number of years ago someone approached Mike about a testimony regarding tithing he wanted to share – something amazing God had done in his families finances and He attributed it to tithing but little did he know because his wife was not honest, and she handled the finances, they weren’t tithing at all. Not even giving. We take praying over Gods finances seriously here at Joy Church. You will not see people up here speaking about and praying for our tithes and offerings that don’t commit to that themselves.

When we don’t want to do something we make up excuses and tell lies why we can’t or won’t be some place – it seems minor maybe at times but when it comes right down to it we are lying. Buying things and hiding them from our spouses.

And we laugh about it yet we speak the devil's native language. What does he get us to do? Number one, he gets us to lie. Number two, the devil, I believe, gets you to lie to yourself. He gets you to lie to yourself, not just to lie to others, but to lie to yourself. You start rationalizing your lies. Occasionally, you might even double down on your lies. You start to tell another lie to cover up the previous lie, and then before long you start to believe the lies. There are some of you, you've lied so much to others you're starting to believe the lies, even to the point where you've rationalized out your own sinfulness.

You say, "Well, I'm not that bad," and "It's not that big of a deal. "I can quit at any time," and "I'm not hurting anybody," and "It's not my fault," and "I'm just a victim, "it's everybody else's fault, it's not my fault." And what happens? You're not just lying to others, but now you're lying to yourself. This is exactly what King David did in the Old Testament when he thought he was above the rules, he wasn't at war where he was supposed to be, he was up on a rooftop one night and he saw a woman naked, bathing, next to him. He saw her and he said to his servant, "Go get her." He brought the woman to King David, David committed adultery with this woman, and then he started lying to cover up his sin and another lie and another lie and devised this plan basically to trick and to cover up his sin by bringing her husband back. When the husband didn't give in to his plan, he essentially put Uriah, the husband, out on the front lines to have him killed in battle. Later on the prophet Nathan approached King David, and Nathan said to David, "Let me tell you a little story. "Once upon a time, there was a very rich "and powerful man who had more wealth "and animals than you could imagine. "And there was this very poor man who had "only one little lamb, and his kids loved this lamb "and it was like a little pet to this man. "And one day when a hungry person came "to the rich guy's house, instead of killing one "of his own animals to feed the hungry man, "he took the poor guy's only lamb, killed it, "and fed it to this hungry guy." And David looked on and he was furious. He burned with anger and he said, "That's the worst thing I've ever heard. "This rich man should be put to death. "He must pay for this, this is a horrendous crime." And Nathan looked at David and said, "you are the man."

Some of you today, let me warn you, the Holy Spirit may speak to you and say," you are the man, or you are the woman. You are the one who has been lying to others. Now you're lying to yourself. You've deceived yourself and you are living apart from God's truth. What does our enemy want to do? He wants us to speak his native language. He is the father of lies, there is no truth in him. If he can convince you of a lie, even in your own life, he can take you away from the truth of God's word.

He wants to get you to lie. Number two, get you to lie to yourself. And number three is his masterpiece. When he gets you to live a lie, to live a lie. To claim one thing but to be something entirely different. And let me just say, this is not all of you. But unquestionably this is some of you. Unquestionably, this is some of you. Living a lie. It could be you're Mr. Christian guy to most people that know you, but you're heavily watching porn when you're all alone. It could be that you show the perfect life on Instagram. Look at this, and here's my new kicks, and here's my vacation, but inside you battle with depression and feelings of meaningless every single day of your life. You might be Pinterest mom to everybody else. They match and everything's homemade and the house looks perfect and inside you feel lonely, you feel desperate, and you feel uncomfortably depressed.

It might at Life Group, (our LifeGroups will start back up in Sept) and everyone thinks you have the perfect marriage. You act the part, look the part, and then you go home and you sleep in separate beds. Listen as the Holy Spirit works on you and says, this is actually you. The devil wants us to tell lies. The devil wants us to believe our own lies. The devil wants us ultimately to live a lie.

This next one, if it doesn't feel serious yet, this is where it might even feel more serious. The devil is the deceiver, and one thing he does, what I'm really, really afraid of is that there are many of you who are deceived into believing that you are a Christian when you may not be one at all. That you go to church every now and then and you're not an atheist, not a Muslim, you're not a Buddhist, so Ok then you must be a Christian, but when you really, really look at your life, there's no evidence of spiritual fruit or anything different from this world.

And as a pastor, I pray dear God, let me shepherd people who recognize their need for Jesus every single day. Help me to help people realize how much they need Him. This is what John said, First John 2:4 about lying, he said, "Whoever says, I know him," whoever says, "I know God," "but doesn't do what he commands," there's no obedience, there's no life change, there's no fruit, we're not saved by our works, we're saved by grace, but grace leads to works. When we know God, suddenly we are different. If we say, "I know God," but we don't resemble Jesus, we don't do what he commands, we lie and the truth is not in us.

Some of you might say, "Hey, I'm not a bad person, "I'm okay," – that was me before I had a relationship with Jesus. I would have said – I am a good person. But the truth of God was not in me It's the devil's native language to get us to lie.

We all lie for different reasons. For example, we might lie to protect someone’s feelings. Or lie to make someone feel better. Some of us are more self-centered in our lies. We are going to lie to make ourselves look better. I'm not so worried about you, I'm trying to cover my own tracks. We lie for different reasons.

Why is it that you lie? When you recognize the root reason, then you can bring truth to the root and find healing. When I really thought about it in my prayer time this week, here's a statement that I actually believe is true for most of us. The root reason, most of us lie is because we don't completely trust God. The root reason most of us lie is because we don't completely trust God. We believe the lie that our lie will work better than the truth. The lie might keep me safe. If I tell a lie, then I won't get in trouble. But suddenly when we lie we're actually not safe because we're trying to build a life on lies, and that is much, more difficult than it is to build it on the truth.

It may be that we think if I tell a lie you might like me better. The problem is then we have a relationship built on lies. We might think, if I tell a lie, it's going to lead to avoiding conflict. But the truth is that sometimes the best relationships are on the other side of working through conflict. At its root we tend to believe that our lies work better than God's truth. The reason why many of us lie is because we ultimately don't trust God.

Let's make it as simple as we can. Who is the devil? He is the father of lies. What is his native language? It is lying, his greatest tool is to deceive us away from truth. We believe truth is a person. He has a name, his name is Jesus. The truth, Jesus said, "And you will know the truth, "and the truth will set you free," John 8:32. When you know the truth, the truth will set you free. Lies bring bondage, the truth brings freedom. And Satan wants us to tell a lie, to believe the lie, and ultimately to live the lie. Jesus wants us to walk in the truth, to experience the truth, and the truth will ultimately set us free. Satan has a plan, get you to lie, get you to believe the lie, get you to live a lie. God has a plan, it's simple, it's powerful, and it's freeing. We confess to God for forgiveness, and we confess to people for healing. This is what we do, we confess our sins, our lies, to God for forgiveness, and then we confess to people for healing. First John 1:9 says this, "If we confess our sins "before God, "He is faithful and just and will forgive our sins "and purify us from all unrighteousness."

I love this, when we confess to God, He cleanses us, he forgives us, he separates our sins from us as far as the east is from the west. He doesn't hold them against us anymore. He cleanses us and purifies us from all unrighteousness. We confess to God not so much for his sake, for our sake. He already knows we've sinned. We confess to him saying, "I need your forgiveness" and we receive his grace. But that's only a portion of the life transforming power of confession, and this is where many people stop and this is why so many people don't find the freedom and the healing that God's word teaches us that we can have.

We confess to God for forgiveness, but then there's a second layer of confession, and this is why we do life together in community in small groups. We don't just confess to God for forgiveness, but then we confess to people for healing. One of our elders set that example this week in a group text we have – After last weeks message they confessed being critical in a certain situation and asked God for forgiveness but then also asked us as elders for forgiveness. A great example – and when people ask for forgiveness let’s tell them we forgive them!

And this is what James said. James says we confess our sins to one another, and we pray for each other, so that we may be healed. We confess to God for forgiveness, but we confess to people for healing. And that's where the healing power begins. We confess to God for forgiveness. We confess to each other for healing. We find healing, we find healing.

There are some of you right now, you are carrying a lie. You may be living a lie, you're believing a lie. The feeling is so heavy. The guilt, the fear. What would it be like to wake up and say, I've got no secrets, I'm completely free. I've been completely forgiven.

The devil is a liar. When you lie, you speak his native language. He wants to get you to lie, to believe the lie, and ultimately to live a lie. But when you confess to God, he forgives you. When you confess to people, you find healing. The devil wants you to lie, which leads to bondage. Jesus wants you to experience truth, which leads to freedom. Bondage or freedom, bondage or freedom. Lies or truth, when you know the truth, the truth will set you free.

Pray - Father, today I pray that by the power of your Holy Spirit, God, that you would unleash truth in our souls, that we would have the courage, God, to confess and admit when we've lied, when we've sinned, when we've strayed against you. And God, we thank you that you will forgive us and we thank you that one step beyond we find healing in your family as we confess to one another. I cannot wait to see, God, what you do this week through appropriate confession in the right context, God, to bring healing because of your grace. As you reflect in prayer today, those of you who would say, yes, I recognize because of my sinful nature I don't always tell the truth, but I want to be a truth teller, I want the truth to dwell in me, I want to be a person of truth. Again, like last week, I hope that's all of us. Would you lift up your hands right now saying, yes, that's me.

Father, I thank you today that your Holy Spirit is working. God, I thank you that the truth sets us free. I pray, God, every single time that we're tempted to tell a lie, God, we're tempted to exaggerate, tempted to tell the story in a way that makes us look better and makes us feel better that we would pause and just remember we're not speaking our enemy's language. We want truth, God, lead us in truth. Renew our minds with truth, help us walk in truth. Help us to represent your truth, God. Help us to experience your truth, because when we know the truth, the truth will set us free. God, for those who may be living a lie, I pray that you would lead them to the appropriate people in the right context, to the appropriate people in the right context, God, to open up, to come clean, and to find healing in your Son Jesus. Give them the courage, God, for those who may be on the receiving end of a confession, I pray, God, that there would be grace as we have been forgiven, God, as we have been forgiven, so help us to show that same grace to others.

As you keep praying today here in the room and those of you online, we don’t say it enough, but thank you for joining us online. There may be some of you, you're going to become aware that you are calling yourself a Christian but recognizing the truth is not in you. There is no real evidence. You recognize you have some head knowledge about who Jesus is, but your heart had never been transformed by his grace. there's something happening today, there's something that's drawing you toward the things of God, you may not even be sure what that is,

It's the truth of the love of God and it's his loving Holy Spirit that's reaching out to you, drawing you, pulling you, luring you toward him to come just as you are. So often we think, well, I have to clean up my life first. I have to kind of get better first. No, you come to Jesus exactly as you are. Jesus is the truth, he is the Son of God who was born without sin, never, ever sinned, lived a perfect life. He became sin for us on the cross. Died in our place for the forgiveness of our sins. Rose again So that anyone, who would call on his name would be saved. Every sin you've committed forgiven by our God. New, the old is gone and everything becomes new. There are those of you, you recognize you need his grace. You're not here by accident, you're not watching by accident, you need the grace of Jesus. Maybe you thought you were a Christian, you realize I am not, I'm not going to live in the lie. Maybe you look like you're far from God, but no one knows, you're actually one step away from the grace of Jesus and that's why you're here today. You need him.

Pray with me, after me, and no one prays alone at Joy Church – we walk this journey together.

heavenly Father, I give you my life. Forgive me of my sins. Jesus, make me new. Fill me with your Spirit so I could know you and follow you and live for you. Help me to walk in truth, to speak your truth, to show your truth. My life is not my own, today I give it to you. Thank you for new life, now you have mine. In Jesus' name, I pray.