

# THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

THROUGH THE EYES OF JESUS

## SERMON NOTES

Week 9 October 15, 2023

**"Honesty: You Must Not Bear False Witness"**

Exodus 20:16; Matthew 7:1-3, 26:59-61; Deuteronomy 19:18-19;  
James 1:26, 3:8-10; Proverbs 11:12-13; Ephesians 4:29

### I. Introduction

- A. The ninth commandment: "Do not give \_\_\_\_\_ testimony against your neighbor."
- B. The ninth commandment was about not bearing false witness in the \_\_\_\_\_ of ancient Israel.

### II. False Witnesses

- A. It's estimated that anywhere from 1 to 4% of all people in prison in the United States are there under \_\_\_\_\_ pretenses, accusations, or testimony.
- B. \_\_\_\_\_ was wrongly convicted of a crime he did not commit because of false testimony.
- C. In ancient Israel, there were \_\_\_\_\_ punishments for someone who testified falsely.

### III. Politics and the Ninth Commandment

- A. \_\_\_\_\_ candidates making false acquisitions and telling half-truths about their opponent is an example of bearing false witness.
- B. If we \_\_\_\_\_ a story about a particular political candidate that is not true, we are bearing false witness.

### IV. Gossip, Rumors, and Innuendos

- A. When we \_\_\_\_\_ about another and speak about others in unflattering and harmful ways we are bearing false witness.
- B. We violate the 9th commandment when we share information that was meant to be held in \_\_\_\_\_.
- C. The half-truths, rumors, innuendos, and gossip that we spread can have tremendous \_\_\_\_\_ impact on people's lives.

### V. The Opposite of Bearing False Witness

- A. There are times we share gossip but we cloak it in \_\_\_\_\_ language.
- B. Jesus says "do not judge others but \_\_\_\_\_ your neighbor as yourself and do unto others as you would have them do unto you."
- C. Paul says "our words need to give \_\_\_\_\_ to those who hear."

***Things I Would Like to Remember About This Message***



# ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE *October 16-21, 2023*

## INTRODUCTION

The ninth commandment was about not bearing false witness in the courts of ancient Israel. The people of Israel were prohibited from making false accusations against one of their neighbors and fellow Israelites. Most of us reading this devotional would not go to court and make false accusations... so how does this commandment apply to us?

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### **Monday: Exodus 20:16, 23:1-3 (Don't be a lying witness in court)**

The ninth commandment was about bearing false witness in the courts of ancient Israel. To what extent would you agree with ancient Israel that maybe we should reserve honesty only for legal courtroom proceedings?

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### **Tuesday: Matthew 5:33-37 (Through Jesus' eyes: say what you mean, and mean it)**

Psychologists and linguists note that sometimes it's hard to make our questions as well as our statements direct (e.g. at times "Do you like this outfit?" may mask the real question: "Do you still love me?"). How can you, in both your questions and your answers, grow in your ability to let your "yes" mean "yes," and your "no" mean "no?" What fears make it hardest for you to avoid evasive words and speak plainly?

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### **Wednesday: Deuteronomy 19:15-19, Matthew 18:15-16**

Jesus wanted the community of his followers to be characterized by mutual love (cf. John 13:34-35). But he knew that realistically human nature is such that sometimes disagreements and problems would arise. So he told his followers to be as wise in avoiding unverifiable charges and countercharges as possible. How can Jesus' wisdom shape your handling of disagreements in church, small group and even family settings?

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### **Thursday: Daniel 3:13-18, Acts 1:6-8 (Sometimes silence is a false witness)**

God preserved the three brave Hebrew witnesses from the fiery furnace. But other bold witnesses—Jesus and the apostles Paul and Peter, faced earthly death for their witness. What price(s), in our relatively tolerant age, might you face to be an honest witness to Jesus? Are you willing to accept those consequences, or do you shy away from it?

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### **Friday: Ephesians 4:14-16, 21-25 ("Speaking the truth with love")**

To fail to tell someone else the truth is not loving. To tell them the truth in angry or belittling ways is also not loving. Ephesians said one key to helping each other grow is "speaking the truth in love." Which do you find harder most of the time: speaking the truth at all, or doing so in love? What can help you grow toward maturity in both of those dimensions?

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## MOVING FORWARD

We violate the ninth commandment through the telling of half-truths, rumors, gossip, and innuendos about other people. We are also bearing false witness when we share false narratives about politicians and political parties on social media or through verbal communication. And sometimes as Christians, we cloak gossip in spiritual language. Instead of bearing false witness, we are called to love our neighbor as ourselves and to give grace with our words to those who hear.

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*Answers to the sermon notes: IA) false, B) courts. IIA) false, B) Jesus, C) harsh.*

*IIIA) Political, B) share, C) gossip. IVA) gossip, B) confidence, C) negative. VA) spiritual, VB) love, C) grace.*