



## Does God Bless Us When We Act in an Unrighteous Way?

**1 Samuel 21:8:** (NASB) *David said to Ahimelech, Now is there not a spear or a sword on hand? For I brought neither my sword nor my weapons with me, because the king's matter was urgent.*



When I was a kid and faced with the potential consequences for my actions (wait, they were not consequences - they were punishments!) there was often that moment every kid dreads. I had to tell my dad or mom what I did. They already *knew* what I did; they were teaching me to *own* what I did. At those fateful and fearful moments my dad would often say, "Tell the truth and shame the devil!" This was never easy to hear, for it reminded me that God is pleased with truth and the devil is pleased with lies. Even though lying seemed like a "get out of jail free" card it was really an "out of the frying pan and into the fire" card. Guidelines

are easier when you are a kid. As adults, how well do we do when faced with the gray areas and the white lies of life? Do we have resolve? Is it strong? What is it based upon? Can God bless us when in those gray areas?

**Hebrews 12:11:** (NASB) *All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.*

The following audio clip features Matthew O'Reilly who is a first responder Emergency Medical Technician. We will be following how he works through his dilemma throughout his career.

 **What do I do, Matthew O'Reilly, "Am I Dying?" The Honest Answer, TED Talks**

- I've been a critical care EMT for the past seven years in Suffolk County, New York. I've been a first responder in a number of incidents ranging from car accidents to Hurricane Sandy. If you are like most people, death might be one of your greatest fears. Some of us will see it coming. Some of us won't. There is a little-known documented medical term called "Impending Doom." It's almost a symptom. As a medical provider, I'm trained to respond to this symptom like any other, so when a patient having a heart attack looks at me and says, "I'm going to die today," we are trained to reevaluate the patient's condition. Throughout my career, I have responded to a number of incidents where the patient had minutes left to live, and there was nothing I could do for them. With this, I was faced with a dilemma: Do I tell the dying that they are about to face death, or do I lie to them to comfort them?*



Scripturally, we will focus on a series of events in the early life of David while in his twenties. He was anointed by Samuel to be king but was still in service to King Saul. In this part of his life, David is a hero of Israel as well as a perceived threat to the king. David is *a man after God's own heart* (1 Samuel 13:14), but he finds himself in several very difficult situations and seems to, in many cases, *lie his way through them*. Is it okay to lie if you are in a tough spot?

(Source: Biblical Commentary by Matthew Henry) Introduction to 1 Samuel 20: David, having several times narrowly escaped Saul's fury, begins to consider at last whether it may not be necessary for him to retire into the country and to take up arms in his own defense. But he will not do so daring a thing without consulting his faithful friend Jonathan.

"Saul Attacking David"  
by Guercino  
1646



David explains his fear for his life to his friend Jonathan, who also happens to be King Saul's son:

- David earlier slew Goliath; David is a military hero!
- David is a mighty warrior for Saul and for Israel.
- David had been in great favor with the king.

**1 Samuel 20:4-8:** (NASB) <sup>4</sup>Then Jonathan said to David, Whatever you say, I will do for you. <sup>5</sup>So David said to Jonathan, Behold, tomorrow is the new moon, and I ought to sit down to eat with the king. But let me go, that I may hide myself in the field until the third evening. <sup>6</sup>If your father misses me at all, then say, David earnestly asked leave of me to run to Bethlehem his city, because it is the yearly sacrifice there for the whole family. (David tells Jonathan he will not show up for dinner and asks him to lie to his father about where he has gone.) <sup>7</sup>If he says, It is good, your servant will be safe; but if he is very angry, know that he has decided on evil. <sup>8</sup>Therefore deal kindly with your servant, for you have brought your servant into a covenant of the LORD with you. But if there is iniquity in me, put me to death yourself; for why then should you bring me to your father?

David is sure Saul is trying to kill him and needs to flush out what Saul is thinking. He asks Jonathan to tell the king a made-up story. *He asks him to lie and Jonathan agrees!* It is important to remember that Jonathan is the king's son and David's superior. David tells Jonathan, *if there is iniquity in me, put me to death yourself.*

Jonathan agrees to David's request to tell the king this story. Is Jonathan party to a lie? Is God telling us it is okay to lie if you are in a tough spot?

### Was David devious?

**Proverbs 14:2:** (NASB) *He who walks in his uprightness fears the LORD, But he who is devious in his ways despises Him.*

There are many questions we need to answer.



### Lying is good, *When Is It Okay To Lie*, DNews

- Hey there, liars! Trace here for DNews. My mom always warned me about lying by telling fables and stories and antidotes. But as I got older I began to learn that little lies can be good, too. So, what's the truth? Is lying bad or good? A new study in the Proceedings of the Royal Society B (Series B publishes research related to biology) looked at the effects of deception in social networks, and according to their research white lies specifically smooth the flow of interactions and facilitate a larger, more integrated social group. Basically, they're saying that white lies are good. A study published in the Journal of Basic and Applied Psychology found that we lie 2.92 times every ten minutes. That's a lot of fibbing. A white lie is a harmless or trivial falsification, usually told to avoid hurting someone's feelings. The researchers call this a prosocial lie and they're the good kind. Lies told that are destructive or deceptive, those are antisocial lies, and they do the exact opposite. They weaken the bonds between individuals, and they break down social structure.



They are saying science shows some lies are good because they knit society together. If you knit society together with corruption, then you have a well-knit corrupt society. That does not make sense!

#### Was David wise?

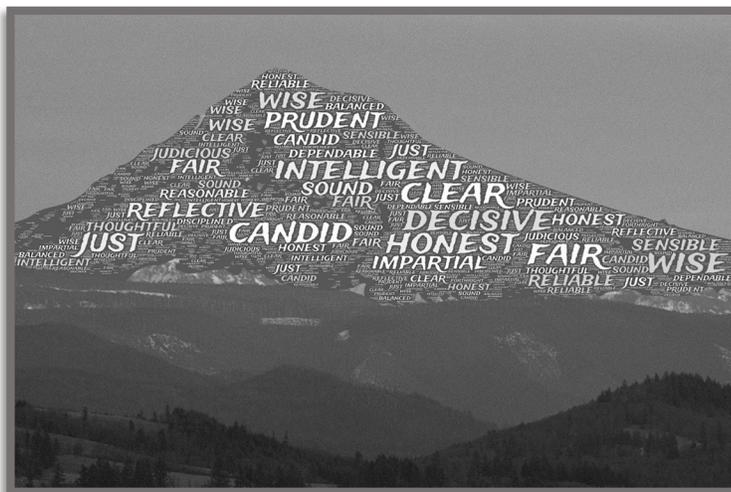
Proverbs 14:3: (NASB) *In the mouth of the foolish is a rod for his back, but the lips of the wise will protect them.*



**As a Christian, have an honest heart.**

Luke 8:15: (NASB) *But the seed in the good soil, these are the ones who have heard the word in an honest and good heart, and hold it fast, and bear fruit with perseverance.*

So far, all we are seeing are shades of gray.  
Is righteousness not simply black and white?





We are, up to this point, only asking questions and not drawing conclusions. As we shall see in this next segment, what may seem to be an easy conclusion on the surface can have mitigating circumstances and unforeseen details that not only need to be noticed, they need consideration.

 **Not my place, Matthew O'Reilly, "Am I Dying?" The Honest Answer, TED Talk**

- *Early in my career, I faced this dilemma by simply lying. I was afraid. I was afraid if I told them the truth, that they would die in terror, in fear, just grasping for those last moments of life. That all changed with one incident. Five years ago, I responded to a motorcycle accident. The rider had suffered critical, critical injuries. As I assessed him, I realized that there was nothing that could be done for him, and like so many other cases, he looked me in the eye and asked that question, "Am I going to die?" In that moment, I decided to do something different. I decided to tell him the truth. I decided to tell him that he was going to die and that there was nothing I could do for him. His reaction shocked me to this day. He simply laid back and had a look of acceptance on his face. He was not met with that terror or fear that I thought he would be. He simply laid there, and as I looked into his eyes, I saw inner peace and acceptance. From that moment forward, I decided it was not my place to comfort the dying with my lies.*

Back to David and Jonathan. They work out their plan and a way to communicate secretly. Both realize they are in danger of death and swear fidelity to each other.

**Is the following righteous action or unrighteous action?**



1 Samuel 20:13-17: (NASB) <sup>13</sup>If it please my father to do you harm, may the LORD do so to Jonathan and more also, if I do not make it known to you and send you away, that you may go in safety. And may the LORD be with you as He has been with my father. (Jonathan tells David, "If the king wants to kill you and I do not tell you, may my life be forfeited. I will have loyalty to you." Jonathan's righteousness and integrity rise to the top.) <sup>14</sup>If I am still alive, will you not show me the lovingkindness of the LORD, that I may not die? <sup>15</sup>You shall not cut off your lovingkindness from my house forever, not even when the LORD cuts off every one of the enemies of David from the face of the earth. <sup>16</sup>So Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, May the LORD require it at the hands of David's enemies. <sup>17</sup>Jonathan made David vow again because of his love for him, because he loved him as he loved his own life.

Jonathan makes David promise to take care of his family if he should die. (The Scriptures show us later in Jonathan's life he dies an untimely death and David takes care of Jonathan's handicapped son.)

The covenant of protection and care that these two men made was righteous and inspiring as it was based on the knowledge that David was God's chosen, it was based on being faithful to God's ways and it was based on protecting the sanctity of life.

The day comes when the feast begins. On the first day, David is not there but Saul says nothing, thinking he will show up soon. On the second day when David is not at the feast, Saul asks Jonathan about his absence and the made-up story and lie is spoken.



### Is this a righteous action or unrighteous action?

1 Samuel 20:28-34: (NASB) <sup>28</sup>Jonathan then answered Saul, David earnestly asked leave of me to go to Bethlehem, <sup>29</sup>for he said, Please let me go, since our family has a sacrifice in the city, and my brother has commanded me to attend. And now, if I have found favor in your sight, please let me get away that I may see my brothers. For this reason, he has not come to the king's table.



That was a lie! They both knew this was not true.  
Is this a righteous action?

At the risk of sounding wishy-washy or even hypocritical, we are going to say yes, it was righteous.

### Jonathan told a lie and here is Saul's reaction:

<sup>30</sup>Then Saul's anger burned against Jonathan and he said to him, You son of a perverse, rebellious woman! Do I not know that you are choosing the son of Jesse to your own shame and to the shame of your mother's nakedness? <sup>31</sup>For as long as the son of Jesse lives on the earth, neither you nor your kingdom will be established. Therefore now, send and bring him to me, for he must surely die.

### Jonathan now sees David's fears were justified and directly addresses the issue of Saul's rage:

<sup>32</sup>But Jonathan answered Saul his father and said to him, Why should he be put to death? What has he done? <sup>33</sup>Then Saul hurled his spear at him to strike him down; so, Jonathan knew that his father had decided to put David to death. <sup>34</sup>Then Jonathan arose from the table in fierce anger and did not eat food on the second day of the new moon, for he was grieved over David because his father had dishonored him.

How can Jonathan's lie be righteous? Is it because Saul was not in his right mind and it was therefore justifiable? Is it because it revealed truth? Is it because it kept David safe?



Proverbs 12:19: (NASB) Truthful lips will be established forever, but a lying tongue is only for a moment.



**As a Christian, have an honest reputation.**

**Acts 6:3: (KJV) Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.**



The elders were overwhelmed with responsibilities and duties. The widows in the church were being neglected. The elders realized they needed to fix the problem and elected seven deacons to help with the widows' needs. They chose seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom.

As Christians, we must focus on building and keeping an honest reputation.



## We always respond to “situation ethics” negatively! Are we now on that road we do not like?

It really is easy to conclude we are setting up a double standard. Thinking about that, a double standard may not necessarily be a bad thing, but there is one big giant IF! This big giant IF revolves around hard, fast and immovable principles of righteousness. Stay within those principles and you will act righteously!

**Once you get rid of integrity the rest is a piece of cake. – Larry Hagman**

We are not advocating lying even though we said the lie David told was a righteous act.

 **Need forgiveness, Matthew O’Reilly, “Am I Dying?” The Honest Answer, TED Talk**

- *Having responded to many cases since then where patients were in their last moments and there was nothing I could do for them, in almost every case, they have all had the same reaction to the truth, of inner peace and acceptance. In fact, there are three patterns I have observed in all these cases. The first pattern always kind of shocked me. Regardless of religious belief or cultural background, there’s a need for forgiveness. Whether they call it sin or they simply say they have a regret, their guilt is universal. I had once cared for an elderly gentleman who was having a massive heart attack. As I prepared myself and my equipment for his imminent cardiac arrest, I began to tell the patient of his imminent demise. He already knew by my tone of voice and body language. As I placed the defibrillator pads on his chest, prepping for what was going to happen, he looked me in the eye and said, “I wish I had spent more time with my children and grandchildren instead of being selfish with my time.” Faced with imminent death, all he wanted was forgiveness.*

Matthew O’Reilly would never have heard that from this man if he had lied to him. Telling the truth gave the man the opportunity at his last moments to seek some kind of peace.

**Consider this example - Gideon and his “army” of 300 men create a massive military deception:**

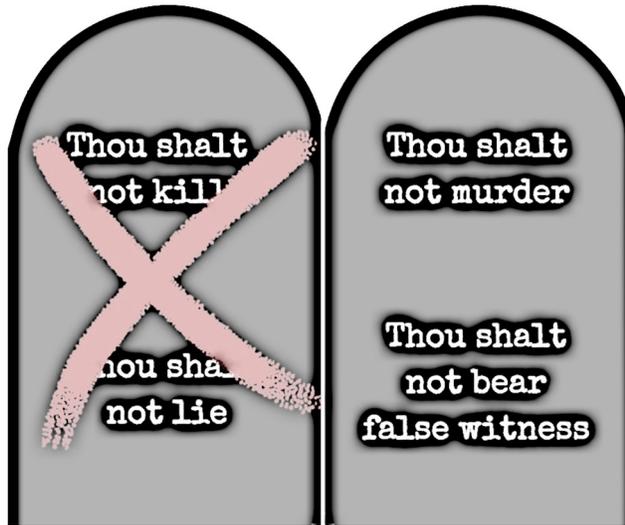
Judges 7:19-22: (NASB) <sup>19</sup>So Gideon and the hundred men who were with him came to the outskirts of the camp at the beginning of the middle watch, when they had just posted the watch; and they blew the trumpets and smashed the pitchers that were in their hands. <sup>20</sup>When the three companies blew the trumpets and broke the pitchers, they held the torches in their left hands and the trumpets in their right hands for blowing, and cried, A sword for the LORD and for Gideon! <sup>21</sup>Each stood in his place around the camp; and all the army ran, crying out as they fled. <sup>22</sup>When they blew 300 trumpets, the LORD set the sword of one against another even throughout the whole army; and the army fled...

This was a classic military deception. If they heard the trumpet, it meant the one with the trumpet had a few hundred men behind him. If they were surrounded by 300 trumpets and heard the noise of the pitchers being shattered, they knew they were about to be overrun. There was such confusion in the camp that they started fighting each other and they were routed by 300 men. This was a classic military deception and it was designed and sanctioned by God. Was this honest?



## How did God's Law, summed up in the 10 Commandments, manage things such as war and lies?

Exodus 20:13-16: (NASB) <sup>13</sup>You shall not murder. <sup>14</sup>You shall not commit adultery. <sup>15</sup>You shall not steal. <sup>16</sup>You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.



There was no "thou shalt not kill" - but there was "thou shalt not murder." Why? God set this Law up at a time of sin and at a time when the nation needed to protect itself. *Killing was acceptable because it was a necessary tool of survival.*

There was no "thou shalt not lie" - but there was "thou shalt not bear false witness." Why?

- The Law was given to Israel as their perfect guideline for living in an imperfect and violent world.
- The Law was given so they could righteously prosper in their land.
- The Law was given so they could righteously defend their land and their lives.

The Old Testament was about responding to and vanquishing earthly enemies under God's guidance. The Law was there to help them protect themselves yet live in a godly way.

David was drawn into a war between God's anointed ones that David wanted no part of. He responded to Saul as if he were at war with him, using an appropriate military tactic, which is to deceive the enemy.

1 Samuel 26:9: (NASB) *But David said to Abishai, Do not destroy him, for who can stretch out his hand against the LORD'S anointed and be without guilt?*

Whenever David had the opportunity to take Saul's life, he did not do it because he said he would not raise his hand against the LORD's anointed.

 **Lies feel like lies, *When is it Okay to Lie, DNews***

*Lies can make or break us, y'all. Using mathematical models, the researchers revealed what most of us already know. When an individual participates in antisocial lying they slowly isolate themselves from their social group; while prosocial liars form stronger bonds and become more integrated. This also extends to online social networks as well. A study at California State University, Dominguez Hills, looked at lies told on Facebook and found that they are just as varied as lies spoken aloud. How many times have you clicked 'Like' without actually liking something online?*





*Maybe you just wanted to support the person even if you disliked what they had written. Rationalize away because that's a white lie, Sistah! Or what if you post a pretty picture of your cruise but you're seasick the whole time and you omit that from the post? That's a white lie, Bro. Whether these are prosocial white lies or antisocial lies depends on who they are targeting and the intent of the post, so you will have to figure that out for yourself. The Journal of Consumer Research found that even though they are beneficial to the whole, white lies actually feel like lies to our brain.*



Whatever the lie is, "it still feels like a lie to our brain." The "Like" on Facebook is just to show your support; it does not mean you have to agree and it is not a lie if you click "Like."

We saw what David and Jonathan did. Does this mean we, as Christians, will be acting righteously by using deception as we deal with our enemies - the world, the flesh and the devil? NO! That is the temptation here. Ours is a different battle. Our battle is not about land or earthly peace, it is about faithfulness to a heavenly call and kingdom.

2 Corinthians 10:4: (Rotherham) *For, the weapons of our warfare, are not fleshly, but mighty, by God, unto a pulling down of strongholds...*

Notice the weapons are mighty, not us. We do not vanquish our enemies, we overcome them.

***The man who only speaks truth has nothing to fear. — Anonymous***

John 18:36: (NASB) *Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, then my servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, my kingdom is not of this realm.*

Jesus had nothing to fear but he died as a result of the truth which he told.

The Old Testament was to fight and vanquish enemies.

The New Testament is to overcome enemies for the sake of the kingdom!



**As a Christian, provide that which is honest.**

**Romans 12:17: (KJV) *Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men.***

To say David employed a military tactic appropriately does not give us permission to use a military tactic in our lives. The context of our battle is entirely different. Dying for the sake of Christ is a glorious thing. If we are under the anointing, we are supposed to die. Different periods of time or ages mean different guidelines and responses.



## Did David ever take these righteous principles too far and end up crossing a line into unrighteousness?

As with anything that is not easily determined to be black and white, crossing lines that should not be crossed can happen all too easily. David was a man who did exactly that, and the result ended up utterly tragic for others. This next stage of his story is filled with lessons for us.

A cancer doctor explains talking to patients in stages regarding their condition:

 Truth in stages, *The Whole Truth: Is it Ever Okay to Lie to Patients*, Roswell Park Cancer Institute

- *Too much too fast. I think it doesn't help the situation. I think patients find it overwhelming. It doesn't allow you to connect with them on a more personal level because you're breaking it down into too many facts and too much data. And you want them to have information, but you also want to have time for some empathy. You want to have time for compassion. You need to leave time for them to respond. If they need to let something out emotionally, you need to give them time to do that. And I think if you spend the whole time overwhelming them with facts and figures, you don't allow that emotional part to get addressed properly.*

Some say, "If you only tell part of the truth you are lying." That is not true and that is what the cancer doctor is explaining. Too much too fast is overwhelming. People need time and ability to process things. You also should not tell something to a child who is not capable of processing things. Sometimes you need to withhold pieces of a story. Our Heavenly Father does that for us. He only reveals what we can handle for our level of maturity. Partial truths for the sake of someone's good is a good thing.

**David continues to run for his life and out of his desperation comes another fabricated story:**

**1 Samuel 21:1-9:** (NASB) (selected verses) <sup>1</sup>Then David came... to Ahimelech the priest; and Ahimelech came trembling to meet David and said to him, Why are you alone and no one with you? <sup>2</sup>David said to Ahimelech... The king has commissioned me with a matter and has said to me, Let no one know anything about the matter on which I am sending you and with which I have commissioned you; and I have directed the young men to a certain place. <sup>3</sup>Now therefore, what do you have on hand? Give me five loaves of bread, or whatever can be found.

David tells another lie. Is this another military tactic? Probably. The question is, *is this acting in a righteous way?*



<sup>4</sup>The priest answered David and said, there is no ordinary bread on hand, but there is consecrated bread; if only the young men have kept themselves from women. <sup>5</sup>David answered the priest and said to him, surely women have been kept from us as previously... <sup>6</sup>So the priest gave him consecrated bread; for there was no bread there but the bread of the Presence...

David and the servants were hungry, and Ahimelech helps them. David protects Ahimelech by not telling him he was on the run from the king and tells him a made-up story or a lie. The priest trusts David's story and gives him bread. Success! *But is it righteous?*

<sup>7</sup>Now one of the servants of Saul was there that day...and his name was Doeg the Edomite, the chief of Saul's shepherds. <sup>8</sup>David said to Ahimelech, Now is there not a spear or a sword on hand?



For I brought neither my sword nor my weapons with me, because the king's matter was urgent. (Another lie.) <sup>9</sup>Then the priest said, The sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom you killed...behold, it is wrapped in a cloth behind the ephod; if you would take it for yourself, take it.

David obtained a weapon by telling a lie. He was fed by telling a lie. David continues his fearful journey alive and well, *but is his condition based in righteous action?*

Word eventually gets back to Saul that David had seen Ahimelech. Saul seeks him out to question him and the priest tells the King he knew nothing of David's being pursued by Saul. Ahimelech defends David's character before Saul because he does not know Saul had gone mad.

1 Samuel 22:14: (NASB) *Then Ahimelech answered the king and said, And who among all your servants is as faithful as David, even the king's son-in-law, who is captain over your guard, and is honored in your house?*

Ahimelech restates his own innocence and then Saul has Ahimelech and 84 others killed.

**Need remembrance, Matthew O'Reilly, "Am I Dying?" The Honest Answer, TED Talks**



- *The second pattern I observe is the need for remembrance. Whether it was to be remembered in my thoughts or their loved ones', they needed to feel that they would be living on. There's a need for immortality within the hearts and thoughts of their loved ones, myself, my crew or anyone around. Countless times I have had a patient look me in the eyes and say, "Will you remember me?"*

By being honest with them he gave them the opportunity to express themselves.

1 Samuel 22:20-22: (NASB) <sup>20</sup>But one son of Ahimelech...escaped and... <sup>21</sup>...told David that Saul had killed the priests of the LORD. <sup>22</sup>Then David said to Abiathar, I knew on that day, when Doeg the Edomite was there, that he would surely tell Saul. I have brought about the death of every person in your father's household.

David admits the unrighteousness of his military tactic. His desperation and lie put many innocent people in harm's way.



**As a Christian, think on honest things.**

**Philippians 4:8: (KJV) ...whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.**

**Hebrews 1:9: (NIV) You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy.**



## What was the difference in the lies David told that made one a military tactic and the other an accessory to unjust killing?

The difference was monumental. The first story was told to his enemy to flush out his enemy's position. The second was told to a friend and a priest of God. David told the story to protect him, but by his own admission he also knew it would not hold up. This ended up being a well-intentioned wrongdoing.

Acting in an unrighteous way has consequences. We are not perfect, and we will all make mistakes.

### Need meaning, *Matthew O'Reilly, "Am I Dying?" The Honest Answer, TED Talk*

- The final pattern I observe always touched me the deepest, to the soul. The dying need to know that their life had meaning. They need to know that they did not waste their life on meaningless tasks. This came to me very, very early in my career. I had responded to a call. There was a female in her late 50s severely pinned within a vehicle. She had been t-boned at a high rate of speed; critical, critical condition. As the fire department worked to remove her from the car, I climbed in to begin to render care. As we talked, she had said to me, "There was so much more I wanted to do with my life." She had felt she had not left her mark on this earth. As we talked further, it would turn out that she was a mother of two adopted children who were both on their way to medical school. Because of her, two children had a chance they never would have had otherwise and would go on to save lives in the medical field as medical doctors. It would end up taking 45 minutes to free her from the vehicle. However, she perished prior to freeing her. I believed what you saw in the movies: when you're in those last moments that it's strictly terror, fear. I have come to realize, regardless of the circumstance, it's generally met with peace and acceptance, that it's the littlest things, the littlest moments, the littlest things you brought into the world that give you peace in those final moments.*

The three patterns in the final moments before death observed by Matthew O'Reilly:

- ❖ The need for forgiveness.
- ❖ The need for remembrance.
- ❖ The dying need to know their life had meaning.

He would have never come to those conclusions if he had decided to lie to people when they were dying.

As Christians, what are we supposed to do with this? What do we do with David taking it too far?

**First, realize Jesus acknowledged David's hunger and seeking of the bread as a legitimate action:**

**Mark 2:23-26:** (NASB) <sup>23</sup>And it happened that he was passing through the grain fields on the Sabbath, and his disciples began to make their way along while picking the heads of grain. <sup>24</sup>The Pharisees were saying to him, Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the Sabbath? <sup>25</sup>And he said to them, Have you never read what David did when he was in need and he and his companions became hungry; <sup>26</sup>how he entered the house of God in the time of Abiathar the high



priest, and ate the consecrated bread, which is not lawful for anyone to eat except the priests, and he also gave it to those who were with him?

Jesus was drawing attention to the fact that it was okay to do something to preserve life. It was appropriate. What David did to get the food was not appropriate.

Second, realize David himself looked back upon his life and took note of his costly errors and used them as teaching tools for others.

**Psalm 119 is a compilation of many of David's experiences, one of which commentators say is this very mistake:**

**Psalms 119:25-32:** (NASB) <sup>25</sup>My soul cleaves to the dust; Revive me according to Your word. <sup>26</sup>I have told of my ways, and You have answered me; Teach me Your statutes. <sup>27</sup>Make me understand the way of Your precepts, So I will meditate on Your wonders. <sup>28</sup>My soul weeps because of grief; Strengthen me according to Your word. <sup>29</sup>Remove the false way from me (KJV says, remove me from the way of lying) and graciously grant me Your law. <sup>30</sup>I have chosen the faithful way; I have placed Your ordinances before me. <sup>31</sup>I cling to Your testimonies; O LORD, do not put me to shame! <sup>32</sup>I shall run the way of Your commandments, For You will enlarge my heart.

We (Jonathan and Rick) both have white/gray hair. We have years behind us. When you have years behind you, you tend to look back over your life.



Perhaps David as an older man is looking back on his life and reminiscing, and saying, I should have slowed down, thought more carefully, spoken more prudently and acted more resourcefully and knowing what I know now, I would have done it differently. God blessed David in spite of his mistakes because his heart always went back to God. He will bless our mistakes as long as our heart goes back to Him. He will not bless us *because* of our lies or deceptions. We are imperfect. That is why we have prayer and forgiveness.

 **Corrie Ten Boom's sister, Charles Leiter, *Is it Ever Okay for a Christian to Lie***

- *You know, Corrie Ten Boom's sister strongly believed you should not lie. They had a trapdoor under the table, and her brothers hid in that trapdoor when the Germans came. They had a rug over the trapdoor, the table sitting on it. They said, "Where are your brothers?" And she said, "They're under the table." They looked under there, and they said, "Don't play games with us." Well, actually, they were under the table. God protected them.*

This is an inspiring example of wanting to be truthful but not telling all of the details when trying to protect someone.

Can God bless us when we act in an unrighteous way? Yes, He can. We are thankful for the wake-up calls when we do go down the wrong path and He straightens us out and pushes us in the right direction. Sometimes those can be the best growth experiences in our Christian walk.



When I was a kid, my younger brother and I were playing in the front yard. We had a big old Buick parked in our gravel driveway. For some unknown reason, the game was to throw rocks on top of the car. So, I picked up a big rock and said, "Dave, watch this!" I threw it and I broke the side window of the car. I was horrified. I am ashamed of this, but my gut reaction was to say, "Look what you did!" We went running in the house and I told my mother David broke the window in the car. He ended up sitting in the corner and I got to go back outside. After a few minutes, I dragged myself back inside and told my mom I broke the window. David got to go out and play and I got punished. I look back at that experience and I learned something. God can bless us if we act in an unrighteous way, but we need to be careful not to dwell in the unrighteousness. We have to rise above it.



**As a Christian, have an honest heart.**

**Luke 8:15:** (NASB) *But the seed in the good soil, these are the ones who have heard the word in an honest and good heart, and hold it fast, and bear fruit with perseverance.*

**As a Christian, have an honest reputation.**

**Acts 6:3:** (KJV) *Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.*

**As a Christian, provide that which is honest.**

**Romans 12:17:** (KJV) *Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men.*

**As a Christian, think on honest things.**

**Philippians 4:8:** (KJV) *...whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.*



**As a Christian, speak honestly to all.**

**1 Peter 2:12:** (KJV) *Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.*

**Live so that when your children think of fairness, caring, and integrity, they think of you.**  
— H. Jackson Brown, Jr.

Unrighteousness happens. Get your heart focused back on God so you can do things that will bring praise and honor to Him.



**So, does God bless us when we act in an unrighteous way?  
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...  
Think about it...!**



**And now even more to think about...  
only in the **Full Edition** of CQ Rewind!**



***The strength of a nation derives from the integrity of the home. – Confucius***

***I never questioned the integrity of an umpire. Their eyesight, yes. – Leo Durocher***

***You are in integrity when the life you are living on the outside matches who you are on the inside. – Alan Cohen***

***Your peers will respect you for your integrity and character, not your possessions. – David Robinson***

***If you have integrity, nothing else matters. If you don't have integrity, nothing else matters. – Harvey Mackay***

***Subtlety may deceive you; integrity never will. – Oliver Cromwell***

***A life lived with integrity - even if it lacks the trappings of fame and fortune is a shining star in whose light others may follow in the years to come. – Denis Waitley***

Here are some quotes from Psalms and Proverbs relating to honesty and lying. The first two Psalms have a bearing on the stories of today's podcast:

**This Psalm was written by David to condemn the spitefulness of Doeg the Edomite who relayed the narrative to Saul that resulted in the killing of the house of Ahimelech:**

**Psalms 52:1-9: (KJV) <sup>1</sup>Why boastest thou thyself in mischief, O mighty man? the goodness of God endureth continually. <sup>2</sup>Thy tongue deviseth mischiefs; like a sharp razor, working deceitfully. <sup>3</sup>Thou lovest evil more than good; and lying rather than to speak righteousness. Selah. <sup>4</sup>Thou lovest all devouring words, O thou deceitful tongue. <sup>5</sup>God shall likewise destroy**



*thee forever, he shall take thee away, and pluck thee out of thy dwelling place, and root thee out of the land of the living. Selah. <sup>6</sup>The righteous also shall see, and fear, and shall laugh at him: <sup>7</sup>Lo, this is the man that made not God his strength; but trusted in the abundance of his riches and strengthened himself in his wickedness. <sup>8</sup>But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God: I trust in the mercy of God for ever and ever. <sup>9</sup>I will praise thee forever, because thou hast done it: and I will wait on thy name; for it is good before thy saints.*

### **This Psalm was written when David's house was being watched by Saul's men to trap and kill him:**

**Psalms 59:8-13:** (KJV) *<sup>8</sup>But thou, O LORD, shalt laugh at them; thou shalt have all the heathen in derision. <sup>9</sup>Because of his strength will I wait upon thee: for God is my defense. <sup>10</sup>The God of my mercy shall prevent me: God shall let me see my desire upon mine enemies. <sup>11</sup>Slay them not, lest my people forget: scatter them by thy power; and bring them down, O Lord our shield. <sup>12</sup>For the sin of their mouth and the words of their lips let them even be taken in their pride: and for cursing and lying which they speak. <sup>13</sup>Consume them in wrath, consume them, that they may not be: and let them know that God ruleth in Jacob unto the ends of the earth. Selah.*

**Psalms 31:15-18:** (KJV) *<sup>15</sup>My times are in thy hand: deliver me from the hand of mine enemies, and from them that persecute me. <sup>16</sup>Make thy face to shine upon thy servant: save me for thy mercies' sake. <sup>17</sup>Let me not be ashamed, O LORD; for I have called upon thee: let the wicked be ashamed and let them be silent in the grave. <sup>18</sup>Let the lying lips be put to silence; which speak grievous things proudly and contemptuously against the righteous.*

**Psalms 109:1-5:** (KJV) *<sup>1</sup>Hold not thy peace, O God of my praise; <sup>2</sup>For the mouth of the wicked and the mouth of the deceitful are opened against me: they have spoken against me with a lying tongue. <sup>3</sup>They compassed me about also with words of hatred; and fought against me without a cause. <sup>4</sup>For my love they are my adversaries: but I give myself unto prayer. <sup>5</sup>And they have rewarded me evil for good, and hatred for my love.*

**Proverbs 6:12-19:** (NASB) *<sup>12</sup>A worthless person, a wicked man, is the one who walks with a perverse mouth, <sup>13</sup>Who winks with his eyes, who signals with his feet, who points with his fingers; <sup>14</sup>Who with perversity in his heart continually devises evil, who spreads strife. <sup>15</sup>Therefore his calamity will come suddenly; instantly he will be broken and there will be no healing. <sup>16</sup>There are six things which the LORD hates, Yes, seven which are an abomination to Him: <sup>17</sup>Haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, <sup>18</sup>A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that run rapidly to evil, <sup>19</sup>A false witness who utters lies, and one who spreads strife among brothers.*

**Proverbs 12:17-20:** (NASB) *<sup>17</sup>He who speaks truth tells what is right, But a false witness, deceit. <sup>18</sup>There is one who speaks rashly like the thrusts of a sword, But the tongue of the wise brings healing. <sup>19</sup>Truthful lips will be established forever, but a lying tongue is only for a moment. <sup>20</sup>Deceit is in the heart of those who devise evil, but counselors of peace have joy.*

**Proverbs 13:3-7:** (NASB) *<sup>3</sup>The one who guards his mouth preserves his life; The one who opens wide his lips comes to ruin. <sup>4</sup>The soul of the sluggard craves and gets nothing, But the soul of the diligent is made fat. <sup>5</sup>A righteous man hates falsehood, but a wicked man acts disgustingly and shamefully. <sup>6</sup>Righteousness guards the one whose way is blameless, but wickedness subverts the sinner. <sup>7</sup>There is one who pretends to be rich, but has nothing; Another pretends to be poor, but has great wealth.*

### **Commentaries on Psalm 119:**

(Source: Biblical commentary by Matthew Poole) And because this Psalm was very large, and the matter of it of greatest importance, the psalmist thought fit to divide it into two and twenty several parts, according to the number of the Hebrew letters, that so he might both prevent tediousness, and fix it in the memory. It is further observable that the word of God is here diversely called by the names of law, statutes, precepts or commandments, judgments, ordinances, righteousness, testimonies, way, and word; by which variety He designed to express



the nature and the great perfection and manifold parts and uses of God's word: which is called His word, as proceeding from His mouth, and revealed by Him to us; His way, as prescribed by Him for us to walk in; His law, as binding us to obedience, His statutes, as declaring His authority and power of giving us laws, His precepts, as declaring and directing our duty; His ordinances, as ordained and appointed by Him; His righteousness, as exactly agreeable to God's righteous nature and will; His judgments, as proceeding from the great Judge of the world, and being His judicial sentence to which all men must submit; and His testimonies, as it contains the witnesses of God's mind and will, and of man's duty.

(Source: Biblical commentary by Jamieson, Fausset and Brown) This celebrated Psalm has several peculiarities. It is divided into twenty-two parts or stanzas, denoted by the twenty-two letters of the Hebrew alphabet. Each stanza contains eight verses, and the first letter of each verse is that which gives name to the stanza. Its contents are mainly praises of God's Word, exhortations to its perusal, and reverence for it, prayers for its proper influence, and complaints of the wicked for despising it. There are but two verses (Psalms 119:122,132) which do not contain some term or description of God's Word.

### Finally, a look at the integrity of those who would lead the flock are supposed to have:

**1 Timothy 3:1-7:** (NASB) <sup>1</sup>*It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do.* <sup>2</sup>*An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,* <sup>3</sup>*not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but gentle, peaceable, free from the love of money.* <sup>4</sup>*He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity* <sup>5</sup>*(but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?),* <sup>6</sup>*and not a new convert, so that he will not become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil.* <sup>7</sup>*And he must have a good reputation with those outside the church, so that he will not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.*



Join us next week for our January 29, 2018, podcast,  
"Has the Gospel Been Corrupted?" (Part I)