The Ninth Commandment: Speaking the Truth

Exodus 20:16

I. God Cares About Honesty

“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.”

A. Honesty of speech

Zechariah 8:16–17 “… Speak the truth to one another; render in your gates judgments that are true and make for peace; do not devise evil in your hearts against one another, and love no false oath, for all these things I hate, declares the Lord.”

B. Honesty in business

Proverbs 11:1 “A false balance is an abomination to the Lord, but a just weight is his delight.”

C. Honesty of thoughts

Psalm 24:4 “He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully.”

D. Honesty of testimony

Proverbs 19:9 “A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who breathes out lies will perish.”

E. Honesty of praise

Psalm 12:3 “May the Lord cut off all flattering lips, the tongue that makes great boasts…”
F. Dishonesty robs us of peace

1 Peter 3:10 “…whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit;”

G. Dishonesty robs us of fellowship with God

Psalm 101:7 “No one who practices deceit shall dwell in my house; no one who utters lies shall continue before my eyes.”

H. Dishonesty leads to eternal judgement

Revelation 21:8 “But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.”

II. God Cares about Justice

“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.”

A. So that the innocent won’t die

Deuteronomy 17:6–7 “On the evidence of two witnesses or of three witnesses the one who is to die shall be put to death; a person shall not be put to death on the evidence of one witness. The hand of the witnesses shall be first against him to put him to death, and afterward the hand of all the people. So you shall purge the evil from your midst.”

B. A very sad story…

- 1 Kings 21:1-27
- Naboth was a vineyard owner from Jezreel.
- King Ahab’s neighbor.
- He refused to put a price tag on his ancestor’s homestead
- By that he deeply offended king Ahab
- The whole justice system turned against Naboth.
- Naboth didn’t just loose his case, he lost his life…
C. Our words can destroy outside of courtroom

- When our neighbor is more successful than us.
- When people don’t agree with us.
- When we are offended.
- When justice is perverted by its keepers.
- When injustice wears a cloak of piety.

III. How Do We Keep It?

A. Satan is the father of lies

John 8:44 “He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”

B. Believe in the God of Truth

- The Father - “…He who sent me is true…” (John 7:28)
- The Son – “I am the way, and the truth, and the life.” (John 14:6)
- The Spirit - “When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth…” (John 16:13)

C. Abide in the God of Truth

2 Corinthians 13:14 “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.”

You will speak the truth in love by abiding in the God of Truth