

## Minister's Message – October 2006

### What is Truth?

The renowned doctor realised that his patient needed a heart transplant. He also knew that she was mentally unstable, and that such a condition reduced her chances of getting a transplant according to the hospital's transplant priority system. He chose to lie about his patient's condition before the medical board in order for her to get a priority transplant. She got the transplant and survived.

Although this scenario was on a TV drama it is not uncommon in real life. Maybe it is because of such shows in which the hero tells a lie to save his friend, that a child in Sunday School said 'it's okay to tell a lie sometimes isn't it'. Do you believe it is okay to tell a lie in some situations? Do you believe the doctor did an honourable thing in lying to save his patient's life?

One of the ten commandments God gave to his people was *do not bear false witness against your neighbour* (Deuteronomy 5:20). This means do not lie to your neighbour. Do not lie to anyone. *Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, but those who deal truthfully are his delight* said the wise Solomon (Proverbs 12:22). There is no word in the Bible about exceptions to this command. Yes, Rahab did lie to protect the two spies, but this was before she knew God's command. Moreover, she was not commended for telling a lie.

Why is it wrong to tell lies? Obviously your neighbour who is told the lie is deceived and so hurt in some way. But more than this, Jesus is the truth. The Son of Man and the Son of God never told a lie. He is the epitome of truth. He is the truth. Lies and deception are the very essence of sin. Truth is the essence of righteousness.

Lies were flying thick and fast when Jesus was on trial. In the midst of his trial Jesus said to Pilate that he came into the world that *I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears my voice* (John 18:37). This comment led Pilate to ask Jesus 'What is truth?' This profound question has echoed down through history. Most of us seek after truth because we hate lies. But we continue to lie because we have sinful hearts. We cannot stop telling lies because it is so easy, and gets us out of trouble so often. Sin is never difficult!

The crunch will come on Judgment Day when we stand before Jesus. Lies that were so effective before men, will not work with Jesus, for he knows even our thoughts. He is the ultimate lie detector. We will all stand before the Righteous Judge, the One who knows the whole truth about us. There will be no place to hide. There will be no more excuses.

The good news is that if you hear the voice of Jesus today, admit that you are a liar, and repent of your sin, Jesus will forgive you. If you believe that Jesus is the truth you will know the way to the heaven. Jesus said *I am the way, the truth and the life; no one comes to the Father except through me* (John 14:6). Yes, these are the words of Jesus himself. You can believe what he said for he spoke the truth always. Jesus is the truth.

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