



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Lookin' for a Leader Series, Lesson 23

Lesson Title: Trick or Treat

Take Home Point: Don't listen to Satan's lies; trust Jesus.

Warm-Up:

When you were younger, did someone get you in trouble by telling you a lie? I actually did it to myself. When I was in high school, my parent's rule was that we were to be home by midnight, unless they approved a special occasion ahead of time. But late in my senior year, I convinced myself that I was mature enough and deserved to be out later. I told myself my parents wouldn't really mind, especially on a Friday night. So, one time I stayed out until 2 AM. Feeling really good about my independence, but being careful nonetheless, I rolled my car quietly into the driveway. But when I tried to go in the house, I found the door locked. So I tried the back door. Locked. I didn't even bother to try to wake my folks. I knew I had done wrong by staying out, and I was ashamed that I believed my own lie. That night I slept in my car.

Read: Ephesians 2:8, 9

Observation (What happened?):

What is the source of our salvation?

Why have we been created in Christ Jesus?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

What amount of faith do you think it takes to be saved by God's grace?

What does it mean to you that God has made you who you are?

Insight:

Have you ever thought about why Satan lies? Why he told all those lies to the people we know in the Bible and why he still lies to us today? Usually when people lie, it is to cover up something they know is wrong. We don't want to face the consequences of disobedience or error, whether that is simply embarrassment or punishment. But Satan knows that he faces the ultimate consequence for lying to himself. In Isaiah 14:14(NIV) it is recorded that Satan said, *"I will make myself like the Most High."* He convinced himself he could be like God, which is the biggest lie of all. And the consequence is eternal separation from God. Satan doesn't lie to avoid consequences; he is so filled with hatred toward any follower of God that he tells lies just so others join him in sin and its consequences. He delights in those who believe his lie that God is an angry deity eagerly waiting to zap them. He delights in telling us that we are no good, worthless, too sinful for God to forgive. Those are lies, blaspheming a compassionate God who gave his Son to die in our place because we are worth that sacrifice.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

What good work has God prepared in advance for you to do? How do you know?

Pray for the children in your small group to resist Satan's lies about Jesus and life in him.

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