

Date: _____



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

A Whole New You Series, Lesson 24

Lesson Title: New Ears

Take Home Point: Tune into God's truth and tune out the world's lies.

Warm-Up:

"If you tell a lie loud enough and long enough, people will believe it." That brash statement was attributed to Joseph Goebbels, the propaganda minister of Adolph Hitler. If it was not original with him, he certainly understood its accuracy. Of course, telling lies loud and long occurred well before the past century, and continues unabated today. Satan has been at it since his fall from the presence of God, and he has honed his skill to the ultimate in the thousands of years since. As my pastor once said in a sermon, "Satan will lie and tell you that the sin with which you are being tempted is no big deal. But once you give in he comes back with another lie, telling you that it's such a big deal that God won't and can't forgive you." Both are lies he tells loud enough and long enough that many believe them to be true, but nothing is further from the truth.

Read: Matthew 4:1-11; 5:3-11; 27:39-42; John 8:42-47; 10:27; 2nd Timothy 4:3-4

Observation (What happened?):

What did Paul promise Timothy would happen over time?

Why could the Jews not understand what Jesus was telling them?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Why did Jesus not succumb to Satan's temptations?

What do we need to do to follow the teaching of Jesus in Matthew 5:1-11?

Insight:

Matthew 5:1-11 is called the Beatitudes; in each verse the word "blessed" means "happy." What do you suppose Satan's "Unbeatitudes" lies would be like?

Unhappy are those who are poor in spirit; God doesn't really care about them anyway.

Unhappy are those who mourn; there is no hope in this life or the next.

Unhappy are those who are gentle; they don't grab all they can.

Unhappy are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness; they are too sinful ever to receive it.

Unhappy are those who show mercy; they lose the advantage every time.

Unhappy are those who are pure in heart; they miss out on all the fun.

Unhappy are those who make peace; they don't get to have their revenge.

Unhappy are those who are persecuted for doing what God approves of; they are stupid and unpopular.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

What lie is Satan trying to get you to believe? How can you resist and refuse to listen?

If you don't already, start a habit this week of reading and memorizing verses in the Bible.