

Commandment # 9

Note: For much more on lying and false witness, check out these Toon Lessons, which should be combined with this lying series for greater effect.

http://toonspirit.net/lessons_and_studies/index.php?ls=lesson_19a

and

http://toonspirit.net/lessons_and_studies/index.php?ls=lesson_19b

And now, False Witness 1: "Perjury"

Ex 20: 16 You must not tell lies about your neighbor in court. (ICB)

This is a different version of the Bible called the International Children's Bible and the way this is worded, mentioning lying in court I understand, is one of the closest translations in Hebrew context.

For this lesson, we are studying perjury and potential effects of this type of lying. Perjury is when someone lies in court and/or under oath. This type of lie has some serious consequences.

What would it feel like to you if you were framed for a crime because of false accusers and witnesses?

I would presume that this would not feel very good, not to mention that the person framed would receive very bad consequences of someone else's lies.

We will see the DuckTales episode **Duckman Of Aquatraz**.

Cartoon Link:

http://toonspirit.net/lessons_and_studies/159/Duckman_Of_Aquatraz.webm

Bible Study And Discussion:

Our Bible Study for this lesson comes out of 1 Kings 21: 1-16. (KJV)

This is about a person named Naboth and the account of how he was framed for a crime he didn't commit.

1Ki 21:1 And it came to pass after these things, *that* Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard, which *was* in Jezreel, hard by the palace of Ahab king of Samaria.

1Ki 21:2 And Ahab spake unto Naboth, saying, Give me thy vineyard, that I may have it for a garden of herbs, because it *is* near unto my house: and I will give thee for it a better vineyard than it; *or*, if it seem good to thee, I will give thee the worth of it in money.

1Ki 21:3 And Naboth said to Ahab, The LORD forbid it me, that I should give the inheritance of my fathers unto thee.

1Ki 21:4 And Ahab came into his house heavy and displeased because of the word which Naboth the Jezreelite had spoken to him: for he had said, I will not give thee the inheritance of my fathers. And he

laid him down upon his bed, and turned away his face, and would eat no bread.

1Ki 21:5 But Jezebel his wife came to him, and said unto him, Why is thy spirit so sad, that thou eatest no bread?

1Ki 21:6 And he said unto her, Because I spake unto Naboth the Jezreelite, and said unto him, Give me thy vineyard for money; or else, if it please thee, I will give thee *another* vineyard for it: and he answered, I will not give thee my vineyard.

1Ki 21:7 And Jezebel his wife said unto him, Dost thou now govern the kingdom of Israel? arise, *and* eat bread, and let thine heart be merry: I will give thee the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite.

1Ki 21:8 So she wrote letters in Ahab's name, and sealed *them* with his seal, and sent the letters unto the elders and to the nobles that *were* in his city, dwelling with Naboth.

1Ki 21:9 And she wrote in the letters, saying, Proclaim a fast, and set Naboth on high among the people:

1Ki 21:10 And set two men, sons of Belial, before him, to bear witness against him, saying, Thou

didst blaspheme God and the king. And *then* carry him out, and stone him, that he may die.

1Ki 21:11 And the men of his city, *even* the elders and the nobles who were the inhabitants in his city, did as Jezebel had sent unto them, *and* as it *was* written in the letters which she had sent unto them.

1Ki 21:12 They proclaimed a fast, and set Naboth on high among the people.

1Ki 21:13 And there came in two men, children of Belial, and sat before him: and the men of Belial witnessed against him, *even* against Naboth, in the presence of the people, saying, Naboth did blaspheme God and the king. Then they carried him forth out of the city, and stoned him with stones, that he died.

1Ki 21:14 Then they sent to Jezebel, saying, Naboth is stoned, and is dead.

1Ki 21:15 And it came to pass, when Jezebel heard that Naboth was stoned, and was dead, that Jezebel said to Ahab, Arise, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, which he refused to give thee for money: for Naboth is not alive, but dead.

1Ki 21:16 And it came to pass, when Ahab heard

that Naboth was dead, that Ahab rose up to go down to the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, to take possession of it.

Do you see how Naboth got set up; what happened?

Naboth inherited this vineyard from his family line and the king wanted it so badly that he would do anything including allowing Jezebel to kill someone like Naboth.

How is this bad: Ahab got what he would call good consequences?

The problem is that Ahab and Jezebel are mean-spirited and selfish here. Naboth died defending the vineyard that was rightfully his and his inheritance that he would've loved to pass down to any children he had and so forth.

Jezebel went to great lengths. She set up false witnesses and charges against him and Naboth was sentenced to death by stoning. In other words,

envy and then lies killed Naboth.

Ahab and Jezebel are sentenced to death by God. Ahab died in battle in Ramothgilead (1 Kings 22). King Ahab was only allowed false information and then was even warned by Micaiah; King Ahab believed his false prophets instead and dies in battle; Jezebel gets executed by King Jehu (2 Kings 9: 30-37).

Now, think back to our cartoon **Duckman Of Aquatraz**, what did you think of Glumgold's scheme?

Like King Ahab, Flintheart Glumgold is extremely envious and is willing to set Scrooge up (like King Ahab and Jezebel). He didn't resort to murder, but he is trying to take Scrooge out of the picture nonetheless.

Ironically, the true portrait that Scrooge contracted for and bought was painted by the guy that Glumgold used to set up and frame Scrooge. This painter shouldn't be in business if he is going to be shady. After this, if I knew about the incident, I

don't think that I would trust him.

Who are the witnesses against Scrooge?

Scrooge's family and friends were unwitting witnesses against Scrooge, their words turned into lies at the hands of the prosecution and look who the prosecutor is—a weasel.

I think that it is really horrible that the prosecution attacked Scrooge with his own family and then twisted their words—it's realistic, but what a travesty.

The prosecutor also used only a small piece of a video recording and not the context of it, although if you blink, you may miss the truth like the nephews.

What do you think of Mad Dog McGurk?

This guy is really lonely in prison and has no visitors because his mom can't afford to come.

I like what Scrooge did to help him. Scrooge brought in Mad Dog's mom, and showed true friendship and was the voice of reason during the escape scenes. Escaping, most of the time isn't going to help anything—it usually makes you look guiltier and increases the sentence.

Do you think that the ends justify the means; did Glumgold get what he deserved?

I would say no to this because Flintheart framed Scrooge and Mad Dog, got a guy to tamper with evidence by destroying it, used a false witness of a video tape etc. and literally tried to steal the life of these two innocent people (by making them go to prison). Flintheart's crime was not just “stealing his own painting” as the cartoon suggests. Remember, Scrooge got 15 years in Aquatraz for this false crime report. Mad Dog probably got a similar sentence for robbery as well. Flintheart was very selfish and mean-spirited (just like King Ahab and Jezebel). The perjury that Glumgold committed was actually a false police report; when you file a police report, you are under oath that it's the truth

legally speaking (at least in the U.S.).

I want to also explain in passing that Jesus was also the victim of perjury, for He was convicted under testimony of false witnesses as well and died for these “crimes”. Naboth and Jesus have a lot in common.

The Bible says this in Leviticus 19: 11:

Lev 19:11 Ye shall not steal, neither deal falsely, neither lie one to another. (KJ21)

There is a good reason for this rule in Leviticus, that is lives are in the balance with the court. The right people should be punished and the right people should be set free.

It's interesting though how the Jewish laws worked especially before the law of grace, but also how things really haven't changed now. In court, it is good to have witnesses (although in the U.S., it doesn't guarantee conviction of a defendant).

In Jewish culture, it takes two or three witnesses to convict, but prudence is still advised to see if a witness is committing perjury.

Let's look at Deuteronomy 19: 15-21 (KJV)

Deu 19:15 One witness shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity, or for any sin, in any sin that he sinneth: at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established.

Deu 19:16 If a false witness rise up against any man to testify against him that which is wrong;

Deu 19:17 Then both the men, between whom the controversy is, shall stand before the LORD, before the priests and the judges, which shall be in those days;

Deu 19:18 And the judges shall make diligent inquisition: and, behold, if the witness be a false witness, and hath testified falsely against his brother;

Deu 19:19 Then shall ye do unto him, as he had

thought to have done unto his brother: so shalt thou put the evil away from among you.

Deu 19:20 And those which remain shall hear, and fear, and shall henceforth commit no more any such evil among you.

Deu 19:21 And thine eye shall not pity; but life shall go for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot.

According to this biblical principle, Flintheart should be getting 15 years in prison for Scrooge's sentence and whatever sentence Mad Dog McGurk had, not just Scrooge's picture on his mantle for 15 years; he got off too easy.

Due prudence should be administered in the churches too.

Let's look at Matthew 18: 15-17 (ISV)

Mat 18:15 "If your brother sins against you, go and confront him while the two of you are alone. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother.

Mat 18:16 But if he doesn't listen, take one or two

others with you so that 'every word may be confirmed by the testimony of two or three witnesses.'

Mat 18:17 If, however, he ignores them, tell it to the congregation. If he also ignores the congregation, regard him as a gentile and a tax collector.

Unfortunately, a lot of times, conclusions are jumped to even there.

There are a lot of good reasons that God frowns on perjury. Lies like this kind can and does ruin physical lives and a lot of times can kill. God will need to make positive things out of bad situations like this.

In the cartoon, Mad Dog got new friends, Scrooge appreciates his freedom a lot more than he did.

My only hope is that Mad Dog didn't just get to swim in Scrooge's money and that he got a little of it too with a little generosity and even if not, Scrooge and Mad Dog should perhaps sue Flintheart for damages.

The truth in court is so important that we take an oath to speak it in a court setting and is one of the highest principles of the land with good reason.

This means that we don't want to file false police reports, frame someone intentionally, or talk without the facts.

God is watching and will pronounce judgment on perjurers that don't repent (like all liars). We need to watch ourselves to speak the truth when under oath. Let's pray that we keep clean of this dangerous form of lying.