

DEEP SIX STUDY

January 16th, 2022

Hidden Me – “The Lies We Live”

MESSAGE HIGHLIGHTS (You can view the full message online at capecodchurch.com/Watch)

Opening: We kick off a new message series this week – “Hidden Me” – about the spiritual things we wrestle with and that tend to sabotage everything we’re hoping for, the inner struggles that separate us from God’s best plans for our lives. And like the Rosetta Stone of antiquity, the parables of Jesus – especially the Parable of the Prodigal Son – are given to us in one “language” to help us understand another – the language of the Hidden Me. This week, we explore the lies of that language.

1. The Lies We Live (Luke 15:17-19)

- The younger son in the parable, after offending his father deeply and squandering his inheritance, “comes to his senses” and decides to beg his father to take him back as a lowly servant – because “I am no longer worthy to be called your son.”
- The son got into trouble because he acted on a lie: “I’d be better off if I was out on my own with my own money” – a lie that became the loudest voice in his life. Once that lie had destroyed his life, another took hold: “I’ve blown it forever; I’m not even worthy to be called my father’s son.”

2. Name Your Enemy (John 8:44-45)

- The lies we believe separate us from God’s best for us. So the question becomes, “Who, exactly, is lying to us?” Jesus had a name for him: “The father of lies...the *devil*.”
- Throughout history, preachers, prophets and theologians have identified three “enemies of the soul”: the *world*, the *flesh* and the *devil*. The world around us, the flesh within us, and the devil. The devil (according to Jesus) is real, and lies to us to try to separate us from God’s best for us.
- Sometimes the devil creates and tells lies that are global and catastrophic when believed by enough people – like the lie of “separate but equal” in the Jim Crow south and in Nazi Germany. Often, though, his lies are personal and insidious – like, “You’re not worthy of the Father’s love.”

3. Tell Him the Truth (Matthew 4:1-11; John 10:10^{NIV})

- When attacked and tempted by the lies of the devil, Jesus responded (counter-attacked) with the truth of Scripture, God’s Word. The devil had no answer, and “went away” from Jesus.
- The best way to combat the lies of the devil (and the world, and the flesh...) is with the truth of Scripture. The enemies of our soul – and the lies they tell – can’t withstand the truth of God.
- Jesus is fighting for our lives, fighting against the enemies of our soul on our behalf. *The Enemy* – the devil – wants spiritual death (or impotence) for us; Jesus wants us to have “*life*, and have it to the full.” He has already defeated the power of the devil; we just need to lean into that truth.

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE

These passages may provide additional insights related to the subject of this week's message.

Psalms 25:4-5; Proverbs 12:19; John 8:31-32; Ephesians 6:11-14; 2 Timothy 1:7; 1 Peter 5:8-9

Video of the Week: [The Satan and Demons](#) by the Bible Project

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

1. Read the Parable of the Prodigal (Luke 15:10-32). When you read the parable, what part stands out to you the most – i.e., what's your favorite or *least favorite* part? Explain your answer.
2. Reading the parable, how many lies can you identify that either (or both) of the father's son's believed and lived out?
3. Of those lies, which ones have you been prone to believe and live out in your life? Explain your answer.
4. Why is it important to identify the source of the lies that separate us from the full life that God wants for us? Does it really matter which "enemy" (the world, the flesh or the devil) the lies come from?
5. Per the message (and Jesus' example), the best way to counteract the lies of the devil is with the truth of Scripture. As an exercise of that, what are some truths of Scripture (Bible verses and passages) that *should have* counteracted the big lie of "separate but equal" among Christians in the Jim Crow south and later in Nazi Germany?
6. Jesus (good) said that he came to give us "full life," and that the devil (evil) came to "steal, kill and destroy" us. Do you see your life as being part of a cosmic spiritual battle between good and evil? Why or why not? If so, then what's our part in that battle?