**Keeping it real**
A call to authenticity – part 1

**Text: Proverbs 6:16-19**

*These six things the Lord hates, Yes, seven are an abomination to Him: a proud look, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that are swift in running to evil, a false witness who speaks lies, and one who sows discord among brethren.*

This is a short list of things God feels very strongly about. One of them, He feels particularly strongly about, because he mentioned it twice in this list of 7: lying.

**Lying is a deliberate act that involves communicating something that is false, to giving an appearance that is deceptive or to create a perception that is misleading. It is an expression of dishonesty and insincerity.**

The Message Bible puts it like this: “God loathes [lying] with a passion”.

God hates lying. The devil is the father of lies. What God values is truth, authenticity and sincerity.

God wants us to be authentic in every area of our lives.

1. **Our relationship with God**

   a) Here’s an area that Jesus felt particularly strongly about because he kept confronting the spiritual leaders of Israel about their hypocrisy.

   He was fine around sinners that repented, tax collectors who later became followers, the poor and those suffering. However, He always showed righteous indignation towards the Pharisees, the Scribes and the Saducees. They were insincere and always had hidden agendas.

   **Matthew 22:15-18** - *Then the Pharisees went and plotted how they might entangle Him in His talk. 16 And they sent to Him their disciples with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that You are true, and teach the way of God in truth; nor do You care about anyone, for You do not regard the person of men. 17 Tell us, therefore, what do You think? Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?” 18 But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, “Why do you test Me, you hypocrites?*

   Jesus could spot fake people a mile away.

   b) Jesus could spot fake worship too:

   **Mark 7:6** - *He answered and said to them, “Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: ‘This people honors Me with their lips, but their*
heart is far from Me.

Jesus told the Samaritan woman that the Father was seeking those “who worshipped Him in spirit and in truth” (John 4:24)

He is looking for true worshipers - people with a true, authentic, sincere relationship with Him.

c) Jesus called out someone He found to be genuine:

**John 1:47** - Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!”

“no deceit” - adolos in the Greek, which means pure, unmixed, undefiled or genuine.

How important it is to come to God like that! God loathes lying but loves the pure in heart. They will see God!

In order to illustrate how strongly God feels about lying, my second example comes from a couple in the New Testament who didn’t stay on the side of the truth - over their giving.

2. **Our giving**

**Acts 5:1-4** - But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession. 2 And he kept back part of the proceeds, his wife also being aware of it, and brought a certain part and laid it at the apostles’ feet. 3 But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? 4 While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God.”

As we can see God does feel strongly about the truth. Their issue was not the size of the offering or even the offering itself but thinking they could lie to God. That was a costly mistake. God hates lying.

There is always a cost attached to lying.

I want to take you to another area in the Bible where someone was not truthful in regards to his faith.

3. **Compromise**

**Galatians 2:11-14** - Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed; 12 for before certain men came from James, he would eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing those who were of the circumcision. 13 And the rest of the Jews also played the hypocrite with him, so that even Barnabas was carried away with their hypocrisy. 14 But when I saw that
they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter before them all, “If you, being a Jew, live in the manner of Gentiles and not as the Jews, why do you compel Gentiles to live as Jews?”

Peter compromised because of being afraid of the Jews, he was not straightforward about the truth and ‘played the hypocrite’.

(God is calling us to live out the biblical values, in this hour. He is looking for the authentic church to rise up).

The way Paul confronted Peter reveals how strongly God feels about lying and hypocrisy.

**Hypocrisy:** The word came to denote a theatrical performance ("playing the hypocrite"). It means pretending or acting insincerely.

**Romans 12:9** – “Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good”.

(1 John 3:17-18 is a good example of that)

**KJV** – “Let love be without dissimulation”

**Dissimulation:** Concealment of one’s true thoughts, character or pretense. The act of faking one’s true feelings. False appearance.

**Conclusion:**

God loves sincerity.

**1 Corinthians 5:8** - Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

**Sincerity** – The word in Greek can be translated as ‘transparency or genuine purity’. However, it literally means “judged by sunlight” – one who does not fear through examination of his motives and intents because he has nothing to fear.

...to be continued.