



Ten Tall Tales We Tell Ourselves

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- “Above all, don't lie to yourself. The man who lies to himself and listens to his own lie comes to a point that he cannot distinguish the truth within him, or around him, and so loses all respect for himself and for others. And having no respect he ceases to love.” (Fyodor Dostoyevsky)

# Ten Tall Tales We Tell Ourselves

- “Rationalization is a process of not perceiving reality, but of attempting to make reality fit one’s emotions.” (Ayn Rand)
- “How pitiful is an intelligence used only to make excuses to quieten the conscience.” (Ignazio Silone)
- “He that is good for making excuses is seldom good for anything else.” (Benjamin Franklin)

# “I Don't Have Time”

- It is a matter of your chosen priorities
  - Ecc. 12:13-14 - “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all. 14 For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every secret thing, Whether good or evil.”
  - Matt. 6:33 - “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”

# “I Don’t Have Time”

- Matt. 16:26 - “For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”
- Will it matter in the Judgment if you get all the laundry done, lawn mowed, car washed, TV watched, promotion acquired, education completed, and your soul is lost

# “I Have Plenty Of Time”

- Is it laziness and procrastination?
  - Prov. 6:6, 9 - “Go to the ant, you sluggard! Consider her ways and be wise... 9 How long will you slumber, O sluggard? When will you rise from your sleep?”
  - Prov. 10:26 - “As vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the eyes, So is the lazy man to those who send him.”

# “I Have Plenty Of Time”

- Is it failure to believe that time is passing swiftly?
  - 1Peter 1:24 - “All flesh is as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away”
  - James 4:14 - “You do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.”

# “No One Will See Me”

- Num. 32:23 - “Take note, you have sinned against the LORD; and be sure your sin will find you out.”
- 2Sam. 12:7 - “Then Nathan said to David, You are the man!”
- Acts 5:1-11

# “No One Will See Me”

- Gen. 16:13 - “Then she called the name of the LORD who spoke to her, You-Are-the-God-Who-Sees; for she said, Have I also here seen Him who sees me?”
- Prov. 5:21 - “For the ways of man are before the eyes of the LORD, And He ponders all his paths.”
- 1John 3:20 - “For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things.”
- Heb. 4:13 - “And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.”

# “God Understands That’s The Way I Am; He Made Me That Way”

- God made you perfect
  - Ez. 28:15 - “You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, Till iniquity was found in you.”
  - Ecc. 7:29 - “Truly, this only I have found: That God made man upright, But they have sought out many schemes.”
- We choose the thoughts we think, the words we say, the acts we do

# “God Understands That’s The Way I Am; He Made Me That Way”

- God commands that we repent
  - Acts 17:30 - “Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent”
  - Luke 13:3 - “I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.”

# “I Can Ask For Forgiveness Later”

- This is a misuse of God’s grace, a manifestation of immature rebellion
- If one purposes to commit sin, can his repentance ever be trusted to come from the heart?
  - Rom. 6:17 - “But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered.”
- Are you certain that you will have an opportunity to repent later?

# “It’s Ok If My Intentions Are Good”

- Was that true for Uzzah?
  - 2Sam. 6:6-7 - “And when they came to Nachon's threshing floor, Uzzah put out his hand to the ark of God and took hold of it, for the oxen stumbled. 7 Then the anger of the LORD was aroused against Uzzah, and God struck him there for his error; and he died there by the ark of God.”
  - 1Chron. 15:13 - “For because you did not do it the first time, the LORD our God broke out against us, because we did not consult Him about the proper order.”

# “I’m Sure God Is Pleased With It”

- It feels right
  - 1Samuel 15:10-23
- The majority feels it’s okay
  - Ex. 23:2 - “You shall not follow a crowd to do evil; nor shall you testify in a dispute so as to turn aside after many to pervert justice.”
  - 1Kings 18:17 - “Then it happened, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said to him, Is that you, O troubler of Israel?”
- Any sin or error can be viewed with approval by the majority; that will never make a wrong into a right

# “I’m Sure God Is Pleased With It”

- Col. 3:17 - “And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”
- 1Cor. 4:6 - “You may learn in us not to think beyond what is written...”
- 2John 9-11 - “Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son. 10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him; 11 for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds.”

# “I’m Too Young”

- Not too young to be an example
  - 1Tim. 4:12 - “Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.”
  - Titus 2:6-8 - “Likewise exhort the young men to be sober-minded, 7 in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, 8 sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you.”

# “I’m Too Young”

- Not too young to overcome
  - 1John 2:13 - “I write to you, fathers, Because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, Because you have overcome the wicked one. I write to you, little children, Because you have known the Father.”

# “I’m Too Old; I’ve Done My Part”

- Who is to teach younger women?
  - Titus 2:3-4 - “The older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things-- 4 that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children”
- Who is to lead the congregation?
  - Acts 20:28 - “Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.”

# “They Will Never Convert”

- Rom. 1:16 - “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.”
- Luke 1:37 - “For with God nothing will be impossible”
- Acts 9:1, 18-20 - “Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest... 18 Immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized. 19 So when he had received food, he was strengthened. Then Saul spent some days with the disciples at Damascus. 20 Immediately he preached the Christ in the synagogues, that He is the Son of God.”

# “They Will Never Convert”

- 1Cor. 6:9-11 - “Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, 10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.”