

SLIDE EASTER Invest & Invite

SLIDE INTRODUCE

Well, if you have your Bibles, and I hope you do,

- please grab them and turn to 1 Samuel chapter 22.
- You can open a phone or a tablet to 1 Samuel 22,
- or you can use one of the hard-backed black bibles
 - under every single chair.
 - You'll find 1 Samuel 22 on page **245**.

INTRODUCTION: WAR OF THE WORLDS

On the night of October 30th, 1938

- legions of people turned the dial of their radio...
- to a chilling live CBS broadcast reporting...
- from the town of Grovers Mill, New Jersey,
 - just a short trek from Manhattan.

The report said that

- Professor Richard Pierson,
 - while standing watch at Princeton's observatory,
- had observed a rare meteor shower,
- and rushed to the scene to investigate.

But upon arrival,

- instead of debris and space rock,
- he found a large metal cylinder in the field,
 - still steaming
 - and making odd scraping noises
 - from inside its shell.

And as reporters...

- and first responders...
- and onlookers...
- examined the crash site,
- the cylinder began to open.

Mere seconds later the report announced America's worst fear:

- aliens had landed on the Eastern Seaboard.
 - The National Guard had been called in,
 - and bells rang to warn people to evacuate Manhattan.
- Then word came of more alien landfalls in Chicago
- and then St. Louis.

In light of this broadcast pandemonium broke out in the streets of the US.

- People fled in terror.
- People took refuge in churches.
- Pregnant women went into labor early.
- People committed suicide.
- Looting broke out in the streets.
- And men got out their guns preparing to make a final stand.

And all of that is completely true!

That really did happen!

But what people read the next day in the newspaper was sobering.

- The New York Daily News headline read,
- *"Fake Radio 'War' Stirs Terror Through U.S."*

You see, 23-year-old actor and director, Orson Welles,

- had bought the rights to the novel *The War of the Worlds*,
- and had formatted it into an hour-long life-like radio drama.

And in the 1930s American psyche:

- being on the verge of war with Germany...
- And still recovering from the Great Depression...

Well, anxiety was at an all-time high, and people freaked out.

TRANSITION: CONTEXT

Now, why do I share this story?

Well, as way of introduction to our text today,

- I want to recognize the very real-life implications
 - of believing lies
 - vs. believing truth.

While this fictional radio broadcast wasn't a lie, per se...

it did have drastic effects!

And this is what we see in our text today.

I'm calling today's sermon **SLIDE TWO LIES AND A TRUTH**

You remember that game, *Two Truths and a Lie*?

Well this is TWO LIES AND A TRUTH...

- Cause we're going to see two terrible...
 - terrible consequences of believing lies...
- AND a beautiful consequence of believing the truth.

So, let's set up the context.

- David killed Goliath.
- He wins fame and fortune.
- But King Saul becomes envious of David,
 - and that envy overtakes him
 - to the point where he wants David dead.
- So, David is on the run.

Last week we saw him running all over the place,

- to the Tabernacle,
- to the Philistines,
- even to the Moabites.

And that's where we pick up in 1 Samuel 22:6...

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1 SAMUEL 22:6

[6] Now Saul heard that David was discovered, and the men who were with him. Saul was sitting at Gibeah under the tamarisk tree on the height with his spear in his hand, and all his servants were standing about him.

EXPLAIN: SPEAR

So, Saul finds out what David has been up to.

- And Saul is in Gibeah,
 - that's Saul's hometown...
- and the text says he had his spear in his hand...

Which worries NO ONE! Right?

- Cause this guy can't do anything with it!
- He missed killing David with it 3 times,
- and even his son 1 time...at close range.
 - Bro needs some target practice, or something.

No, actually, the spear symbolized his kingship or kingly status.

- So, this is a flex.
- He's desperately trying to hold onto his authority.

Verse 7:

1 SAMUEL 22:7-8a

[7] And Saul said to his servants who stood about him, “Hear now, people of Benjamin; will the son of Jesse give every one of you fields and vineyards, will he make you all commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds, [8] that all of you have conspired against me?”

EXPLAIN

So, Saul uses a rhetorical question with his servants.

And note, he calls them **people of Benjamin**.

- Remember, Saul is from the tribe of Benjamin.
- Therefore, he has understandably surrounded himself...
- with servants and leaders from his own tribe.

Saul is a Benjamite, but David is from what tribe? The tribe of Judah.

- So, Saul says, “*Do you really think this Judahite...*
 - *will honor Benjamites...*
 - *and give you land,*
 - *and give you posts,*
 - *if he is made king?”*

But we’re seeing a couple things here.

First, Saul’s own countrymen are siding with David.

But second, this very thing was spoken about...

- back before there was a king.
 - At the beginning of this book,
 - the elders of Israel demand a king,
 - and God, through the prophet Samuel,
 - warns the people of this.

1 Samuel 8:

SLIDE 1 SAMUEL 8:12

[12] And he will appoint for himself commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and some to plow his ground and to reap his harvest, and to make his implements of war and the equipment of his chariots.

SLIDE 1 SAMUEL 8:14

[14] He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive orchards and give them to his servants.

So, this is what kings do.

- And God tried to warn Israel about that...
- when they demanded a king...
- but alas, it is too late.

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TRANSITION

And now Saul is trying his very best to keep his servants from aligning with David.

Oh, and note that from now on,

- Saul will not even call David by name.
- He calls him **the son of Jesse**.
 - He's needing to dehumanize,
 - to depersonalize David
- in order to justify what he's doing.

Ok, verse 8:

1 SAMUEL 22:8

[8] that all of you have conspired against me? No one discloses to me when my son makes a covenant with the son of Jesse. None of you is sorry for me or discloses to me that my son has stirred up my servant against me, to lie in wait, as at this day.”

POINT 1

Saul's suspicion is getting extreme:

- *“All of you have conspired against me!”*
 - He's accusing all his tribesmen of conspiracy.
 - He's accusing his son, Jonathan, of conspiracy.

Now, is that true or is that a lie? Yeah, it's a lie!

- There is no indication that Jonathan
- had caused David to rise up against Saul.

So, right here I'll make my first point.

Believing lies will lead to **SLIDE ISOLATION**

And hear me,

- when you're paranoid or suspicious...
- man, it skews how you see things!

Just notice Saul's language...it's all about me.

- *“Everyone's against me.*
- *No one told me.*
- *No one is sorry for me.”*
 - It's me, me, me.

And what does that do? It isolates you.

When we start believing, and even living out lies...it causes ISOLATION.

Now, verse 9:

1 SAMUEL 22:9a

[9] Then answered Doeg the Edomite,

EXPLAIN: DOEG

Oh man, here's Doeg again. You remember him from last week?

- Doeg was there last week when David ran to the Tabernacle
 - where Ahimelech the priest helped him out.
- Doeg was an Edomite.
 - Edomites are not Israelites.
 - They are long time enemies of Israel.
- And Doeg may have become Saul's servant
- after Saul's victory over Edom back in chapter 14.

But it is interesting that Saul cannot get any of his kinsmen to help him in this task, only a foreigner.

1 SAMUEL 22:9-10

[9] Then answered Doeg the Edomite, who stood by the servants of Saul, "I saw the son of Jesse coming to Nob, to Ahimelech the son of Ahitub, [10] and he inquired of the LORD for him and gave him provisions and gave him the sword of Goliath the Philistine."

EXPLAIN: CONSPIRACY

So, Doeg tattles on Ahimelech for helping **the son of Jesse**.

And note how he ramps things up...to feed into Saul's conspiracy theory:

- HE prayed for him
- and HE gave him provisions
- and HE gave him the sword of Goliath.

These words provoke the suspicion...

- that the priest was aiding David
- in military preparations against Saul.

They reinforce, and even exacerbate the lies!

APPLICATION: FACTS VS. TRUTH

Now, real quick:

- Are these things that Doeg says facts?
- Are they factual?
 - Yes.
- But are they true?

Now, you better know this...**there is a difference between facts and truth.**

And that might be worth the price of admission today!

Doeg is lying to Saul using facts!

Doeg states the facts of what he saw...

- It really happened!
 - But he put his spin on it...
 - to make it look like
 - an intentionally traitorous
 - act of conspiratory.

Facts + the wrong spin = falsehood

In reality last week we saw that...

- Ahimelech was trembling with fear,
 - acting out of fear,
- not conspiracy against Saul.

There's a difference between facts and truth.

You can know the facts...and still miss the truth!

And church, these are the types of lies that prey on us.

- Because they aren't unfactual!
- But they certainly aren't truth.

In fact, the most effective lies are the ones that are mostly factual.

- They're gonna sound right!
- They're gonna feel right!
- They're gonna promise you something!
 - *"Hey, you deserve to be happy!*
 - *And you haven't been happy in your marriage in years.*
 - *They just aren't the right fit for you.*
 - *It happens.*
 - *You married way too young.*
 - *If you were to divorce...*
 - *there's bound to be someone else...*
 - *who would be a better fit and make you happy."*

And we believe a lie...shrouded in facts!

Here's the truth, church: **we are in a war between truth and lies.**

- So, be careful who you listen to...
- be careful what news/social media you consume.
 - Man, if you're already a bit suspicious or paranoid,
 - there are some
 - who will feed that
 - and stoke that fire
 - and spin the facts
 - to help feed your delusion.

Believing lies will lead to ISOLATION.

Verse 11... **BLANK SLIDE**

1 SAMUEL 22:11-13

[11] Then the king sent to summon Ahimelech the priest, the son of Ahitub, and all his father's house, the priests who were at Nob, and all of them came to the king. [12] And Saul said, "Hear now, son of Ahitub." And he answered, "Here I am, my lord." [13] And Saul said to him, "Why have you conspired against me, you and the son of Jesse, in that you have given him bread and a sword and have inquired of God for him, so that he has risen against me, to lie in wait, as at this day?"

EXPLAIN

Notice the conspiracy has been solidified in Saul's mind.

- His delusion that everyone is against him...
- has now matured to the point where he thinks...
- That David is lying in wait against him.

But also note that,

- not only has Ahimelech been summoned,
- but all his father's house.

This means that all the priests, from his family, were there.

- Ahimelech was the son of Ahitub.
- Ahitub was the son of Phinehas.
- And Phinehas was the sketchy son of Eli...

the very priest who we read about in the beginning of 1 Samuel.

Verse 14:

1 SAMUEL 22:14-15

[14] Then Ahimelech answered the king, "And who among all your servants is so faithful as David, who is the king's son-in-law, and captain over your

bodyguard, and honored in your house? [15] Is today the first time that I have inquired of God for him? No! Let not the king impute anything to his servant or to all the house of my father, for your servant has known nothing of all this, much or little.”

EXPLAIN

So, Ahimelech tries to reason with Saul!

- He’s trying to unwind this conspiracy theory of lies.
- He’s trying so hard to share the truth with Saul:
 - *“David is so faithful to you.*
 - *David is your son-in-law.*
 - *David is a captain in your service.*
 - *David is honored in your house.”*

But Saul won’t have it. Verse 16:

1 SAMUEL 22:16

[16] And the king said, “You shall surely die, Ahimelech, you and all your father’s house.”

- The lies that Saul has believed...
 - that Doeg has fueled...
- are now leading to the murder of not only Ahimelech,
- but all his father’s house!

Verse 17:

1 SAMUEL 22:17

[17] And the king said to the guard who stood about him, "Turn and kill the priests of the LORD, because their hand also is with David, and they knew that he fled and did not disclose it to me." But the servants of the king would not put out their hand to strike the priests of the LORD.

EXPLAIN

So, Saul commands his servants...

- those Benjamites...
- those kinsmen...
- those who are closest to him...

to kill the priests of the Lord.

But they refuse. Again, such ISOLATION.

1 SAMUEL 22:18-19

[18] Then the king said to Doeg, "You turn and strike the priests." And Doeg the Edomite turned and struck down the priests, and he killed on that day eighty-five persons who wore the linen ephod. [19] And Nob, the city of the priests, he put to the sword; both man and woman, child and infant, ox, donkey and sheep, he put to the sword.

POINT 2

Let's make our second point:

Believing lies will lead to **SLIDE DEVASTATION**

It's DEVASTATION!

- Doeg is the only one
 - with a conscience seared dark enough
- to unjustly kill 85 priests.

Oh, and what's more,

- he goes to Nob, the priestly city of that time,
- and slaughters them all!
 - Men.
 - Women.
 - Children.
 - Even infants!
- He carries out total destruction on the priests' city...

Josephus, the ancient Jewish scholar, in his book *Antiquities of the Jews*,

- puts the grand total of those slaughtered by Doeg...
 - the priests, men, women, children, and even infants...
- at 385 in total.

When people believe lies...

- They reject God and his justice.
- They can become cruel,
 - totally destroying innocent people,
 - and at the same time becoming tolerant toward evil.

This is DEVASTATION.

And I don't think it would be an exaggeration to say this:

- This is demonic.

Do you remember what Jesus called the devil in John chapter 8?

I'll put it up on the screen:

SLIDE JOHN 8:44

[44] You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

Three things about the Devil from this passage.

ONE: This shows that the devil's end goal is to spread death.

- He was a murderer from the beginning.

TWO: This also shows that the devil is anti-truth...

- there is no truth in him.
 - though, he will often use facts to marr the truth.

THREE: Finally, this shows that the devil's method...is lies.

- His primary strategy...
- is to get you and I...
- to believe lies.

TRANSITION

And that's what has happened to Saul.

- Believing lies has led to his ISOLATION
- and now to great DEVASTATION.

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TWO LIES...but what of the TRUTH?

Well, look at verse 20:

1 SAMUEL 22:20-21

[20] But one of the sons of Ahimelech the son of Ahitub, named Abiathar, escaped and fled after David. [21] And Abiathar told David that Saul had killed the priests of the LORD.

EXPLAIN: PRIESTS

So, one of Ahimelech's sons, Abiathar, escaped and made his way to David to report what had happened.

- And whereas Saul is alienating the priests...
- David gains the last remaining priest from the family of Eli.

Thus, the priesthood and godly counsel have moved from Saul to David.

Verse 22:

1 SAMUEL 22:22-23

[22] And David said to Abiathar, "I knew on that day, when Doeg the Edomite was there, that he would surely tell Saul. I have occasioned the death of all the persons of your father's house. [23] Stay with me; do not be afraid, for he who seeks my life seeks your life. With me you shall be in safekeeping."

EXPLAIN

Ok, a couple things:

First, David is confronted with the consequences from his lie last week.

- David realizes that because of his sin,
 - his lie to Ahimelech,
- that has led to a great tragedy.

Sure,

- he got food...
- and a cool sword...
- and he thought he was protecting himself...
- and maybe even Ahimelech...

But now he realizes that his sin has affected other people.

And that's how it always works.

- Our sins always have negative effects...
- even in ways we have no ability to foresee.
 - We never sin in isolation.
 - It always affects others.

But second, David takes the wrap for this.

- He owns it.
- Even though Saul is the one who gave the order,
- David takes the blame.

Why? Because he believes the truth!

Gosh, he could have made excuses:

- *"I was on the run!"*
- *I was desperate!*
- *Saul caused me to need to lie!*
- *Doeg was sulking around!*
- *It's their fault!*
- *I was a victim!"*

But no! David mans up and lives in the truth.

- He walks in the truth.
- And that means owning his part.

But it also leads to something...

POINT 3

And let me make my third and final point from our text this morning.
Believing LIES leads to ISOLATION and DEVASTATION.

BUT...believing TRUTH will lead to **SLIDE SALVATION**

- Saul believes the lies and it leads him to disaster.
- But David believes the truth...
 - he owns his part...
 - he recognizes that it was, in part, his fault.
- And it leads him to God!

Last chapter he believed the lie...

- that he needed to lie...
 - in order to protect himself...
 - or to protect Ahimelech...
 - or to receive God's provision.

But now,

- when confronted with that lie...
- he doesn't double down like Saul does when he's confronted.

No! He believes the truth! He doesn't pass the buck.

- And, listen, because of that,
 - Abiathar will be David's priest,
 - and God will guide David through this priest.

Believing truth will lead to SALVATION.

So, to quote Jesus from John chapter 8.

- This is from the same exchange
- where Jesus calls Satan **the father of lies**,

But a few verses earlier, in John 8, we find these words:

SLIDE JOHN 8:31–32

[31] So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, [32] and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

The way to battle the lies of the enemy, is to believe the truth.

- The truth is what leads to freedom.
- The truth is what leads to SALVATION.

TRANSITION

- In Saul we find a liar...
 - who keeps believing the lies.
- But in David we also find a liar...
 - but when confronted with the truth,
 - he repents,
 - he owns it,
 - and he finds salvation.

So, we've seen **SLIDE W/PADS TWO LIES AND A TRUTH**

CONCLUSION

Now, most people think of truth as a WHAT...right?

But the WHAT are facts.

And in the Bible,

- the truth isn't a WHAT...
- the truth is a WHO.

Remember John 14:6?

JOHN 14:6

[6] Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

- Jesus IS the truth.
 - Not facts about him...
 - but HIM.
- He is the truth.

And believing the truth will lead to SALVATION...

So, I want you to ask you this:

- Do you believe in the TRUTH?
- Do you believe in Jesus?

And I also want to ask you the other question:

- Are you believing lies?
- Even lies coming out of facts?

And man, they are insidious:

- *"I can't trust my wife; she'll cheat on me just like my mom cheated on my dad."*
- *"Good things never happen to me, so why even try?"*
- *"If I had that thing, then I would be happy."*
- *"My best days are all behind me."*
- *"Stepping out in faith like this will end in disaster."*
- *"If anyone actually knew me, they would reject me."*
- *"God would never want me. Not after how I've lived."*

But those are lies!

- And the only way to battle the lies of the enemy...
- is to believe the words of truth.

2 Corinthians 4 says that **the god of this world has blinded the minds...**

And I just wonder how many of you today

- are believing some lies...
 - maybe even believing some facts...
- and it's just not working for you?

The call is to repentance.

It's to, like David...

- acknowledging where we've gone wrong,
- and admitting it,
- and saying to that wrong, *"No more!"*

And so, if as we've been working through this text...

- you're realizing that you've been believing lies...
- and it's been leading to isolation or even devastation...
- and you need to say, today, *"No more, Lord."*

Then I want to invite you to come back...

- to our prayer team members
- during our response time.

Let us pray for you and with you to believe the truth!

- Cry out to God...
- and ask him to help you...
- to believe the truth over the lies.

Let's get after this.

- Let's war against the lies and pursue the truth.

Pray with me.

RESPONSES:

Well, every week at Fathom we respond in 4 ways:

- COMMUNION – THE LORD’S SUPPER
- GIVING TITHES & OFFERINGS – fathomchurch.org/give
- PRAYER - fathomchurch.org/prayer
- SINGING

So, I’m going to read the Words of Institution from the Apostle Paul, we’ll take communion, and then we’ll sing:

1 CORINTHIANS 11:23–26 – WORDS OF INSTITUTION

[23] For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, [24] and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” **TAKE**

[25] In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” **TAKE**

[26] For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

Love you church, let’s stand and sing together.

RESOURCES CONSULTED:

- Chandler, Matt. *Awake to Truth*.
- Comer, John Mark. Live No Lies.
- Davis, Dale Ralph. Focus on the Bible. 1 Samuel: Looking on the Heart.
- Davis, Dale Raphy. *Antichrist Appears*.
- Josephus. Antiquities of the Jews.
<https://penelope.uchicago.edu/josephus/ant-6.html>
- Tsumura, David Toshio. The New International Commentary on the Old Testament. The First Book of Samuel.