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Jason Henderson  
Market Street Fellowship

### The Lie ~ pt. 3

Today I want to continue looking at the "the lie". One of the tricky things about working through a series is not knowing who was here the previous Sunday, as well as not knowing, of those who were here, who is tracking and who is confused. So it is sometimes difficult to know where to pick up, how much to review, how much to say, etc. Anyway, if you haven't listened to or read the last two week's teachings, I would recommend it to you as important to understanding what I want to talk about today.

I've been sharing about the lie that Adam and Eve accepted in the garden. And I've been trying to help us expand our view of that lie – what it was, what it did, what it changed, and why. And my goal in trying to get us to look at this is ultimately that we would come to a much greater view of the Light, the Truth, the way the lie is destroyed. Because, as we will see, if we underestimate the power and effect of the lie, then we will try to build the truth upon it. Christianity, then, will be only powerless doctrinal facts that we stack on top of a lie, rather than a PERSON who displaces the lie and fills our souls with Himself as the Truth.

Have you ever needed to see and feel the power of the Truth? I was thinking this week about some very difficult periods of time in my life where I was struggling with fear and pain and confusion. I remember in those times calling out to God the prayer of Psalm 43

**Psa 43:3** Oh, send out Your light and Your truth! Let them lead me; Let them bring me to Your holy hill And to Your dwelling place. **4** Then I will go to the altar of God, To God my exceeding joy; And on the harp I will praise You, O God, my God. **5** Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God; For I shall yet praise Him, The help of my countenance and my God.

I wish I would have known at that time, in all of my praying and fasting and seeking and asking, that before truth would ever end my pain, my situation, my circumstance...it had to deal with a lie that was far more than just what I believed. It had to deal with a lie that was part of my very nature. A lie that was behind everything. Not just a lie that I believed, but a lie that I became. A lie that I represented in the earth. What Jesus said to the Pharisees, can be said to natural man – "you are of your Father the devil. You desire the things of his will. He was a liar from the beginning and the father of it. When he speaks, he speaks out from his own nature". Those Pharisees weren't different than me by nature. Sure, they rejected the Messiah. But doesn't the lie cause us to do that every day?

What is this lie? We've spent two weeks looking at the reality that the heart of the lie is the belief, the certainty, the deeply seated idea that man has life, purpose, value, relevance, wisdom, destiny apart from God. And I have tried to demonstrate that that lie is far more than one of man's thoughts. That lie is the foundation for all

of man's thinking. It is the presupposition underneath every presupposition. It is the assumption behind all ideas, desires, and goals.

When Adam and Eve believed that lie, what they really did was take in to themselves a framework for understanding all things, a lens by which all things were viewed, a basis for all knowing. And perhaps the clearest way I described that lens last week was calling it a virus of self-obsession. Suddenly they contracted a lens whereby all things were viewed, not from the perspective of created purpose, but out from the context of self-fixation. All things became relevant to the extent that I am bettered by them. All things are true to the extent that I need them to be real. All things are good to the measure that I gain from them. Felt need became the most significant thing on earth. And could discern how to meet it. After all, I know good and evil, I can be wise, I have life, I can be like God, I know what God has said.

It is this lie that has saturated our soul. It has filled and formed all of our perception. It has caused us to name all things according to itself. We simply do not comprehend or acknowledge the incredible measure to which the lie has defined all of human thought, value, perspective and desire. We were born into it, and it is all that know and can see until we begin to see through Somebody Else's eyes. It is so familiar and established that we don't recognize it. We can't see the forest because of the trees. It's so close and comfortable that we would never suspect it to be so deadly and wrong.

In our Friday night group I resurrected an analogy that I haven't used for probably two years. It was an analogy that I used a while back in order to teach something about the otherness of Christ, and the mind of the Lord. And the more I thought about it, the more I thought it would be helpful to bring it back to help illustrate the lie and the light. So here we go.

Suppose you were born into a land where everything was red. There weren't seven colors of the rainbow. There were only seven shades of red and combinations thereof. Everything was red. There was light red, dark red, cherry red, red stripes, pale red, candy-apple red, etc. One color, and its variations. And it was as impossible for a person to imagine a color other than red as it is impossible for you to imagine a completely new color that isn't part of our known spectrum.

I remember as a kid trying to discover a brand new color. I just figured that there had to be a bunch of colors out there that just were awaiting discovery. It was probably a strange thing to think about as a kid, but I remember working at it. But, try as I might, my mind could only come up with versions and combinations of what it already knew. It was like I didn't possess the ability to look beyond what my mind had already observed. I simply could not imagine anything that didn't derive its reality from something that I had seen.

And the fact of the matter is that nobody has ever discovered or invented a new color because it is impossible for the mind to extend itself or create beyond what senses can perceive. The mind of man is quite creative, but its creativity has its limits. Even the most abnormal and bizarre fairy-tale creature that man can invent, for instance, is merely a mixture or enlargement or modification of something that already exists. A twenty foot spider. A miniature person with hummingbird wings. A talking sponge with boxer shorts. Whatever. Strange, yes. But not truly new.

Maybe you've never thought of that. Well, that isn't just an unimportant rabbit trail. It actually plays quite nicely into what I'm trying to demonstrate. Man cannot look or imagine beyond the realm and reality into which it is born. And so, getting back to our person born in Red-Land, such a person could only know, imagine, and understand all things as some version of red.

So, what would happen if somebody were to come up to a native of Red-Land and begin to describe the color blue. Lets just say that a person who had seen blue sat down with a Red-Land native and spent hour upon hour detailing this completely different color called blue.

Even if that person could perfectly describe blue, and if he chose the best possible words and analogies and adjectives...still, the hearer could only imagine it as some form of red. Red is all that that mind has to work with. So of course blue would have to be imagined as some altered form of red. And the problem wouldn't be that they weren't trying hard enough to understand, the problem would be that they didn't have the right foundation from which to begin. They are trying to erase their presuppositions in order to get this new color Blue...but there is something deeper than their presuppositions. There is the reality that everything that they have ever seen, known, understood, and imagined, is red.

Lets say that, after listening to this description of blue for hours and hours, the Red-Land native decides that he finally gets it. He runs home and gets out his box of crayons and attempt to draw what he has conceived on a piece of paper. And just in case he gets it wrong, he draws eight or ten different variations of what Blue must be. Blue must be one of these, or something like it.

So he brings the piece of paper back to the man who has seen blue, and the man just shakes his head. Its not blue. Everything on the page is some variation of red. So the Red-Land man, wanting to get this right, says "ok, just show me what part of this isn't blue, and I'll fix it. Is it this part that is wrong, or that part. Is this not dark enough, is that not light enough. Just tell me where to make the adjustments".

I hope you can follow the point I'm trying to make. I'm not talking about color. I'm talking about the lie. The lie was not something you could point to on that piece of paper. I mean, sure what was drawn there is a reflection of the lie, an out-growth of the lie. But the lie is bigger than that. The lie was the color of the crayon. The lie was the color of the paper. The lie was the was the color of the world. The lie was the color in their head before they even grabbed a crayon. Red was the starting point of every thought of blue. **And that is how the lie functions in our soul until it is displaced by the Light.**

Maybe you are thinking, what kind of lie could possibly be so pervasive and deep-seated and intrinsic to all that I think and perceive? The lie that Adam and his kind became when they believed that they had life, purpose, wisdom, relevance, and destiny independent of God. That lie is what we bring with us to every Bible study. It is there when we're thinking about how to be good Christians. It is there when we're praying, and singing, and serving. It colors all things with its color.

I've already mentioned how it colors our views of Christ and His church. Sure, "God now that I am forgiven, tell me how I am to live my life for you". No, that is part of the lie. We have encountered blue for new birth, but we drag our red concepts right over. Your life does not have inherent value that can be steered for God's purpose.

Your life finds an end at the cross, and your soul is filled with Him. He is our purpose. Do you see? Jesus said that Himself. Paul said that. John said that. God isn't trying to get you to live your life for Him. That is a contradiction of the cross. **Your life was the problem. His life is the answer.**

That's like saying, "Oh God, now that I've seen blue, teach me how to live my red life in a blue manner". Hello? The only way to change, the only way to grow, the only way to produce fruit is by putting off all things red, and being filled with blue. That sounds strangely like so many New Testament Scriptures.

**Eph 4:20** But you have not so learned Christ, **21** if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: **22** that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, **23** and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, **24** and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

**Col 3:10** and have put on the new *man* who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, **11** where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave *nor* free, but Christ *is* all and in all.

Why can't we get a hold of this? Because it is a color we've never imagined before. It is the color blue, and no red mind can discern it. That sounds strikingly similar to 1 Corinthians chapter 2. "But the natural man (the red man) does not receive the things of the Spirit of God (the blue), for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned. **15** But he who is spiritual discerns all things, yet he himself is discerned by no one."

I hope this analogy is not becoming more complicated than it is helpful. **I'm simply trying to paint a picture of a world where all things are seen through a massively distorted lens, because that is the world we live in.** That is the mind of the natural man. That is the kind of lie that Adam and Eve accepted and took unto themselves. And I'm trying to demonstrate that this lie cannot simply be corrected by teaching, or removed by deciding not to believe it. This lie must be displaced by putting off one man and putting on Another. Coming to know the truth is not going to be a better view of the thing we are looking at, but rather a different light, a different Life, by which we are seeing. The light isn't a better understanding, it is a better man.

And so long as Christianity is an attempt to fix people, behavior, and doctrines without destroying the lie that defines people, behavior, and doctrines, then it is powerless. You see, we've done this horrible thing. We didn't know we were doing it, but that does not make it less horrible. We've thought that by adding religion on top of the lie we can fix it. We think that if we believe in blue, and teach that there is blue, and try to live our lives for the blue, then the problem is solved. But what I'm trying to illustrate is that we can make our blue schools, blue churches, write our books on blue subjects and teach blues lessons, and still unless the light of the blue dislodges and destroys the red, then we are no closer to our solution. We're not even understanding the things we're reading and teaching, let alone expressing them in the earth.

What is the solution? The solution is Truth. The solution is Light. And not Truth as a concept, but truth as a Person. Not light as an idea, but light as God's perspective, God's reality, living in you, conforming you to Himself.

Like the lie, the Truth is far more than a belief. We've spent two or three weeks talking about how the Lie is more than a belief, more than an idea, but a reality out from which you view all things. The truth is like that as well. Its not words on a page, or theologies in a head, or doctrines in a heart, or testimonies in a mouth. It can be described by all of these, but it is foremost a Person who shares His life, His light, His reality with you. It is a Person who's life you must be born into – hence, Jesus' admonition to Nicodemus that unless he is born again. It is a Person in whom you must abide or you can do nothing. It is a Person who is light and who supplants the darkness. The truth is alive, and He is seeking His increase unto our decrease.

And so we must come to see all things by this Light. Whatever is not seen and comprehended in the light is still part of the lie. If I had a hard time trying to describe the Lie, and I did...I'm going to have a harder time trying to describe the Light. So, be patient with me here. I wrote and deleted much of this a number of times.

The Light, very much like the lie, comes to work in us like a lens through which we see all things. This lens however, unlike the perspective of the Father of lies intermingled in our fallen nature, is the perspective of the Father in Heaven who has made us partakers of Himself. We have been made "partakers of the divine nature" 2 Peter 1:4. And so we've come to truth working in the soul. Reality bearing in upon us like we're waking up from an adamic dream. A red dream that we were so sure was blue.

The Light is not a belief system, but a reality that defines all things. A living Word. You come to act out from it, think out from it, desire out from it, live out of it...even as you once acted out of, thought out of, desired out of and lived out of the lie. "For it is God who is at work in you both to will and to work for His pleasure".

And as the Scriptures say time and time again, you abide in it, walk in the Light as He is in the Light, walk in the Spirit, abide in Christ, having fellowship with the Father and the Son. You have become a son of Light. You are bearing the fruit of the light. These aren't just words that describe a Red-Land person believing in something blue. These aren't even words describing a Red-Land person who has seen a flash of blue. These are words that describe a Person who has come to live in and see all things blue, and red is being left behind. Red no longer defines anything. Blue has become the presupposition underneath all presuppositions. It has become the starting place of reality, thought, understanding, perspective, desire, action. How? Because the Light is a Person who lives in you, not a book that you believe. Because the Light is a nature that you have received that is displacing the nature into which you were born. Because the Light is the Life of God in the Soul of man conforming you to His image. It is so much bigger than Christian religion, it is Christ Himself. Now, don't go whacky on me here. I'm not saying you are becoming God. I'm not even saying you are becoming like God. I'm saying that God has come to tabernacle in you, and of the increase of His kingdom there will be no end.

A lot of people have said something to me like "I realize now that goodness isn't something I do, righteousness isn't something I do, it is something that He is, and something that must work in me. But...how do I do that? Or how do I get Him to do

that? Or how does that happen?”. I think maybe the best way to answer that question is to look back at the lie. Did you ever have to learn how to express the lie? Did you ever have to take classes or use discipline in order to will and work out from the lie? You will answer “no”. But then I will ask you why? Why was it effortless? Why was it so easy?

You would answer me – “because it was simply a matter of living according to what I knew was real. It was simply a matter of nature. **I lived according to my awareness of my state of being. I didn’t have to contrive something, because it was already there. I didn’t have to work on something, because it worked in me. I didn’t have force myself to believe something because reality convinced me that it was so. Living the lie was a natural outworking of what was real of me, and my awareness of it”.**

Well, flip that around, and you have an understanding of the power of the Light. **The Light, quite simply, is the awareness of our state of being.** It is the awareness of what God has done in Christ. The awareness of new life, resurrection, freedom, reconciliation, union, purpose. I’m not talking about mind over matter here. I’m talking about the Spirit of God working in you to show you the truth of a matter. Its not true because you make yourself believe something. Its true because you were born of His Spirit, and you don’t believe it. There is the problem. Please don’t ever think that His Light is just your mind believing THAT something is true. Light is the mind of the Lord working in you the reality of what He has accomplished through the cross.

It is the glorious gift of sharing God’s perspective on what we are, where we are, who we are in Christ, or maybe more accurately, who Christ is in you. Do you remember that when we started talking about the lie we talked about how the first man was created by God and put into the world with senses and a natural mind. And with these senses, and with this natural mind he was able to “occupy his state of being”. Those were the words that JW Luman used while he was here. Some of you were here for the early Saturday session. In it he said something like “it is God’s desire that man fully occupy his state of being. And to that end, God gave man awareness of that state of being”.

I would translate that something like this. God placed Adam in the natural creation and gave him what was necessary for him to live into the fullness of that creation. God gave Adam natural light, natural sense, and a natural mind so that he could fully experience, enjoy, understand, name, rule over, and partake of that creation. Without awareness of his creation, Adam would certainly not occupy or live in the good of it. In fact, what do we call somebody who has deficiency in some area of their awareness of their state of being. We call them disabled or handicapped individuals. What is that, really? What is a disabled or handicapped person? It is a person who, in some way or another, whether in sight, hearing, physical or mental ability, is not aware of, or in touch with, their state of being. One we call blind, another deaf, another paralyzed. But really its just a disconnect in their awareness of or connection to their creation. An inability to experience and live into all that is real of their surroundings.

The Light of Christ shining in your soul works to that very same end. It causes us to become aware of our true state of being. We, who have been born from above, who have been joined to the Lord, who have been brought into the Father’s house, remain, for the most part, **hugely unaware of our state of being.** Apart from

Light, we do not "occupy our state of being". Though we are in the Truth, the Truth has not worked in us. Though we are a new creation in Christ, we are virtually only aware of the old. Though we have New Life, the very life of God, we rarely even consider what it means to allow the cross to bring ours to an end. Though we have been "made alive, raised up, and made to sit with Christ in the heavens" Eph 2:6 - we still seek only to occupy the earth.

So, again...what is the solution. The solution is Light. The solution is the blue. But not the blue as something we believe in and try to spread around as a teaching. But the blue as the truth that is deeper than our presuppositions. The truth out from which all thought and will and action find their source.