



“Embrace the Truth”  
June 6, 2021  
Pastor Tony Arnold  
CHRISTCHURCHVA.ORG/SERMONS

**“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.”**  
Exodus 20:16 (NRSV)

### BEARING FALSE WITNESS – WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

1. It led to the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.

*The serpent came to the woman. “Really?” he asked. “None of the fruit in the garden? God says you mustn’t eat any of it?”*

*“Of course we may eat it,” the woman told him. “It’s only the fruit from the tree at the center of the garden that we are not to eat. God says we mustn’t eat it or even touch it, or we will die.”*

*“That’s a lie!” the serpent hissed. “You’ll not die! God knows very well that the instant you eat it you will become like him, for your eyes will be opened—you will be able to distinguish good from evil!”*  
Genesis 3:1-5 (LB)

2. It distorts and impairs our sense of \_\_\_\_\_.

*What sorrow for those who drag their sins behind them with ropes made of lies, who drag wickedness behind them like a cart...What sorrow for those who say that evil is good and good is evil, that dark is light and light is dark, that bitter is sweet and sweet is bitter.*

Isaiah 5:18, 20 (NLT)

3. It attacks the credibility of \_\_\_\_\_.

*Then Pilate said to him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.” Pilate said to him, “What is truth?”*

John 18:37-38 (ESV)

### WHAT THE STORY OF NABOTH’S VINEYARD CAN TEACH US

1. \_\_\_\_\_ must not be rejected for \_\_\_\_\_.

*Now there was a man named Naboth, from Jezreel, who owned a vineyard in Jezreel beside the palace of King Ahab of Samaria. One day Ahab said to Naboth, “Since your vineyard is so convenient to my palace, I would like to buy it to use as a vegetable garden. I will give you a better vineyard in exchange, or if you prefer, I will pay you for it.” But Naboth replied, “The Lord forbid that I should give you the inheritance that was passed down by my ancestors.”*

1 Kings 21:1-3 (NLT)

**2. Truth is compromised when we \_\_\_\_\_.**

*So [Jezebel] wrote letters in Ahab's name, sealed them with his seal, and sent them to the elders and other leaders of the town where Naboth lived. In her letters she commanded: "Call the citizens together for a time of fasting, and give Naboth a place of honor. And then seat two scoundrels across from him who will accuse him of cursing God and the king. Then take him out and stone him to death." So the elders and other town leaders followed the instructions Jezebel had written in the letters.* 1 Kings 21:8-11 (NLT)

**3. Bearing false witness always claims its \_\_\_\_\_.**

*The town leaders then sent word to Jezebel, "Naboth has been stoned to death." When Jezebel heard the news, she said to Ahab, "You know the vineyard Naboth wouldn't sell you? Well, you can have it now! He's dead!" So Ahab immediately went down to the vineyard of Naboth to claim it.* 1 Kings 21:14-16 (NLT)

### THE STORY OF NABOTH'S VINEYARD TEACHES US

---

#### WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE TO EMBRACE THE TRUTH?

**1. Learn to \_\_\_\_\_ truth from falsehood.**

*Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.* 1 John 4:1 (NIV)

**2. Ask for the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ to reveal it to you.**

*When the Holy Spirit, who is truth, comes, he shall guide you into all truth, for he will not be presenting his own ideas, but will be passing on to you what he has heard.* John 16:13 (LB)

**3. Live like you are \_\_\_\_\_ with your neighbor.**

*Stop lying to each other; tell the truth, for we are parts of each other and when we lie to each other we are hurting ourselves.* Ephesians 4:25 (LB)

**4. Put Jesus' way of \_\_\_\_\_ into \_\_\_\_\_.**

*Jesus said to them, "You are truly my disciples if you live as I tell you to, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."* John 8:31-32 (LB)

## **ANSWER KEY:**

### **BEARING FALSE WITNESS – WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW**

1. It led to the **FALL** of **HUMANITY**.
2. It distorts and impairs our sense of **REALITY**.
3. It attacks the credibility of **OBJECTIVE TRUTH**.

### **WHAT THE STORY OF NABOTH'S VINEYARD CAN TEACH US**

1. **TRUTH** must not be rejected for **CONVENIENCE**.
2. Truth is compromised when we **ENABLE FALSEHOOD**.
3. Bearing false witness always claims its **VICTIMS**.

The story of Naboth's vineyard teaches us **TO NOT HANDLE THE TRUTH LIGHTLY**.

### **WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE TO EMBRACE THE TRUTH?**

1. Learn to **DISCERN** truth from falsehood.
2. In a world of confusion, ask for the **SPIRIT** of **TRUTH** to reveal it to you.
3. Live like you are **INTERDEPENDENT** with your neighbor.
4. Put Jesus' way of **LIFE** into **PRACTICE**.