



## The Truth About the Desire to Live Right “Righteousness”

July 17, 2022

Text: Matthew 5: 6

- **6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.**

**Righteous Defined:** It is basically the decision to do what is right and live with integrity

### Series Summary

1. What do you really want?
2. Are you hungry? (Driven)
3. **Are you doing what is right? (Integrous)**
4. Are you filled and satisfied with your life?
5. How can a young person **balance** hunger, humility, and passion? (There is nothing like youthful hunger)

**Statement:** Integrity was described to me as the essence of who you are when nobody is looking. It is the real you behind the scenes without makeup, celebrity, or cover. It is you unmasked and in your true element. It shows up in your anger, greed, or selfishness.

### Note: Two Reasons People are not Integrous and Lie

#### 1. Self-centered reasons

- “These are the lies that are all about you. You tell these lies to try to make yourself look better or feel better or protect yourself from embarrassment or disapproval or conflict or from getting your feelings hurt.”

#### 2. Kind-hearted reasons:

- “These are the lies you tell to help or protect someone else. You tell these lies to make someone else look better or feel better, or to protect them from embarrassment or disapproval or conflict or getting their feelings hurt.”

**Source:** The Psychology of Lying and Detecting Lies by Bella DePaulo

## I. The Self-Centered Lies of Ananias and Sapphira and What They Teach Us

### Main Lesson: Pride and Arrogance Can Tempt You to Lie

Acts 5:1–11 (American Standard Version):

- **5 But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, 2and kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it,** and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet. 3But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thy heart to lie to the Holy Spirit, and to keep back part of the price of the land? 4While it remained, did it not remain thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thy power? How is it that thou hast conceived this thing in thy heart? thou has not lied unto men, but unto God. 5And Ananias hearing these words fell down and gave up the ghost: and great fear came upon all that heard it. 6And the young men arose and wrapped him round, and they carried him out and buried him.
- **7And it was about the space of three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what was done, came in.** 8And Peter answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much. And she said, Yea, for so much. 9But Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to try the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them that have buried thy husband are at the door, and they shall carry thee out. 10And she fell down immediately at his feet, and gave up the ghost: and the young men came in and found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her by her husband. 11And great fear came upon the whole church, and upon all that heard these things.

## II. The Self-Centered Lies of Peter and What They Teach Us (Matthew 26:69–75)

### Main Lesson: Fear and Pressure Can Tempt You To Lie

#### 1. A Servant girl identifies Peter and he lies and denies Jesus

- 69 Now Peter was sitting out in the courtyard, and **a servant girl came to him. "You also were with Jesus of Galilee,"** she said. 70 But he denied it before them all. "I don't know what you're talking about," he said.

#### 2. Another girl identifies Peter and he lies and denies Jesus

- 71 Then he went out to the gateway, where **another girl saw him and said to the people there, "This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth."** 72 He denied it again, with an oath: "I don't know the man!"

**3. Another unidentified group identifies Peter and he lies and denies Jesus**

- 73 After a little while, **those standing there went up to Peter and said, “Surely you are one of them, for your accent gives you away.”** 74 Then he began to call down curses on himself and he swore to them, “I don’t know the man!” Immediately a rooster crowed. 75 Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: “Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times.” And he went outside and wept bitterly.

**Question:** What temptation or event in your life exposed your integrity struggle?

**Next Time:** The Truth About Being Satisfied

**Big Question:** Are you a satisfied person?