

Wednesday Word

Ash Wednesday

Proverbs 12:22- “The Lord detests lying lips, but he delights in people who are trustworthy.”

When I was growing up, my dad had a saying: “Lying is like stealing because you are stealing the truth.” This has stuck with me my entire life. When we lie we withhold the truth of the situation and present a false reality to both ourselves, the other person, and our God.

When I was about 12 years old a friend was staying at my house for the night. There was a grocery store about a half mile away and we walked down to buy supplies for the night (Supplies meaning candy and junk food). On our way back we saw my dad working in the front yard. We didn’t want him to see how much junk food we bought so we hid the candy in the bushes until he went inside.

We went out when we thought the coast was clear and snuck the “supplies” inside. My dad ended up seeing what we were doing and questioned us about it. We continued to make up a story about how we found these bags in the bushes and were just bringing them in to see what was in them. Eventually, we just told him the truth about what we had. I remember my dad being very upset with us and sending my friend home first thing in the morning. He told us he could care less about how much junk food we bought, he just didn’t appreciate being lied to.

Looking back on that situation as an adult, I realize how right my dad was. He honestly didn’t care if we ate too much candy or even if we got sick (because we would learn a lesson in his words), but his concern is that we felt the need to lie about it.

As we come to Ash Wednesday, we must ask ourselves, and ask our God, what things inside of us are not right. What habits and practices are creating a spiritual chasm between us and the Lord. When I lied that day to my dad it created mistrust between us. The same can be said about our relationship with God.

The Holy Spirit wants to set us free from the things that hold us back from pure relationship with him. Many times, like Adam and Eve in the garden we hide when God approaches because we don’t want him to see us for who we truly are. Lent is about allowing wicked things inside to be exposed so that God can remove them and replace them with something righteous.

Let’s set our hearts this lent to being exposed before God so He can change us into His image!

I love you and God loves you!

Pastor Eric Lundberg