



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

April 6, 2014

P.O. Box 416
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Elders:

Dana Carter
Kenneth Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Bobby Bear
Kendall Bear
Larry Brackett
Roger Carter
Steve McCreary

Minister:

Kirby Hinds

Secretary:

Susan Chandler

Service Times:

Sunday

Bible Study 10 am
Worship Service 10:45 am
Worship Service 6 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:30 pm

Monday

Ladies Class 10 am

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WHAT IS YOUR RESPONSE?

What characterizes your response to Jesus? All of us will respond to Him in one way or another. Will our response indicate our rejection of His word, or will it indicate our desire to trust and obey Him?

Several different responses are seen in **Luke 13:11-17**. In what was one of the last appearances Jesus would make in a synagogue, the Lord saw a woman who was so ill she couldn't stand up straight.

The first response was that of the healed woman. She was thankful and began to glorify God. If any of us were in her place would we not do the same? She responded in a very thoughtful and logical way.

The response of the ruler of the synagogue was completely different. According to **Luke 13:14** the ruler became "indignant." The word in the original language of the New Testament means, "to feel much pain." Now, isn't it interesting this woman who had been coming to the synagogue for 18 years in terrible pain was healed and rejoiced while this ruler was now the one to feel much pain? His pain came from his anger!

Anger has always been a response to Jesus or the truth He taught. Was He not crucified by angry men? Wasn't Stephen stoned by angry men? Did not others persecute those in Christ for the same reason?

Then, there were the adversaries of Jesus in **Luke 13:17** who were shamed by the truth of what Jesus said in **Luke 13:15-16**. Shame comes when a person is convicted by the truth. These who were opposed to Jesus heard His words and their hearts were bruised.

Lastly the crowd, like the healed woman, rejoiced.

There is division in these passages, isn't there? Such is always the case when Jesus taught the truth. In **John 7:43**, the Bible said, "So there was a division among the people over Him." Didn't Jesus tell His disciples that He had come not to send peace, but a sword? Did He not say that because of Him family members would divide? "And a person's enemies will be those of his own household," (**Matthew 10:36**). The reason why is that people will respond to Jesus in trust and obedience and some will respond much like the Pharisees did.

So. How have you responded to Jesus?

By John Henson

YOU LIED, DIDN'T YOU?

Ananias and his wife, Sapphira, two Christians in the first century, got caught telling a lie (**Acts 5:1-11**). They lied to men and to God. You can often hide your lies from men but never from God – *“be sure your sin will find you out”* (**Deuteronomy 32:23**).

The apostle Peter confronted the couple separately, three hours apart, and in effect said, “You lied, didn’t you?” They couldn’t deny lying. They had blatantly fabricated a bold-faced lie. They died on the spot.

What was the last lie you told? When was that falsehood uttered – today, yesterday, a week ago? If swift and fatal punishment would have followed the most recent lie you told, as it did the day Ananias and Sapphira lied, what day would you have dropped dead?

Peter asked Ananias, *“Why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit...Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart”* That is, “Why did you allow Satan to influence your heart to manufacture this lie?”

We know that Satan *“is a liar and the father of lies.”* He is behind every untruth told. He *“has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him”* (**John 8:44**). But we also know that when we tell a lie, the guilt is on us; and we are responsible; we are held accountable; we have sinned. Don’t blame the devil; he instigates it but we implement it; he does the tempting but we do the telling. In lying, we work with Satan.

People lie to make themselves look better, as in the case of Ananias and Sapphira. People lie to hide disobedience, like King Saul (**I Samuel 15:13**). People lie for personal gain, like Gehazi (**II Kings 5:20-27**). People lie to protect themselves, like Peter (**Matthew 26:69-75**).

Paul says, “don’t lie” – *“put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another”* (**Ephesians 4:25**). Paul wrote, *“Do not lie to one another”* that’s the “old self,” we should live like the “new self” (**Colossians 3:9-10**). Liars will have an eternal home in hell but not in heaven (**Revelation 21:8**).

By James Cudd