

PRAYER

“Lord, set a muzzle on my mouth, guard the door of my lips. Don’t let my mind be inclined to talk of evil or to concern myself with evil” (Psalm 141:3-4). Amen.

Memory

1. “Do not lie concerning your neighbor” (Exodus 20:16).
2. “Do for others everything you want them to do for you” (Mathew 7:12).

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Emmaus Bible Lessons

Series 2: Commandments Four to Ten
Study #09 of 13: Paul is Falsely Accused (Acts 24)

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Emmaus Bible Lessons

Series 2: Commandments Four to Ten

Study #09 of 13

Eighth Commandment *Paul is Falsely Accused*



God says to you in the eighth commandment,
“Do not lie concerning your neighbor”
(Exodus 20:16).

THIS MEANS you must not say anything to
cause others to think badly about your neighbor.

Bible Reading: Acts 23:11, 24:1-27

Questions and Answers For Understanding This Bible Story

1. Some people wanted to get Paul into trouble, so they said untrue things about him. What did they say?

Paul was falsely accused of being a pest, starting arguments with others, and polluting the temple with false teachings.

2. Why did these people want to say untrue things about Paul?

Paul's enemies did not like the Word of God that Paul was preaching. They wanted to stop Paul from preaching God's Word about Jesus. By falsely accusing him, these people hoped Paul would be punished by the government.

3. How did Paul respond to these lies?

Paul responded to these lies by telling the truth. Paul declared, "I believe everything written in the Law and the prophets and trust God for the same thing they're looking for, that the dead will rise, the righteous and the wicked. That's why I'm doing my best always to have a clear conscience before God and men."

4. Have you ever tried to get someone in trouble with your words? In what way were your actions similar to those of Paul's accusers?

Maybe you have told a lie about someone. Maybe you blamed your brother or sister for something that you did. Maybe you started a rumor at school about someone whom you do not like, either by

speaking bad things or writing bad things about him or her. When you do these things, you are breaking the eighth commandment, just like Paul's accusers did. God says in the eighth commandment, "Do not lie concerning your neighbor" (Exodus 20:16).

5. Paul said, "I'm doing my best always to have a clear conscience before God and men" (Acts 24:16).

a. What things can you do to keep a clear conscience?

You can keep a clear conscience by being careful with what you say and do. When you speak, tell the truth. Use your words to help and protect your neighbor. God says to you in His Bible, "Do for others everything you want them to do for you" (Mathew 7:12). This includes using your words for your neighbor's good.

b. God says to you in His Bible, "Let us then come near God, sincere in our hearts and convinced in our faith, because our hearts were sprinkled to take away our guilty feelings, and our bodies were washed with clean water" (Hebrews 10:22). What comfort do these words give when your conscience troubles you on account of unkind words you have said?

Everyone breaks the eighth commandment. Praise be to God, though, that Jesus died to forgive the sins we commit with our words, as well as the sins we commit with our actions and thoughts! Through Jesus' death and resurrection, "our hearts were sprinkled to take away our guilty feelings" (Hebrews 10:22). This means that, even though you probably can think of many wrong things you have said, Jesus forgives them all!

Jesus also uses His Words to guard and protect you every day. God says in His Bible that Jesus "is at God's right hand and He prays for us" (Romans 8:34). This means that Jesus continually uses His Words to keep the eighth commandment perfectly for you, remembering you in His prayers.