A scenic view of a mountain range with a valley in the foreground, overlaid with text. The mountains are covered in dense green forest, and the valley below is a mix of green and brown, suggesting a mix of vegetation and possibly some dry areas. The sky is a clear, pale blue.

**A lie gets halfway around the
world before the truth has a
chance to get its pants on.**

Winston Churchill

Truth Of Respect And Honor

Malachi 1:6

First century Christian theologian Tertullian said, “The first reaction to truth is hatred”, and I might add rejection or dismissiveness

- Winston Churchill, “The truth is incontrovertible. Malice may attack it, ignorance may deride it, but in the end, there it is.”
- Someone, “In a time of universal deceit - telling the truth is a revolutionary act.”
- Hunter S. Thompson, “I have a theory that the truth is never told during the nine-to-five hours.”

Truth Speaks

- **John 18:36-38 NIV**, 36 Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.” 37 “You are a king, then!” said Pilate. Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.” 38 “What is truth?” retorted Pilate. With this he went out again to the Jews gathered there and said, “I find no basis for a charge against him.”

Truth Speaks

- Pilate was staring at truth, and I believed He knew it but ultimately rejected it because it did not fit his narrative of life
- So, the question this morning is, “Are you on the side of truth?”
 - How do you know?

Truth Speaks

- Anne Lamott, “Your problem is how you are going to spend this one odd and precious life you have been issued. Whether you're going to spend it trying to look good and creating the illusion that you have power over people and circumstances, or whether you are going to taste it, enjoy it and find out the truth about who you are.”

Truth Speaks

- When asked what the greatest command in the Law of Moses was, Jesus responded in **Matthew 22:37-40 NIV**,
37 Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

Truth Speaks

- The word “love” in these verses carries the idea of honor and respect
- Honor, respect, love the Lord your God with everything about you and while you are doing that, you will honor, respect, love all other people

Truth Speaks

- The Nation of Israel had slidden into state of religion without honor and respect for God
- I don't think they really understood where their relationship with God and each other had receded to
- It happened over time, single step from the previous generation, then another step until they had what Paul would describe in **2nd Timothy 3:5 NIV**, "having a form of godliness but denying its power."

Truth Speaks

- God in His grace sends the nation one more prophet to remind them of who and why they are and to remind them they are His people
- God came to them out of His love for them, **Malachi 1:2 NIV**, “I have loved you,” says the Lord. “But you ask, ‘How have you loved us?’”
- Then God approaches the real issue for them, they are failing to honor and respect Him

Scripture

- **Malachi 1:6 NIV**, “A son honors his father, and a slave his master. If (*since*) I am a father, where is the honor due me? If (*since*) I am a master, where is the respect due me?” says the Lord Almighty.

Honor and Respect

- How did you feel when professional sports players refused to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance or kneeled instead of standing?
- I think I understand the reasons behind their protest, but why did that act so enrage some and disturb most?
 - Because most of us honor and respect what the flag stands for, soldiers who fought and died for it, police who protect it, and our nation as a whole

Honor and Respect

- In other words, we had determined, based upon our criteria, they are worthy of our honor and respect
- Those who did not stand have determined, based upon their own criteria, they are not
- According to our English language the definition of honor and respect are conditional

Honor and Respect

- They are reserved for those we have decided are worthy of receiving honor and respect according to their abilities, qualities, and achievements
- This is the difference between the words honor and respect in the Bible and our English language
- Our language makes honor and respect conditional, where the Bible does not

God addresses His people with a statement of fact, “A son honors his father, and a slave his master.”

- This is a statement of fact in the Patriarchal period of Israel
 - What’s missing in this statement from our culture?
 - If they are worthy of our honor, if they are good, if they are treating me fairly, doing based upon my criteria
- We have set ourselves up to be judge and jury of honor recipients

God addresses His people with a statement of fact, “A son honors his father, and a slave his master.”

- They were to be honored simply because of their position of authority and the power they held
- **Exodus 20:12 NIV**, “Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.”

God addresses His people with a statement of fact, “A son honors his father, and a slave his master.”

- **Ephesians 5:2-3 NIV**, 2 “Honor your father and mother” —which is the first commandment with a promise— 3 “so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”
- **Ephesians 6:5 NIV**, “Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ.”

God addresses His people with a statement of fact, “A son honors his father, and a slave his master.”

- Scripture instructs us to fear (*reverential honor and respect*) God
 - **Proverbs 1:7 NIV**, “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.”

God addresses His people with a statement of fact, “A son honors his father, and a slave his master.”

- Scripture instructs us to fear God
 - **Deuteronomy 10:12-13 NIV**, “12 And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God ask of you but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to him, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, 13 and to observe the Lord’s commands and decrees that I am giving you today for your own good?”

God addresses His people with a statement of fact, “A son honors his father, and a slave his master.”

- Scripture instructs us to fear God
 - **Hebrews 12:28-29 NIV**, “28 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, 29 for our “God is a consuming fire.”

God addresses His people with a statement of fact, “A son honors his father, and a slave his master.”

- We are to honor and respect those God has commanded us to, simply because God has commanded us to
 - Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind, Love your neighbor as yourself

God addresses His people with a statement of fact, “A son honors his father, and a slave his master.”

- We are to honor and respect God by being obedient to all God has commanded us whether we understand it or want it

Honor and respect originate in our hearts and refers to the value we personally place on something or someone

- Collectors hold certain items in higher esteem than non-collectors so
- What others may overlook as junk, it may be highly valued by someone else and therefore honored
- We value the flag and what it stands for, so we honor and respect it by standing before it and citing our pledge

Honor and respect originate in our hearts and refers to the value we personally place on something or someone

- Honor has everything to do with the beholder
- Honor is placing value on someone because of who they are, not what they are
- Honor is saying someone is priceless to you
- Honor is saying this person has value and worth
- Honoring someone means that you care so deeply for them that it comes out in your words and deeds

Honor and respect originate in our hearts and refers to the value we personally place on something or someone

- It's not just lip-service
- It's not just strict obedience out of a command and submission to authority

Honor and respect originate in our hearts and refers to the value we personally place on something or someone

- I believe honor and respect as God defines is directly connected with agape love
- Honor and respect are about having a great love
- A love that goes above and beyond and does more than is expected because they value the relationship and the person because God values the relationship

Biblical honor and respect are only possible when it flows out of our honor and respect for God Almighty through Jesus Christ

- Look at the question God asked the Nation of Israel, “If I am a father, where is the honor due me? If I am a master, where is the respect due me?” says the Lord Almighty.”
- Only when you love the Lord with all of your heart, mind and strength can you love and honor others simply because God has instructed us to

Biblical honor and respect are only possible when it flows out of our honor and respect for God Almighty through Jesus Christ

- As we fight with our “old sinful nature” the only thing we can say is
 - “God, I love you so deeply that I want to do what you are saying to me even when my feelings or desires are telling me something else

We must be cautious of our spiritual sliding away of our honor and respect for God

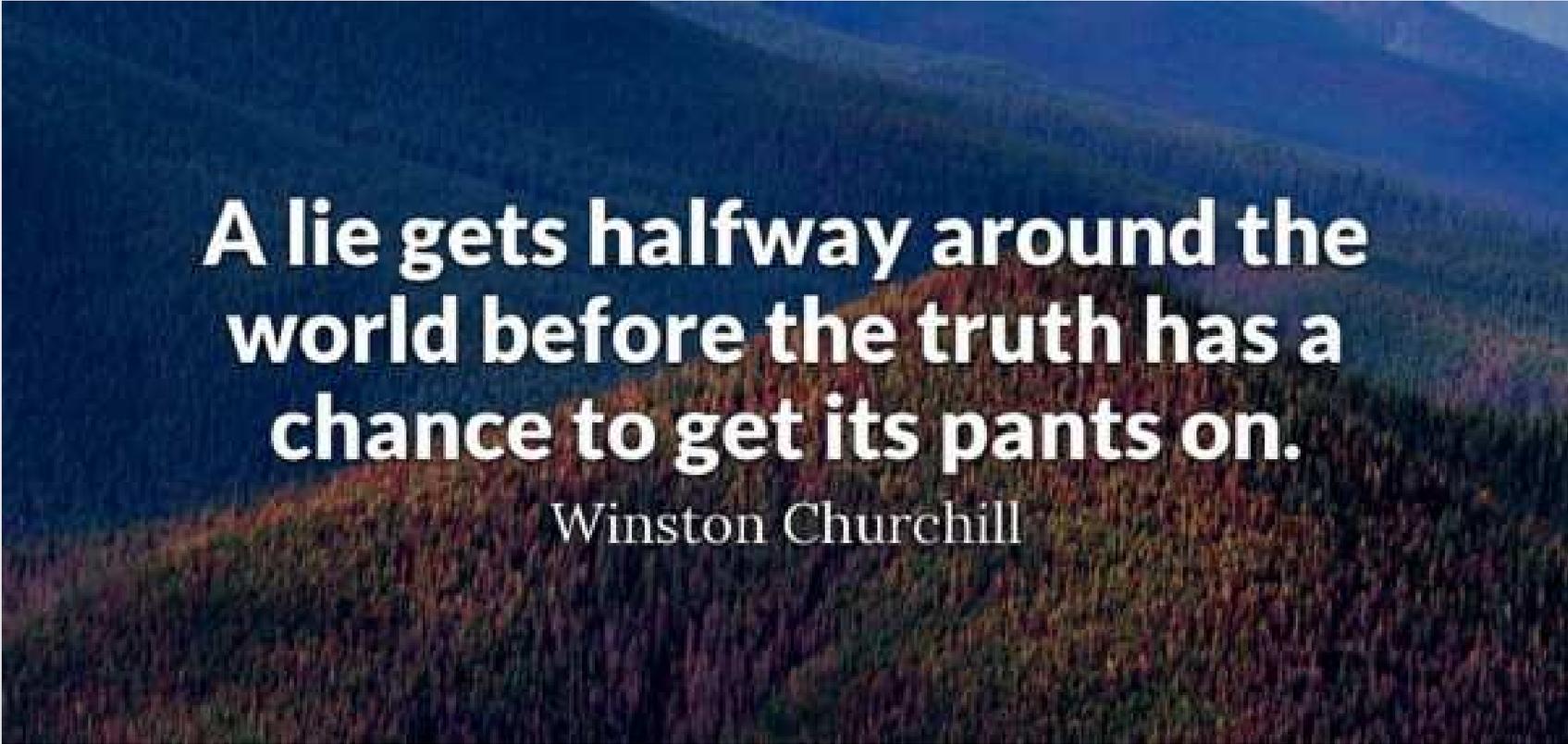
- Our relationship with Him will suffer and our obedience will come under our decisions rather than His
- Your slide will always be farther and deeper than you can expect since it happens baby step at a time
- Until the downward slide gets steep then your slide away from God will be steep

We must be cautious of our spiritual sliding away of our honor and respect for God

- **John 14:6 NIV**, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”
- We cannot maintain our honor and respect for our Heavenly Father except through the way, truth, and life of Jesus Christ

We must be cautious of our spiritual sliding away of our honor and respect for God

- Martin Luther King, Jr., “I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality. This is why right, temporarily defeated, is stronger than evil triumphant. “
- The empty tomb of Jesus says, **“Amen!”**



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