

Peter's Denial & The Belt of Truth

Foundation

Bible passage: Eph 6.14 & Mtt 26.69-75

“The Belt of Truth” (Eph 6.14)

In Ephesians chapter 6 Paul writes about the Armour of God. He says that if we put on the armour, stand and pray, then we will stand against temptation and the attacks of the devil. One of the pieces of armour Paul lists is “the Belt of Truth”. If we determine to tell the truth and to keep doing so, we will be able to stand even when we are tempted to lie.

Sir Walter Scott wrote “Oh, what a tangled web we weave, - when first we practice to deceive.” One of the problems of lying is that we quickly find ourselves getting in deeper, we must keep lying to cover our lies. Lying can make for good plots in fiction books, television programmes and films, but it messes up real lives.

Over this module you will make a belt of truth showing some of the verses from the Bible about truth and truthfulness. See the Introduction for more details and the text of the various Bible verses.

“Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth”

Peter's Denial (Mtt 26.69-75)

In the previous module (Easter) we saw how Jesus had predicted that Peter would deny Him three times. When Jesus had spoken about all the disciples being scattered Peter had adamantly stated that even if all the others did he never would. But the arrest of Jesus seems to have

A Roman soldier's belt.

shaken Peter because he had not expected it and had at first attempted to prevent it by fighting back with a sword.

Then, after the arrest whilst Peter was in the courtyard where Jesus was being held, on three different occasions people accused Peter of being a disciple of Jesus. Each time Peter lied, and not only that but swore an oath (v72) and then invoked a curse on himself and swore again that he did not know Jesus.

The result of these lies was that Peter was devastated by what he had done and he went outside and wept bitterly. Not only was the lying wrong, but Jesus had told his disciples not to swear oaths like that (Mtt 5.34-37).

Despite all this, in the previous module we also saw how after His resurrection Jesus met with Peter, evidently forgave Peter and at the seashore in Galilee called Peter again to follow Him. In the Acts of the Apostles, we see how Peter became very bold in telling people about Jesus, even when his life was threatened. We too can find forgiveness from Jesus, but we should be careful not to use this as an excuse to do wrong.



Lying can sometimes feel like the right thing to do but so often it just creates deeper problems.