



Dealing with the Power of Agreements

Message Notes, March 26, 2017

Matthew 12:34-37

This message about “agreements” is closely related to last week’s message about lies and deceptions. If we come to accept the lies and distortions of our enemy or the world, we often take the next enslaving step of making agreements or even vows that align our minds and hearts with the voice of our enemy, thus giving him a stronghold in our lives. Satan can enter our lives through the various “cracked doors” of sinful choices, failures, hurts from others, generational baggage and pain from suffering, and once he’s in, he wants to control our thoughts and actions to bring as much destruction as he can. Agreements are his chief tactic.

Words have power – for good or bad, for life or destruction. Examine together these scriptures that confirm the meaning and power of our words.

- Proverbs 13:3, 18:21, 21:23
- Matthew 12:34-37. Words reveal what rests in the heart.

Our words align us with either God’s truth or Satan’s lies.

- Amos 3:3. Agreement is “walking” with another – it matters who we are agreeing with.
- Matt 18:18-20. The power of two or more agreeing in prayer.

David: A Biblical Example of the Power of Agreements

God had clearly declared that David would be king of Judah. David was anointed with oil for such; he was given great favor against Goliath and the Philistines; he became very popular among the people. However, Saul, the current king, was jealous. He hunted David to kill him (for 10, maybe even 20, years). Twice David had the opportunity to kill Saul, his persecutor, but he did not, out of integrity and trust in the Lord.

David’s life, even in these hard years, was characterized by the words, “And David inquired of the Lord.” But David reached a point of weariness (from all the running and hiding), where he seems to hear a deceptive whisper of Satan casting doubt: “You are not really safe; maybe God isn’t going to protect you?” Thus David makes an agreement: “But David thought to himself – one of these days I will be destroyed by the hand of Saul. The best thing I can do is to escape to the land of the Philistines. Saul will give up searching for me, and I will slip out of his hand” (1 Samuel 27:1).

This led David to align with his bitter enemies, the Philistines. He moved to the very city Goliath came from! This started David down a dark path that nearly destroyed him. He lost connection with Yahweh; he lost the respect of his men; he became ruthless and brutal; he became lost and depressed. He eventually “broke this agreement” and returned to the Lord, but it cost him dearly, and nearly cost him his life.

David’s failure with Bathsheba reveals a more subtle agreement. “In the Spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David sent Joab out with the king’s men ...” (2 Samuel 11:1). David did not lead his men out. He did not go out at all. He stayed home in his palace, very likely succumbing to, and agreeing with, the sly distortion of the enemy: “You don’t need to go. You have given enough. You need a break. You deserve ...”



This lie and David's agreement with it led him down a path of idleness and lust, resulting in his taking Bathsheba, getting her pregnant, lying to his loyal soldier Uriah, and ultimately having him killed to cover his own sin. This path of destruction was rooted in deception and agreement.

Agreements We Make

1. In response to our own sin.
 - Agreement moves us from "that was a stupid decision" or "that action was a failure" to "I am stupid. I am a failure." Agreements shift us from the event to a wrong sense of identity.
 - We often make vows in our agreements. E.g., "I will never succeed." ... "I will never find love."
2. In response to the sins of others against us.
 - We have two choices: To forgive (release them to God) or not forgive (hold onto judgment and resentment).
 - Vows we can make if we don't forgive: "I will never trust anyone." ... "I will never get close to someone again." ... "I will never be hurt again."
3. In response to generational sin.
 - Vows we can make: "I will never be like my _____." ... "I will never treat my kids like that." And so on.
 - Satan wants to use such agreements to root us in pride and self-reliance that allow him to wreak havoc.
4. In response to lies we believe. (All the types of lies we can embrace as detailed in last week's message, e.g., lies about God, ourselves, others, the Christian life, etc.)

Breaking Ungodly Agreements

1. Ask God to reveal them.
2. Identify the lie behind any agreements.
3. Confess and ask God for forgiveness for the agreement.
4. Receive His forgiveness.
5. Embrace God's truth. (Renounce the lie. Declare the truth that refutes it.)
6. Ask God to set you free from the power of the agreement.

Reflection Questions

1. Any confusion or questions about this message?
2. What truth or principle has most spoken to you?
3. Is God bringing to light any specific agreement(s) in your life? Pray through the five steps above to break the power of this agreement.