



LESSON 12

November 22, 2020

Sharing Love in Truth

Today's Bible lesson is about a husband and wife who were living in a community that willingly shared their possessions, but the couple decided to lie to keep a portion to themselves. To discourage others from sin, God activated His judgment.

Michael and his wife found out the hard way that God does not overlook hypocrisy. Michael and his wife have been married for thirty years, and they have three girls and four grandchildren. When Michael first married, the plant was paying overtime each week. Michael was able to provide a comfortable living for his family. At first Michael was a regular tither, but as the money increased Michael began withholding a portion. In the beginning, his wife opposed; but the more possessions they acquired, her complaints dwindled.

As the grandkids came, Michael hired a nanny, Mother Janis, to take care of his grandkids in his home. Mother Janis worked late a few days when the family went out for a late dinner to celebrate some sort of good news. On one occasion, Mother Janis asked Michael if he could give her a lift home. Michael instead called her a rideshare service because he said he had already parked his Mercedes in the garage.

One Sunday, the pastor announced that a family in the church had lost everything in a fire, and the pastor made a plea for donations. The pastor specifically video-conferenced Michael and his wife for a special donation. Michael lied and said he had given the whole amount of his tithes and had nothing to spare. His wife, sitting next to Michael, nodded her head in agreement.

Suddenly, the plant announced that it was shipping a portion of its production to another state. Many were fired, including Michael. Michael blamed God for the situation, asking "Why me?" As Mother Janis was leaving to catch the bus home, she shared the truth in love with Michael and his wife: "When a person covets the blessings God provides, God will take them away."

Discussion Questions:

1. What does our Bible story and Michael's story teach us about honesty?
2. Discuss ways the body of Christ is still called to be a community of sharing today.
3. Discuss a time when someone has shared with you the truth in love