

Several years ago, there was published an article in a locally distributed Christian newspaper, titled “Imprisoned Afghan missionaries regret Lying to Taliban captors.” It described the ordeal of two young American Christian women, Heather Mercer and Dayna Curry, who went to Afghanistan on Christian missionary work, speaking to people of Islamic and other faiths about Jesus and His Message. The women were accused of violating Islamic law by propagating a faith other than Islam, and were held captive for several months. During their captivity, they gave their captors false statements as to their Christian activities and to whom they delivered The Master Christian’s Message. The event obtained national, if not also international, attention.

Upon and after their release, the women said they regretted lying to their captors while they were held in Afghanistan. The reason they lied, we were told, was because they feared for the safety of the Muslim Afghans and others to whom they spoke of Jesus and gave Bibles. These two women also appeared on C-SPAN’s Book-TV, promoting their book relating this event, and telling of their experiences, and again repeating their profound regret. (“Prisoners of Hope: The Story of Our Captivity and Freedom in Afghanistan,” broadcast July 18, 2002, and their book, also in print).

Our sending Christian missionaries to foreign nations and their people, to share The Gospel Message and promote the Christian faith, should be more restrained, and limited to those nations and peoples who would more likely receive His Message and equally have the fertile local “soil” in which those “seeds” would grow; going to a country overwhelmingly set against Christianity, often evidenced in the most violent terms, seems to be a rather foolish act, especially when one considers how much greater is the need for missionary work right here in an America that is every day becoming more “anti-Christ” than some of the nations where Christian missionaries are sent.

However, in accomplishing that missionary work, and when encountering trials and tribulations, when a missionary is set upon The Rock of Christ, and afflictions abound for their work, one must wonder what they are regretting about, when, as in this instance, they are compelled into lying to those hostile Islamic Muslims, who would as much as kill them outright if they could — except for news reporters and other “reliable sources” in attendance. If these Christian missionaries were doing truly “Christian work,” then they should have no adverse feelings about lying to save the lives of those who believed on — or at least listened to — The Word. This is because. . .

LYING TO AN ANTI-CHRIST, IN THE DEFENSE OF CHRIST'S MESSAGE, IS A VIRTUOUS ACT.

Hard to believe, isn't it? But this is true. Lying can be good.

Compare these two modern-day women and their difficulties to some of the ancient heroes we read about in The Bible. If these two women of today lied to protect those who listened to The Word, and succeeded in their lies, they were in good company. Why should they regret their Good Works?

Perhaps it was to appease The Adversary; or merely to be “religiously correct,” if not also “politically correct.”

While lying is condemned as “an intentional violation of the truth,” and emphatically condemned in Scripture (Exo. 20:16, Eph. 4:25, Zech. 13:3, etc.), and considered an on-going battle between Good and Evil, Truth and Falsehood, observe also how Scripture provides by demonstrable proof evidence of how lying as “a means of deceit” is truly wrong. For example, Satan’s lying to Ever (Gen. 3:1-6); or Cain’s lie to God about Abel (Gen. 4:9); the sons of Jacob-Israel were lying about their brother Joseph’s fate (Gen. 37:31-32); and the multitudinous lies of the Jews (John 8:44), for a few famous ones. And, the wicked are said to love lying (Ps. 52:3), and delight in it (Ps. 62:4) and listen to it (Prov.17:4). Even so, it is possible to be truthful with the intention of hurting another person.

Few Bible Dictionaries available mention using lying as being good, or a means of obtaining any righteous protection; most say Scripture does not approve of them doing so. But this is not so. Consider the lying committed by the following great and venerated Biblical men and women, doing so for the greater cause of Righteousness and ultimate Good, often with the lying instructions by which God’s enemies were seduced to their own destruction.

Abraham asking his wife Sarah to lie to the Egyptians, pretending him to be her brother, and Sarah, for doing so (Gen. 12:11-13, 20:2, 5);

Isaac lying to the kings men, pretending to be the brother of his wife Rebekah (Gen. 26:6-7);

Samson lied to Delilah three times (but he failed to “keep the faith”) (Judg. 16:6-17);

Jacob lying to his deceitful father-in-law, to obtain his possessions (and then some) Gen. 29:15-30);

Rebekah lying to her husband Isaac, to have Jacob receive The Blessing (Ge. 27:1-10).

Jacob lying to his father Isaac, pretending to be Esau (Gen. 27:19-20);

The midwives of Egypt lying to Pharaoh, to protect the newborn Israelite boys (Exo. 1:15-21),

Rehab lying to the king’s soldiers, saving the Israelites spying to attack Jericho (Josh. 2:1-7);

The prophet Ehud lying to the king of Moab, saving Israelites from oppression (Judg. 3:15-30);

Jael lying to Sisera the Canaanite, destroying this great enemy of the Israelites (Judg. 4:17-22);

David lying to the priest Ahimelech, while the madman Saul pursued him (1st Sam. 21:1-2);

Michal, David’s wife, lying to the soldiers of Saul, arriving to kill David (1st Sam. 19:11-17);

David, asking Jonathan to lie to king Saul, his father (1st Sam. 20:5-6; and Jonathan agreeing to lie (1st Sam. 20:20-22);

Jonathan then lying to his father about David (1st Sam. 20:27-29);

Yahweh sending to Ahab a deceiving spirit (lies) in the mouths of the prophets (1st Kings 22:20-23);

The maji ("wise men") who told Herod the truth as to the time the star appeared, then essentially lied to Herod in his search of the infant Jesus, by not returning to tell him where Jesus was (Matt. 2:7-12);

Or God Himself doing it. (2nd Thess. 2:11). God lied! Wow! (Well, He sent them; same thing, really).

Only to name a few here, these Biblical characters really did lie, and did a really good job of it, and were never punished by God or anybody else for doing so; and if punished, it was for a Good Cause, greater than that of the ones offended.

Imagine what would have happened, if each and every one of these Bible heroes told the truth to those anti-Israelite, anti-Christ types, or did what they were told to do by those same enemies of true Israel, without question, even if it was against their beliefs. Think about that.

So these two Christian women of today, released as prisoners-of-faith in Muslim Afghanistan or anywhere else, ought not to be so regretful when lying "for Christ's sake," whether it was done to save the lives of those who listened to The Gospel Message, or to save their own lives from death at the hands of those who refuse The Gospel Message. But rather, they should rejoice, because they had enough sense and courage, if not also Inspiration, to lie to their captors, and to maintain the lie throughout. Few Christians or any others there be in America anymore who could do that, nor for as long as these Christian women did. And for that, we and they ought to be grateful.