

When Spin Becomes Sin

Ponder: What “spin” should I put on this?

Scripture: “Do not lie to one another since you have put off the old man with his deeds” (Col. 3:9, NKJV).

Countless politicians have earned the disdain of the people by putting spin on much of what they say. For example, support for the legalized killing of preborn humans goes through the spin machine and comes out as the right to terminate a pregnancy. Whew, that sounds so much better! But it’s just spin – deceitful spin.

We shouldn’t be surprised. Spin has been around a long time. Even good, religious people may become caught up in it. Abram told Pharaoh that Sarai was his sister (Gen. 12:11-19). Technically that was true. Sarai was his half-sister. They had the same father but different mothers. But Abram spun the truth in order to deceive the king. It was dishonest. Even the pagan king knew that lying was wrong.

King Saul tried his best to be a good spin doctor. The Lord had commanded him to utterly destroy the Amalekites. Saul wiped out most of them but saved King Agag and the best of the livestock. Now listen to him boast to Samuel: “Blessed are you of the Lord! I have performed the commandment of the Lord” (1 Sam. 15:13). Yes, Saul thought he could spin his way out of his disobedience. After all, he rationalized, those fine animals could be offered in sacrifice to the Lord. And besides that, it was what the people wanted. After Samuel’s withering rebuke, Saul finally admitted, “I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of the Lord” (v. 24).

Sometimes telling the unvarnished truth can be uncomfortable. But even though Jesus knew His enemies’ murderous intent, He didn’t spin when the Sanhedrin demanded to know if He was the Son of God. Nor did He spin when Pilate asked if He was a king. Without hesitation Jesus affirmed the truth. Let each of us, as His disciples, speak the truth minus any spin. We can be kind and even diplomatic without deceitful spin.

Hymn: “I’m Not Ashamed To Own My Lord”

Prayer: Righteous Father, help us to be honest and courageous like Jesus. In His name, Amen.