

International Conversation Cafe

Community Group: Two Kingdoms

Genesis 3 tells the story of Adam and Eve's temptation in the garden. Satan suggested to Eve that God was not good, and that God was keeping good things from her. Satan promotes that lie today; that God is not really good, that He keeps good things from us. Jesus said that Satan was a liar and the father of lies (John 8:44). Hence, Satan's kingdom promotes lies about God. God's kingdom is full of light and truth.

There are two specific stories from the Bible that show how people live their lives believing Satan's lies. As you read the stories Jesus told, see if you can identify the lies people believed in each instance.

Mark 10:16-22

¹⁷ As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him. He fell on his knees before Jesus. "Good teacher," he said, "what must I do to receive eternal life?"

¹⁸ "Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good except God. ¹⁹ You know what the commandments say. 'Do not commit murder. Do not commit adultery. Do not steal. Do not give false witness. Do not cheat. Honor your father and mother.'"

²⁰ "Teacher," he said, "I have obeyed all those commandments since I was a boy."

²¹ Jesus looked at him and loved him. "You are missing one thing," he said. "Go and sell everything you have. Give the money to those who are poor. You will have treasure in heaven. Then come and follow me."

²² The man's face fell. He went away sad, because he was very rich.

Restate the story in your own words.

What lie did the young man believe about Jesus and himself?

Luke 12:13-21

¹³ Someone in the crowd spoke to Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "tell my brother to divide the family property with me."

¹⁴ Jesus replied, "Friend, who made me a judge between you?"

¹⁵ Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against wanting to have more and more things. Life is not made up of how much a person has."

¹⁶ Then Jesus told them a story. He said, "A certain rich man's land produced a good crop. ¹⁷ He thought to himself, 'What should I do? I don't have any place to store my crops.'"

¹⁸ "Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my storerooms and build bigger ones. I will store all my grain and my other things in them. ¹⁹ I'll say to myself, 'You have plenty of good things stored away for many years. Take life easy. Eat, drink and be merry.'"

²⁰ "But God said to him, 'You foolish man! This very night will be taken from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' ²¹ "That is how it will be for anyone who stores things away for himself but is not rich in God's eyes."

What is the lie the rich man believes?

James 4: 13-17 describes how our desire for wealth can blind us to reality.

¹³ Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city. We will spend a year there. We will buy and sell and make money." ¹⁴ You don't even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? It is a mist that appears for a little while. Then it disappears. ¹⁵ Instead, you should say, "If it pleases the Lord, we will live and do this or that." ¹⁶ As it is, you are proud. You brag about it. That kind of bragging is evil. ¹⁷ So when you know the good things you should do and don't do them, you sin.

*According to above verses, what should be the Christian's attitude toward wealth and making money?
What are some more examples of lies that we might believe about God and ourselves?*

James 4:6-7

"God opposes those who are proud. But he gives grace to those who are not." ⁷ So obey God. Stand up to the devil. He will run away from you.

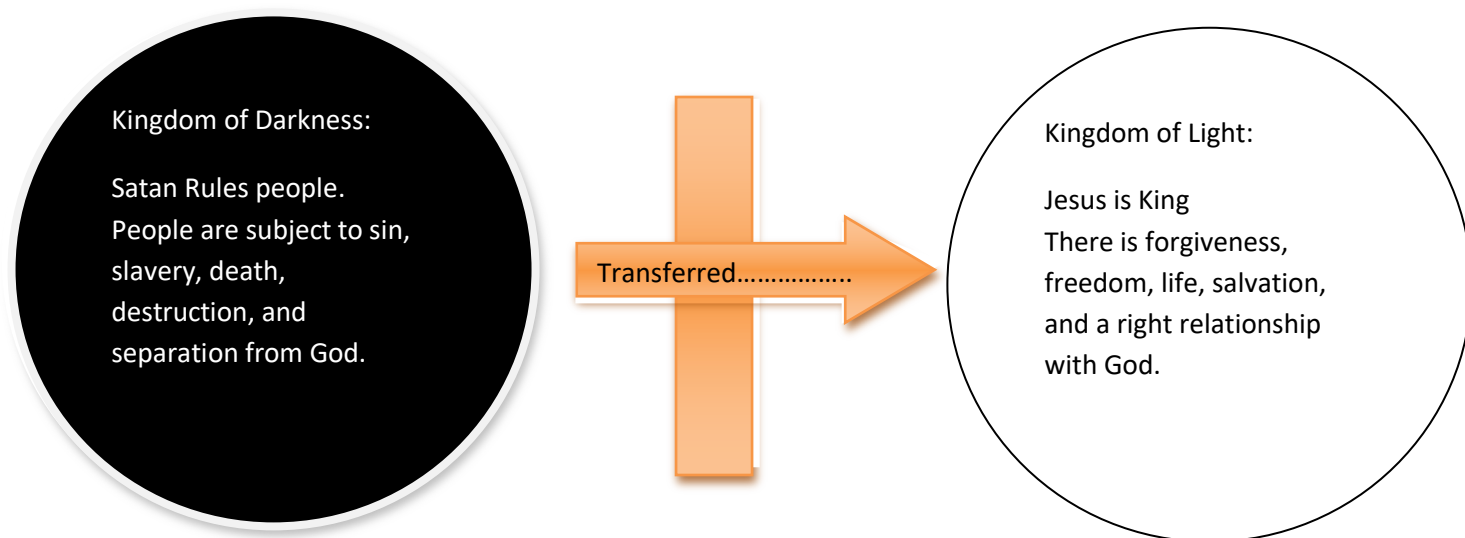
How do these words suggest that we oppose lies that Satan would want us to believe?

Satan is the ruler of the Kingdom of Darkness. God is the ruler of the Kingdom of Light. All people begin in the Kingdom of Darkness. But Jesus has come to rescue people from darkness and bring them into the light.

Colossians 1:13-14

He has saved us from the kingdom of darkness. He has brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves. ¹⁴ Because of what the Son has done, we have been set free. Because of him, all of our sins have been forgiven.

Below is a contrast between the two kingdoms.



This diagram suggests that Jesus in his death and resurrection has the power to move us out of the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of light. Jesus invites us to believe/trust in him and join his kingdom.

"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me (Revelation 3:20).

Will you say yes to Jesus and enter His kingdom of light?