



The Small Catechism of Doctor Martin Luther

The First Chief Part: The Law

The Eighth Commandment

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God, so that we do not lie about, betray or slander our neighbor, but excuse him, speak well of him, and put the best construction on everything.

The sum and substance of this commandment, then, is this: No one shall harm his neighbor with his tongue, be he friend or foe. We are not to say anything bad about him whether the statement is true or false. The only exception is whatever must be said as a matter of official duty or for the purpose of helping the wrongdoer to change. We are to use the tongue only to speak the best we can about everyone, covering his sins and weaknesses by presenting them in the best light possible and by veiling them behind his more honorable and attractive qualities. – **Martin Luther, Large Catechism, I, 285.**

TODAY'S LESSON FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:



Jesus' Sermon on the Mount
James Tissot, watercolor – 1896

"**Blessed** are the poor in spirit,
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
"**Blessed** are those who mourn,
For they shall be comforted.
"**Blessed** are the meek,
For they shall inherit the earth.
"**Blessed** are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
For they shall be filled.
"**Blessed** are the merciful,
For they shall obtain mercy.
"**Blessed** are the pure in heart,
For they shall see God.
"**Blessed** are the peacemakers,
For they shall be called sons of God.
"**Blessed** are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
"**Blessed are you** when they revile and persecute you, and **say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake**. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."
+ Matthew 5:1-12 +

"If there had been a law given which could have given life, truly righteousness would have been by the law. But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe." – Galatians 3:21-22