



Flourish: The Life Lie

March 10, 2024

Speaker: Pastor Mark Batterson

Scripture: Acts 17:22, Exodus 4:10-12, Genesis 3:1, John 5:7, 1 Kings 19:3-18

Sermon Overview: Before original sin, there was the original lie. When we believe a lie, we plant a seed of false belief that grows a false reality that thwarts us from fulfilling God's purpose. From the enemy's first lie in the garden, we have been believing and telling ourselves false narratives that usher idolatry into our hearts. To correct these false narratives and "guiding fictions," we must filter our psychology through our theology.

Sermon Series Question:

1. Where are you planted? Where is your hope planted?

Sermon-Specific Questions:

1. Read Genesis 3. How many lies can you identify in this chapter? Which lie is the central lie from which all other lies grow? Are there any areas in your life in which you have been believing this same lie? How can you reframe your thinking?
2. Read 1 Kings 19:3-6, 15-18. What lies did Elijah believe? How did the Lord refocus Elijah's thinking? How can you take your focus off of your circumstances and refocus on God's purposes? What do you think the outcome will be?

Digging Deeper:

1. Read Exodus 4:10-12 and Acts 17:22. What does the statement in Acts tell us about Moses' thinking? Think back over the story of Moses: the first 40 years from his birth to his escape to the wilderness; the second 40 years in the wilderness shepherding; and the third 40 years, leading the Israelites through the wilderness. Why do you think Moses believed a false narrative about himself? How do you think his beliefs about himself

changed as he progressed in his journey with God? How does his experience give you insight into the false narratives you have believed?

2. Identify an area in your life where you have experienced failure. Write a narrative about before, during, and after that failure. Be sure to include reasons why you made specific decisions or why certain things happened. Put the narrative down and return to it after some days or weeks. When you come back to it, use a highlighter to identify your beliefs in this narrative (e.g. *I didn't tell that person how I felt because I was afraid of getting into conflict*. So you might highlight "*I was afraid of getting into conflict.*"). Go deeper and see if you can identify any lies you were believing (e.g. *That person will reject me if I confront them*). For each lie you identify, find a verse from God's Word to counter that lie (e.g. 1 Peter 3:10-11; Psalm 16:5-9. Keep that list of verses with you and spend time actively imagining yourself from the perspective of those verses.

Practical Application:

- Consider looking at our fasting resources at ncc.re/fast. What has your experience been with fasting?
- Join us for the John Wesley fast– Text "fast" to– 844-504-0861
- Join a group or a ministry team, or become a mission partner!
- Get in community with a [small group](#). It's not too late. Check them all out at ncc.re/groups!!