

The Abundant Life #1 - Fake News

John 10:10 – NKJV - ¹⁰The thief does not come except to **steal**, and to **kill**, and to **destroy**. I have come that **they may have life**, and that they may have it **more abundantly**.

Just prior to Jesus' discussion of shepherds and sheep, He had healed a man born blind (John 9).

The man was taken to the Pharisees, who investigated the healing but **refused to acknowledge Jesus as the healer**; in fact, they mocked the healed man for trusting Jesus.

Then Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind" (John 9:39).

Question: "What does it mean that **the thief** comes only to steal, kill, and destroy (John 10:10)?"

This verse sets up **a contrast** between **"the thief," the destroyer**; and **Jesus, the life-giver**.

Looking at the verse in context, we see that **Jesus is presenting Himself as the Good Shepherd**. He is essentially telling the Pharisees that He is Messiah, the same Lord that David called **"my Shepherd"** in Psalms 23:1.

The Greek word for **"thief"** used in John 10:10 means **"one who steals"**

Figuratively, the same word is used to refer to **false teachers**.

Anyone who **claimed a way of salvation** other **than Jesus** was **"robbing" the people of truth**.

False teachers are thieves who may **claim to offer salvation**, but **their intentions are not good**.

- **Ultimately, these false teachers/thieves are carrying out Satan's intentions**.
- Rather than **bring life**, they bring **death**.
- Rather than **give**, they **steal**. Rather than **build up**, they **destroy**.

We are **not free of false teachers** today. Peter wrote, **"There will be false teachers among you."**

God's sheep are **protected from the thief by their Shepherd**. Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd!!!!!!!!!!!"

Our series that we are going to be focusing on for the next 7 weeks is ***The Abundant Life***.

Today I want to share this thought ***Fake News***.

Let's look at the later part of John 10:10. ***Jesus said***, I have come that ***they may have life***, and that they may have it ***more abundantly***.

That is ***what God wants*** for our lives.

- ***Abundance*** – Plenty, Richness, A Lot of, Pressed Down, Running Over, Shaken Together, A Whole Lot Of.....

Abundant Life

- ***Abundance*** in our ***spiritual condition***
- ***Abundance*** in our ***relationships with others***
- ***Abundance*** in our ***finances***
- ***Abundance*** in our ***health***
- ***Abundance*** in our ***faith***
- ***Abundance*** in our ***hope***
- ***Abundance*** in so many aspects of our ***spiritual and physical existence***.

This is going to be a ***great series***.

- You are going to love it and you don't want to miss any part of it.

Let's look at ***the first part*** of ***John 10:10*** - The thief does not come except to ***steal***, and to ***kill***, and to ***destroy***.

So if ***you've been trying*** to get to ***The Abundant Life*** in ***your walk with God***,

- And ***that keeps eluding you*** somehow
- We might need to think about ***the first part*** of this scripture.

The thief does not come except to ***steal***, and to ***kill***, and to ***destroy***.

- Before he can ***destroy anything***, he ***MUST steal or kill*** something first!

We need to recognize that we have an ***adversary*** whose desire is to ***keep you from receiving*** what it is ***that God has*** for your life.

How does he do that?

The Bible tells us...

- He steals, He Kills, He destroys!!!!!!

Doesn't sound like a nice guy does he?

- Why are people flirting with this guy?
- Why are people messing around with Him?
- What part of your life do you really need his involvement in?

How would you like to have this guy living next door to you?

- He steals from people
- He kills people
- He destroys things in people's lives.

Sounds like the kind of guy you don't want to have living next door right?

- Well sadly if we pay attention we might find that this guy is *actually operating in and out of our own home.*
- See, he doesn't want to live next door to you; he wants to live in your house.
- He wants to set up shop stealing, killing and destroying right in your own home, in fact **IN YOUR LIFE!**

Would it be fair of me to say today that **NONE of us** really want the Thief *working in our lives?*

Good - So let's talk about something we call **Fake News**

This is something that **many people believe is new**, especially on the internet.

Wikipedia - Fake news is a type of **yellow journalism** that consists of deliberate **misinformation** or **hoaxes** spread via the traditional print, broadcasting **news media**, or via **Internet**-based **social media**. ***Fake news is written and published with the intent to mislead in order to gain financially or politically, often with sensationalist, exaggerated, or patently false headlines that grab attention.***

Fake news often employs eye-catching headlines or entirely fabricated news stories in order to ***increase readership*** and, in the case of internet-based stories, online sharing and ***Internet click revenue***. In the latter case, profit is made in a similar fashion to sensational online "***click bait***" headlines and relies on advertising revenue generated from this activity, regardless of the veracity of the published stories.

Easy access to online ***advertisement*** revenue, increased political polarization between the left and right, and the popularity of online ***social media***, primarily the ***Facebook newsfeed***, have all been implicated in the ***spread of fake news***. Anonymously-hosted website slacking known publishers have also been implicated, because they make it difficult to prosecute sources of fake news for ***libel*** or ***slander***. The relevance of fake news has experienced greater growth in a ***post-truth*** reality. In response, researchers have explored the development of a psychological "***vaccine***" to help people to ***detect a fake news***.

Some fake news websites use ***website spoofing***, structured to make visitors believe they are visiting trusted sources like ***ABC News*** or ***MSNBC***. ***The New York Times*** defined "fake news" on the Internet as fictitious articles deliberately fabricated to deceive readers, generally with the goal of profiting through ***click bait***. ***PolitiFact*** described fake news as fabricated content designed to fool readers and subsequently made viral through the Internet to crowds that increase its dissemination.

Here's what it's saying....

- **People Love Fake News!!!**
- No matter **how fake** an article is, ***the juicer the better***.
- It can be as **dumb as dumb can be**, but **people just click away** on it believing all the ***stupidity*** and making some liar whose making millions on ***advertisement and click revenue***.

And it's fake!

- It's bogus - It's a sham - It's phony

Fake News, Have you heard any lately?

- If you paid any attention to the **past presidential elections**, you probably heard ***a lot of fake news***.

Pay attention to the ***elements that speak into your life*** and ***walk with God***.

- You are probably ***hearing*** some ***Fake News***
- It could be causing ***your faith in God to waiver***.
- It maybe keeping you from living ***Life More Abundantly***.

Fake News – *Is Not* a new thing - It's been around for ***a long time...***

- Early in ***the book...*** - ***Beginning of time...***

Genesis 3:1-6 – NKJV - *The Temptation and Fall of Man*

3 Now the serpent was more cunning (***Sneaky, Cleaver, Cunning, Scheming, Calculating***) than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said (***Get ready for some fake news!***) to the woman, “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden’?”

2 And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden;

3 but of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the midst of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.’”

4 Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die.

So God says one thing, and the devil is saying something else.

It's important to **know what voices** we are **listening to**.

One of them is **speaking truth** and the **other Fake News**.

- One is speaking ***Eternal Life***
- And the other ***Eternal Destruction***.
- One is speaking ***Life More Abundantly***
- And the other ***Killing, Stealing and Destroying***.

5 “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

6 When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

See, he's been at this for a long time.

When he **lied to Eve** in the garden -

- He actually **tricked her** and **Adam** into losing their **preeminence and rule over Satan**.
- **As a result of their sin**, they were **subject to death and diseases**, and **the hardships of life**.

They were living in a **paradise**,

- But when **the Thief** got through with them...
- They were living by **the sweat of their brow** among the **thorns and thistles**.

If you want to know where sickness, and hunger and pain and suffering **came from** -

- It happened right here **in Gen 3**.
- And it happened all because **the Thief** took from them **what God had prepared for them**.
- **And what's crazy** was **they did it almost willingly**.

I wonder what would have been different about this whole thing **if that serpent would have had a sign** around his neck that said **(LIAR!)**

- **Eve would have known not to believe** Him right? **Hopefully**.
- But he didn't and **as a result** –
- Things **got really bad** for these two people really quick.

This is why in the New Testament Jesus gives us: JOHN 10:10 - NKJV

¹⁰ The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and **that they may have it more abundantly**.

John 10:10: is the sign around **the devil's neck** –

- He's a **Theif!** - He's a **Liar!** - He only wants to **destroy your life!**
- See, you are either going to have **the Thief** talking to your life,
- or you are going to have **Jesus talking in your life**
 - **It's up to you** which voice you are going to **listen to**.

Depending on **which voice** you listen to

- You are going to have **2 very different outcomes** in your life.

Either your going to have your **God given** blessings & abundance **stolen from you**

- And experience **Death not only spiritually** -
- But the **death** of all **that God would give birth to** in your life
- You will also have **destruction in your life.**

People can't figure out sometimes why **no matter what they do** to improve their life, **destruction just keeps coming.**

OR you are going to have **LIFE AND THAT MORE ABUNDANTLY!**

See there's some **Fake News** going around!

- **There's a serpent** speaking to some folks
- He's telling you that **God doesn't love you.**
- God **doesn't care** about you.
- God **doesn't** really care how you live your life.
- God **doesn't want to** fill you with His Spirit and deliver you from your sins.

He tells people all the time, every day, everywhere **that God isn't listening**

- And that **He doesn't hear** your prayers and cries.

I think we need to push the **Fake News** back here today and get our noses for the next 7 weeks into the **Good News** –

Find out just **exactly** what **the Red Letters mean** when they say **Abundant Life!**

I think there's way too much trouble in the church for us to say that we are living **The Abundant Life** right now.

- Too much unemployment - Too much sickness - Too much marital trouble
- Too much sin - Too many lies - Too much death

See a lie **can sound like the truth if you don't know** the difference.

- If all you are doing is listening to every news report on every channel, **you'll get very confused** with regards to the issues our country is facing right now.
- And to the same extent, if you are **listening to everything the world is saying** and **the Thief is saying** in your life, **you are going to be very confused** in your walk with God.

Daniel 11:32 - NKJV

³² Those who do wickedly against the covenant he shall corrupt with flattery; **(Fake News):** but the people who know their God shall be **strong**, and carry out **great exploits**. *(That's talking about The Abundant Life.)*

Look at that

- You are either going to be **corrupted by his flatteries** or **you are going to Know Your God** and **be Strong and do Exploits**.

1 John 2:22 - NIV

²² **Who is the liar?** It is whoever denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a person is the antichrist—denying the Father and the Son.

Right there you know the Thief is talking.

- When someone says that **Jesus isn't the Christ**
- **He can't make a difference** in your life,..
- **You know the Thief is talking**.
- That's a voice you **don't** want to listen to.

John 8:44 - NIV

⁴⁴ You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

Jesus had no problem pointing his finger at the wrong voice in His life and neither should you.

James 4:7 - NIV

⁷ **Submit** yourselves, then, to God. **Resist** the devil, and **he will flee** from you.

Do you see that? God wants to give you the Gift of the Holy Spirit!

- **Submit – Resist- AND HE WILL FLEE FROM YOU!**
- But don't you know that there are **all kinds of voices out there** that say, **it's not for you today?**

CLOSE:

Submit YOURSELVES - That sounds like He's still giving it away!

People say, *That salvation was only for those people back in the Bible days.*

You know what my response is?

- ***You're too late!***
- I already ***received it!***

See, a lie cannot have an effect on someone who knows the truth.

- ***Fake news can't*** mess you up ***when you are tuned in*** to the right channel.
- When you have your nose ***in the Good News,*** the ***Fake News can't Kill,*** ***Steal*** and ***Destroy in your life.***

This is a simple message and it's supposed to be simple.

- It ***does not*** have to ***get complicated.***
- It only becomes complicated when ***we allow the Fake News from the Thief to get into our heads and into our hearts.***

See, there are some promises that God has promised and a hope that He gives in our lives...

- and we cannot tap into it if we don't know what it is and we don't understand how to see it come to place in our lives.