

**"They exchanged the truth  
about God for a lie"  
Romans 1:25.**



## **Liar, Liar, Pants on Fire**

**Read:** John 10:1-10

Growing up as a child my family would pray before breakfast. My dad would read from the Bible and challenge us to memorize certain passages. The only one I ever remembered was from this week's gospel: "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so that you may have life, and have it abundantly" John 10:10. But it has served as a constant reminder of where true happiness lies.

In our modern world there are a myriad of thieves. So many voices try to steal our identity as children of God and the everlasting life only He can give. They lie to us in an attempt to steal our happiness, kill our values and destroy our eternal souls. They tell us happiness is found in possession, power and prosperity, that sin is no big deal, and that Jesus is just one path among many to God. They manipulate us, exchanging "the truth about God for a lie" (Romans 1:25).

In the gospel, Jesus is quite clear about the dangers of sin, the harm of single minded pursuit of possession, power and prosperity, and the need to believe in him as "the way the truth and the life" (John 14:6). He expresses these truths out of love for us because He is the good shepherd and only wants what is best for us. He informs us that true joy comes from following Him; and no other path, no other gate, will open before us and grant us true and everlasting happiness.

Unfortunately, we have difficulty blocking out the deceptive voices. It takes hard work. As St. Paul reminds us, "If you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you will have God's approval" (1 Peter 2:20). Jesus promises a joy the world cannot give, and offers us happiness that begins now, lasts forever, and can't be taken away. That is, unless we listen to the voice of the thief and not the good shepherd.