**Class # 27– Lying for Profit vs. Lying for peace**

Senior Fellowship Leadership Program

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12 Steps to Redemption

Great Lies in U.S. History

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PC8XHObL3Yk>

1. Why did Nixon Lie about Watergate?
2. Why did Bush lie or exaggerate about Iraq?
3. Why did Clinton lie about Monica Lewinsky?
4. Why does Trump lie about --------------------?

1) [Shemot 23:7] **מִדְּבַר שֶׁקֶר תִּרְחָק** וְנָקִי וְצַדִּיק אַל תַּהֲרֹג כִּי לֹא אַצְדִּיק רָשָׁע

“Distance yourself from a lie; and do not kill a truly innocent person or one who has been declared innocent, for I will not vindicate a guilty person.”

2) Mishlai 1:7

 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; But the foolish despise wisdom and discipline.

יִרְאַ֣ת יְ֭הֹוָה רֵאשִׁ֣ית דָּ֑עַת חׇכְמָ֥ה וּ֝מוּסָ֗ר אֱוִילִ֥ים בָּֽזוּ׃

3) Rambam Laws of Character Traits 2:6

“A person is forbidden to act in a smooth-tongued and deceiving manner. He should not speak one thing outwardly and think otherwise in his heart. Rather, his inner self should be like the self which he shows to the world. What he feels in his heart should be the same as the words on his lips.

It is forbidden to deceive people, even a non-Jew. For example, one should not sell a gentile the meat of an animal which has not been ritually slaughtered as if it were ritually slaughtered meat, nor a shoe made from the hide of an animal which has died of natural causes as if it were made of the hide of a slaughtered animal. One should not press his colleague to share a meal with him when he knows that his colleague will not accept the invitation, nor should he press presents upon him when he knows that his colleague will not accept them. He should not open casks supposedly for his colleague which he must open for sale, in order to deceive him into thinking that they have been opened in his honor. The same applies with all matters of this sort.

It is forbidden to utter a single word of deception or fraud. Rather. one should have only truthful speech, a proper spirit and a heart pure from all deceit and trickery.”

## 4) Rambam – laws of robbery and returning lost objects 14:13

To refined Torah scholar who only lies because of peace, “tractate”, “bed” and “the home of hospitality” is trusted to reclaim lost property only with mere recognition [without a sign on the object] What is meant by the above? If he was studying the tractate of *Niddah* and said that he was studying the tractate of *Mikvaot*, so that he would not be asked about the *Niddah* laws. He slept in one bed, but said that he slept in another, lest signs of a seminal emission be discovered in the bed in which he slept. He stayed at Reuven's home, but said that he stayed at Shimon's, so that others would not trouble Reuven. **He made peace between two people and added and subtracted from the statements each one of them made to heighten their feelings of closeness. Such deceptions are permitted.** If, however, witnesses came and testified that he made other false statements, there is no obligation to return an article that he claims to have recognized.