Class #6 - Parshat Toldos - The Joy of Lying

Advanced Fellowship Parsha Class - Sponsored in memory of Alice Toby Barbanel Z”l

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<https://youtu.be/SsobD5yTpy0>

1. Why is Kevin Hart lying about so many items that seem very small? His height? Does he look at himself in the mirror?
2. Why would a guy who is 5’11” say he is 6’ tall?

“Most people lie in everyday conversation when they are trying to appear likable and competent, according to a study conducted by University of Massachusetts psychologist Robert S. Feldman and published in the most recent Journal of Basic and Applied Social Psychology. The study, published in the journal's June issue, found that 60 percent of people lied at least once during a 10-minute conversation and told an average of two to three lies.”

1. How does a person feel when they were speeding on the highway and have been pulled over by the state police?
2. Let us say, the state police just gave him a warning?
3. What enjoyments would he get from telling his friend if he told a lie to the state trooper to “explain” why he did not deserve a ticket?
4. Would the person share a story with their friends on how they lied to cheat in business?

**Rambam, Laws of Character Traits - Ch. 2:6**

A person is forbidden to act in a smooth-tongued and luring 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.

27:14 [Jacob] went and fetched what his mother had requested. She took [the kids] and prepared them, using the tasty recipe that [Jacob's] father liked best.

27:15 Rebecca then took her older son Esau's best clothing, which she had in her keeping, and put them on her younger son Jacob.

27:16 She [also] placed the young goats' skins on his arms and on the hairless parts of his neck.

27:17 Rebecca handed to her son Jacob the delicacy, and the bread she had baked.

27:18 He came to his father. 'Father.' 'Yes. Who are you, my son?'…

27:19 'It is I, Esau, your first-born,' said Jacob. 'I have done as you asked. Sit up, and eat the game I trapped, so that your soul will bless me.'

27:20 'How did you find it so quickly, my son?' asked Isaac.

'God your Lord was with me.'

27:21 'Come closer to me,' said Isaac to Jacob. 'Let me touch you, my son. Are you really Esau or not?'

27:22 Jacob came closer to his father Isaac, and [Isaac] touched him. He said, 'The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau.'

27:23 He did not realize who it was because there was hair on [Jacob's] arms, just like those of his brother Esau. [Isaac] was about to bless him.

27:24 'But are you really my son Esau?'

'I am.'

27:25 'Then serve me [the food]. I will eat the game that my son trapped, so that my soul may bless you.' [Jacob] served it, and [Isaac] ate. He then brought [Isaac] some wine, and he drank it….27:30 Isaac had finished blessing Jacob, and Jacob had just left his father Isaac, when his brother Esau came back from his hunt.

27:31 He had also prepared a delicacy and brought it to his father. 'Let my father get up and eat his son's venison,' he said, 'so that your soul may bless me.'

27:32 'Who are you?' asked his father Isaac.

'I am your first-born, Esau.' he replied.

27:33 Isaac was seized with a violent fit of trembling. 'Who....where....is the one who trapped game and just served it to me? I ate it all before you came and I blessed him. The blessing will remain his'.

27:34 When Esau heard his father's words, he let out a most loud and bitter scream. 'Bless me too, Father,' he pleaded.

27:35 'Your brother came with deceit, and he already took your blessing.'

27:36 'Isn't he truly named Jacob (Ya'akov)! He went behind my back (akav) twice. First he took my birthright, and now he took my blessing!'

Rashi comments:

אנכי עשו בכרך I AM ESAU YOUR FIRST-BORN — I am he that brings food to you, and Esau is your first-born.

1. What is problematic about Rashi comment?
2. Did Yaakov lie to his father?
3. What is harmful about the guy lying to the state trooper and getting away with it?
4. If it was your child that told the story, what would be your reaction?
5. How else is lying harmful in relationships?
6. When should you lie?