

with that king. He did not want him to have fellowship with these wicked men who put up this altar. Of course not! But for him to have good fellowship with me, with one who stands exactly where he does, of course, that is perfectly proper. Why do you have to be so literal - "in this place."? instead of saying "with the kings"?

Well he could not persuade him, and then he thought of something. He said, I am a prophet even as you are and an angel spoke to me by the word of the Lord saying Bring him back unto my house that he may eat bread and drink water but he lied to him. Just a little while lie you know. Nothing serious. He was not urging him to eat with the king or anything like that. Just a little white lie in order to have some fellowship for himself. It is never right to do wrong in order to get a chance to do right. A wonderful thing for this man to have fellowship with him, yes. Ordinarily a fine thing to eat at his house. But here there was a direct, definite command of God, and the only way he could persuade him was to tell him a lie. So he told him just a little white lie and it resulted in the man's death. We want to be careful about our words. We want to stand for truth, not only in the major things but in the lesser things. You cannot tell when twisting the truth may have results going way beyond what you dream of.

It is a question whether there is any such thing as a white lie. We should speak truth and look at the whole facts and let the man then decide on the basis of the fact. When he told this little white lie the man of God said Of course I'll go back if God's told you that. I've been awfully lonely standing here alone before the king. I'd like to have fellowship with another real man who stands for God. He went back with him and ate bread at his house and drank water.

We read where it says an angel spoke to him and gave him that command, we immediately think of what Paul said in Gal., he said, Though we or an angel from heaven preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have received, let him be accursed. As we said ~~beof~~ before so say we now again, If any man preach any other Gospel unto you than that you have received, let him be accursed." Paul did not approve of what the man did here and Paul gives us a warning to stand for God's ~~s~~ truth and not to twist it a little to suit our own convenience or desires.

So he went back with him and ate bread at his house and drank water, and then the very man who had led him into this rebuked him for it. That's the experience you have over and over. People, if they can persuade you to do what is wrong, persuade you to lead you to astray, that's the very one who is apt to turn on you and rebuke you for it, and put all the blame for it on you. We must not look to other people for our guidance. We have our guidance in the Word of God and we need to study it for ourselves. The sad thing is that so many many people believe this or that strongly which we've been told by someone who was told by someone else by somebody who heard it from somebody else, or it is the idea a group of people have and we don't look the the facts for ourselves and study them and try to see what they are.