



The Wolf in Grandma's Bonnet

John 8:31-47

LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD

Great truths in old fairy tales

The deceptive nature of malevolence

Evil deceives in order to devour

QUESTION OF THE DAY

How do we practically name and expose evil in a day in which relativism reigns and almost anything in question can be justified by someone?

One: how can we pierce the disguise of evil and see it clearly

Two: how do we negotiate the tensions of a relativistic culture?

Today we focus on the first issue

JESUS' CHARACTERIZATION OF EVIL IN JOHN 8

Three characteristics of the species of evil (sin, the devil)

It is rooted in falsehood (**8:44**), it enslaves (**8:34**), it destroys life (**8:44**)

Enslavement and death are consequences that follow the lie

EVIL AS FALSEHOOD

The essence/foundation of evil is that of the lie: **8:32,44**

All that God created was good: **Genesis 1:31**

Evil does not have ontological independent existence, but is bent good

The only way you misuse good is by lying about it

FOLLOWING THE LIE: ENSLAVEMENT

Enslavement means to increasingly lose the ability, strength, will to do otherwise

Reality works together like a complex engine

Detach the ignition switch the car can't move

Good behaviors and choices empower good behavior and choices

Bad behavior and choices inhibit good behavior and choices

FOLLOWING THE LIE: DEATH

Death means to separate, unwind what belongs together

Separate from the source means death

Think of the leaf or the diver underwater

Multiple types of death: physical, emotional, relational, psychological, spiritual

ENSLAVEMENT AND DEATH AS PROGRESSIVE

Sin and evil work in a progressive way

The longer the repetition, the deeper the roots, the higher the wall

All becoming is moving upward or downward on an escalator

From doing evil to becoming evil: **8:44**

The nature of the devil: **no** truth in him, he speaks out of his character

Gnashing of teeth in hell

HEARTBREAKING PICTURES: Arley's Battle with Anorexia

Link to the full video: ***In My Mind: Anorexia***: <https://youtu.be/005dJ9ODjx8>

BECOMING WOLF-SPOTTERS

Because evil is rooted in lie, its invitations come disguised

The devil approaches as an angel of light: **2 Cor 11:13-15**

Test the spirits: **1 John 4:1**

Become saturated in the good

Detection of counterfeits begins with expertise in real thing

Holy Spirit living us reacting to evil

Learning to trust "instincts and senses"

Holy Scriptures marinating in mind and memory: **Ezekiel 3:3**

Dwelling on "the glory and the honor of the nations": **Revelation 20:26**

Think on all that is worthy of praise: **Philippians 4:8**