

How can I be a dependable, reliable, and faithful person?

Matthew 5:33-37

Illustration – 24, President – “How do I know that I can trust you?” Bauer – “With all due respect Madam President, ask around!”

Exercise – Can you tell the truth from a lie? (break into pairs – 3 facts/1 lie)

Ways to detect a lie:

1. Observe how the person smiles.
2. Notice the behavior of other body parts.
3. Look out for microexpressions.
4. Watch their eyes.
5. Check for sweating.
6. Mind exaggerated details.
7. Notice the person's eye movements.
8. Be sensitive to the person's emotional expression.
9. Listen for a subtle delay in responses to questions.
10. Be conscious of their usage of words.
11. Allow silence to enter the conversation.
12. Change the subject quickly.
13. Watch his or her throat.

Could you tell the lie from the truth?

LAPD is looking into a Laptop Lie Detector (95% accurate). The fact that they need something this sophisticated means that lie detection is difficult.

Why is honesty so important?

Why do people lie?

- spare other people's feelings / get ahead / etc.

Laziest employee - *You will be lucky if you can get him to work for you.*

Inept – *I enthusiastically recommend this candidate with no qualifications whatsoever.* Problems getting along - *I am pleased to say that this candidate is a former colleague of mine.*

Not worth consideration - *I would urge you to waste no time in making this candidate an offer of employment.*

- 22% of adults in America believe there is even such a thing as absolute moral truth.
- 32% of adults and only 9% of teenagers said they believe moral truth is unchanging or absolute.

Why does God expect honesty out of us? Why does it really matter?

Lev 19:2 - Be holy because I, the LORD your God, am holy.

v. 11 – do not lie, do not deceive one another

v. 12 – do not swear falsely by my name and so profane the name of your God.

As image bearers, God expects us to image Him by living righteous lives. Matt 5 – being great in the Kingdom means living like salt and light now. Murder/Anger, Adultery/Lust, Oaths/Integrity

Reflect God’s faithfulness when we are faithful (vv. 33-37)

a. Don’t make false promises (vv. 33-36)

- Oaths in the OT were sworn in God’s name and because of that there were consequences before God for not fulfilling the agreement. So, they swore by everything else so that if they broke it, they wouldn’t be under condemnation.

Matt 23:16-22 – absurdity of oaths – rationalizing the truth

In what ways do we rationalize the truth?

b. Be true to our word (v. 37)

What have you found that helps you stay true to your word?

Children / Marriage / Family / Friends / Work

Disciples impact the kingdom by being faithful and reflecting faithfulness.

How can we be more truthful from the heart?

As image bearers, God expects that we will bear His image properly, living righteously, living by His standard so that we can reflect His character to the world. While we can never perfectly maintain the standard He sets forth in Matthew, the law was meant to lead us to Christ, to testify to the fact that we were in need. So, what is our proper response to this standard? To live humbly before our King, striving for perfection so that other’s will see our perfect God yet realizing until we are with Him, we will fall short.

Purpose of the law - Gal 3: 19-24

Oaths - Lev. 19:12; Deut. 23:21

Image - 5:48 – be perfect as your Heavenly Father is perfect. (Leviticus 19:2)

Righteousness – being in harmony with God.

Matt 23:16-22 – absurdity of oaths.

Galatians 1:20/ Philippians 1:8 – examples of oaths (in God’s name) by Paul