

HONEST, HONESTLY, HONESTY

Cain refused to be **honest** with God about the fact that he had murdered his brother Abel.

- **Genesis 4:9:** "And the LORD said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: Am I my brother's keeper?"

Abram wasn't an **honest** person. (He specifically told his wife to lie about her relationship with him for the express purpose of deceiving people.)

- **Genesis 12:11-13:** "And it came to pass, when he was come near to enter into Egypt, that he said unto Sarai his wife, Behold now, I know that thou art a fair woman to look upon: Therefore it shall come to pass, when the Egyptians shall see thee, that they shall say, This is his wife: and they will kill me, but they will save thee alive. Say, I pray thee, thou art my sister: that it may be well with me for thy sake; and my soul shall live because of thee."

Pharaoh was angry at Abram for not being **honest** about the fact that Sarai was his wife.

- **Genesis 12:18:** "And Pharaoh called Abram and said, What is this that thou hast done unto me? why didst thou not tell me that she was thy wife?"

Abraham consistently lied about Sarah. He kept telling rulers that she was his sister, and refused to be **honest** and admit

that she was his wife.

- **Genesis 20:2:** "And Abraham said of Sarah his wife, She is my sister: and Abimelech king of Gerar sent, and took Sarah."

Abraham tricked Abimelech into committing a terrible sin when he wasn't honest about his marriage with Sarah.

- **Genesis 20:9:** "Then Abimelech called Abraham, and said unto him, What hast thou done unto us? and what have I offended thee, that thou hast brought on me and on my kingdom a great sin? thou hast done deeds unto me that ought not to be done."

The reason Isaac blessed Jacob instead of Esau was because Jacob lied to him and tricked him into doing so. The blessing wasn't obtained **honestly**.

- **Genesis 27:22-24:** "And Jacob went near unto Isaac his father; and he felt him, and said, The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau. And he discerned him not, because his hands were hairy, as his brother Esau's hands: so he blessed him. And he said, Art thou my very son Esau? And he said, I am."

When Rebekah wanted Jacob to leave and go live with Laban for a while, she wasn't **honest** with Isaac about what was actually going on. Instead she lied and claimed the reason she wanted Jacob to leave was so he could find a wife.

- **Genesis 27:43-44, 46:** "Now therefore, my son, obey my voice; arise, flee thou to Laban my brother to Haran; And tarry with him a few days, until thy brother's fury turn

away; ... And Rebekah said to Isaac, I am weary of my life because of the daughters of Heth: if Jacob take a wife of the daughters of Heth, such as these which are of the daughters of the land, what good shall my life do me?"

Jacob wasn't **honest** with his wives. (Claiming that he had served Laban with all his power was a huge lie. Jacob had deliberately used clever genetic tricks to take away all of Laban's best livestock, only leaving him with the animals that were so bad Jacob didn't want them.)

- **Genesis 31:4, 6:** "And Jacob sent and called Rachel and Leah to the field unto his flock, ... And ye know that with all my power I have served your father."

Even though the sons of Jacob knew what had actually happened to Joseph, none of them were willing to be **honest** and tell the truth. Instead *all of them* told a malicious lie that was designed to hurt their father as much as they possibly could.

- **Genesis 37:31-33:** "And they took Joseph's coat, and killed a kid of the goats, and dipped the coat in the blood; And they sent the coat of many colours, and they brought it to their father; and said, This have we found: know now whether it be thy son's coat or no. And he knew it, and said, It is my son's coat; an evil beast hath devoured him; Joseph is without doubt rent in pieces."

When Joseph asked the sons of Jacob if they had another brother, they gave him an **honest** answer.

- **Genesis 43:7:** "And they said, The man asked us straitly of

our state, and of our kindred, saying, Is your father yet alive? have ye another brother? and we told him according to the tenor of these words: could we certainly know that he would say, Bring your brother down?"

When the king of Egypt asked the midwives why they weren't killing the male Hebrew babies, the midwives weren't **honest** with Pharaoh. Instead came up with an excuse. (God blessed them for this.)

- **Exodus 1:18-20:** "And the king of Egypt called for the midwives, and said unto them, Why have ye done this thing, and have saved the men children alive? And the midwives said unto Pharaoh, Because the Hebrew women are not as the Egyptian women; for they are lively, and are delivered ere the midwives come in unto them. Therefore God dealt well with the midwives: and the people multiplied, and waxed very mighty."

Moses wasn't **honest** with Jethro about why he was returning to Egypt. He claimed he was going on a trip to visit relatives.

- **Exodus 4:18:** "And Moses went and returned to Jethro his father in law, and said unto him, Let me go, I pray thee, and return unto my brethren which are in Egypt, and see whether they be yet alive. And Jethro said to Moses, Go in peace."

The man who came from Saul's camp (who claimed to have killed Saul) didn't answer David's question **honestly**. It seems he actually came upon Saul's body after he had already died, and then created a lie to tell David.

- **2 Samuel 1:6, 10:** "And the young man that told him said, As I happened by chance upon mount Gilboa, behold, Saul leaned upon his spear; and, lo, the chariots and horsemen followed hard after him. ... So I stood upon him, and slew him, because I was sure that he could not live after that he was fallen: and I took the crown that was upon his head, and the bracelet that was on his arm, and have brought them hither unto my lord."

Even though David wanted Joab to be executed because he murdered Abner and Amasa, David wanted Solomon to find some other excuse to put him to death (instead of being **honest** and putting him to death for his actual crimes).

- **1 Kings 2:5-6:** "Moreover thou knowest also what Joab the son of Zeruiah did to me, and what he did to the two captains of the hosts of Israel, unto Abner the son of Ner, and unto Amasa the son of Jether, whom he slew, and shed the blood of war in peace, and put the blood of war upon his girdle that was about his loins, and in his shoes that were on his feet. Do therefore according to thy wisdom, and let not his hoar head go down to the grave in peace."

The enemies of the Jews who wrote a letter to King Artaxerxes to stop the construction of the second temple lied about their intentions. They weren't **honest** with the king, and instead claimed they were trying to prevent the Jews from rebelling against him (which was a huge lie).

- **Ezra 4:12-13:** "Be it known unto the king, that the Jews which came up from thee to us are come unto Jerusalem, building the rebellious and the bad city, and have set up

the walls thereof, and joined the foundations. Be it known now unto the king, that, if this city be builded, and the walls set up again, then will they not pay toll, tribute, and custom, and so thou shalt endamage the revenue of the kings."

There are times when the wicked aren't **honest** about what they're actually doing.

- **Nehemiah 6:2:** "That Sanballat and Geshem sent unto me, saying, Come, let us meet together in some one of the villages in the plain of Ono. But they thought to do me mischief."

The reason Haman answered King Ahasuerus **honestly** was because he was convinced the king was going to honor him, not someone else.

- **Esther 6:6-7:** "So Haman came in. And the king said unto him, What shall be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honour? Now Haman thought in his heart, To whom would the king delight to do honour more than to myself? And Haman answered the king, For the man whom the king delighteth to honour,"

When Job spoke to his three friends he wasn't lying to them. Instead he was being **honest**.

- **Job 6:28:** "Now therefore be content, look upon me; for it is evident unto you if I lie."

When Job was in terrible pain and had lost everything, he

wanted his friends to understand that he was being **honest** with them (because he was indeed being honest). However, Zophar rejected that. Zophar claimed Job was a liar and that he actually *wanted* to make Job ashamed.

- **Job 11:3:** "Should thy lies make men hold their peace? and when thou mockest, shall no man make thee ashamed?"

We should pray that God would transform us into people who are **honest**, and who don't lie.

- **Psalm 119:29:** "Remove from me the way of lying: and grant me thy law graciously."

We must not tell lies. Instead we must be **honest**, because lies are an abomination to God.

- **Proverbs 6:16-17:** "These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,"
- **Proverbs 12:22:** "Lying lips are abomination to the LORD: but they that deal truly are his delight."

It's better to be **honest** about our hatred than to lie about it.

- **Proverbs 10:18:** "He that hideth hatred with lying lips, and he that uttereth a slander, is a fool."

God delights in those who deal faithfully and **honestly** with others.

- **Proverbs 12:22:** "Lying lips are abomination to the LORD:

but they that deal truly are his delight."

Some people aren't **honest** about their life circumstances. (They may claim to be rich when they're poor, or claim to be poor when they're rich.)

- **Proverbs 13:7:** "There is that maketh himself rich, yet hath nothing: there is that maketh himself poor, yet hath great riches."

God requires us to be **honest** when it comes to weights and measurements.

- **Proverbs 16:11:** "A just weight and balance are the LORD's: all the weights of the bag are his work."

It's not fitting for princes to lie. Those who are in a position of authority must be **honest**.

- **Proverbs 17:7:** "Excellent speech becometh not a fool: much less do lying lips a prince."

Those who hate others may not be **honest** about their hatred.

- **Proverbs 26:24:** "He that hateth dissembleth with his lips, and layeth up deceit within him;"

We must be **honest** about a situation. We must not tell lies to make that which is good seem bad, or that which is bad seem good.

- **Isaiah 5:20:** "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good

evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!"

Even though the interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's dream seemed extremely unlikely, Daniel was **honest** about what it meant. He didn't hide anything or try to make it seem more reasonable.

- **Daniel 4:25:** "That they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and they shall wet thee with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over thee, till thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will."

God said that the Israelites hadn't been **honest** and were reaping the terrible consequences of their lies.

- **Hosea 10:13:** "Ye have plowed wickedness, ye have reaped iniquity; ye have eaten the fruit of lies: because thou didst trust in thy way, in the multitude of thy mighty men."

The chief priests and elders weren't interested in giving Jesus an **honest** answer to His question about John the Baptist.

- **Matthew 21:25-27:** "The baptism of John, whence was it? from heaven, or of men? And they reasoned with themselves, saying, If we shall say, From heaven; he will say unto us, Why did ye not then believe him? But if we shall say, Of men; we fear the people; for all hold John as a prophet. And they answered Jesus, and said, We cannot tell. And he said unto them, Neither tell I you by what

authority I do these things."

- **Luke 20:5-7:** "And they reasoned with themselves, saying, If we shall say, From heaven; he will say, Why then believed ye him not? But and if we say, Of men; all the people will stone us: for they be persuaded that John was a prophet. And they answered, that they could not tell whence it was."

The chief priests and elders weren't **honest** with people about what they truly believed.

- **Matthew 21:26:** "But if we shall say, Of men; we fear the people; for all hold John as a prophet."
- **Luke 20:6:** "But and if we say, Of men; all the people will stone us: for they be persuaded that John was a prophet."

The reason the Pharisees asked Jesus if divorce was lawful was to trap Him. It wasn't an **honest** question.

- **Mark 10:2:** "And the Pharisees came to him, and asked him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife? tempting him."

Jesus didn't allow the woman who touched Him (to be healed of her medical issue) to go away without being **honest** about what she had done.

- **Luke 8:46-47:** "And Jesus said, Somebody hath touched me: for I perceive that virtue is gone out of me. And when the woman saw that she was not hid, she came trembling, and falling down before him, she declared

unto him before all the people for what cause she had touched him, and how she was healed immediately."

When the religious leaders asked Jesus where His authority came from, it wasn't an **honest** question. They knew exactly where He came from, and that's why they hated Him. (In the parable of the vineyard, the reason the husbandmen killed the heir was because *they knew he was the heir*. They put Him to death *because* they knew who He was.)

- **Luke 20:14:** "But when the husbandmen saw him, they reasoned among themselves, saying, This is the heir: come, let us kill him, that the inheritance may be ours."

The question about paying tribute to Caesar wasn't an **honest** question. Instead it was an attempt to trap Jesus and destroy Him.

- **Luke 20:22-23:** "Is it lawful for us to give tribute unto Caesar, or no? But he perceived their craftiness, and said unto them, Why tempt ye me?"

Deacons must have an **honest** reputation.

- **Acts 6:3:** "Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business."

The things Lysias said in his letter to Felix were true. The things Tertullus said when he accused Paul before Felix were lies. Throughout the New Testament the Romans were more **honest** and honorable in their treatment of Christians than

the Jews. (Paul wasn't profaning the temple, and had no intention of doing so. The claims the Jews made against Paul were all lies.)

- **Acts 24:6-7:** "Who also hath gone about to profane the temple: whom we took, and would have judged according to our law. But the chief captain Lysias came upon us, and with great violence took him away out of our hands,"

Festus wasn't **honest** about his motives. (The reason he kept Paul imprisoned was to do a favor to the Jews, not because he had any actual doubts about what was going on.)

- **Acts 25:9:** "But Festus, willing to do the Jews a pleasure, answered Paul, and said, Wilt thou go up to Jerusalem, and there be judged of these things before me?"
- **Acts 25:14, 20:** "And when they had been there many days, Festus declared Paul's cause unto the king, saying, There is a certain man left in bonds by Felix: ... And because I doubted of such manner of questions, I asked him whether he would go to Jerusalem, and there be judged of these matters."

We must be **honest** not just to those within the church, but to those outside the church as well.

- **Romans 12:17:** "Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men."

We must be **honest**.

- **Romans 13:13:** "Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and

wantonness, not in strife and envying."

When preaching the gospel, it's not our job to be clever. Instead it's our job to be **honest** and straightforward.

- **1 Corinthians 2:1-2:** "And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified."

It's wrong to handle the Word of God deceitfully. We must be open and **honest** about everything that it says.

- **2 Corinthians 4:2:** "But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God."

It's important for churches to have a reputation for **honesty**.

- **2 Corinthians 8:21:** "Providing for honest things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men."

Paul was very **honest**. He told the church that he loved them, and he also told the church that they didn't love him.

- **2 Corinthians 12:15:** "And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved."

The church must do that which is **honest**.

- **2 Corinthians 13:7:** "Now I pray to God that ye do no evil; not that we should appear approved, but that ye should do that which is honest, though we be as reprobates."

Not everyone who enters the church is **honest** about why they came.

- **Galatians 2:4:** "And that because of false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage:"

Christians should think on whatever things are **honest**.

- **Philippians 4:8:** "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."

The gospel must be presented **honestly**, without deceit or guile.

- **1 Thessalonians 2:3:** "For our exhortation was not of deceit, nor of uncleanness, nor in guile:"

Paul commanded the persecuted Thessalonian church to be quiet, mind their own business, and work with their hands so they could treat people outside of the church **honestly** and fairly.

- **1 Thessalonians 4:11-12:** "And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you; That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing."

Paul was **honest** about the sins he had committed, and glorified God for forgiving him and giving him grace.

- **1 Timothy 1:15:** "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief."

It's good to lead a peaceable and quiet life, provided that it's obtained through godliness and **honesty**.

- **1 Timothy 2:2:** "For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty."

Deacons must not be "double-tongued". Instead they must be **honest**.

- **1 Timothy 3:8:** "Likewise must the deacons be grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre;"

We must be **honest** in all things.

- **Hebrews 13:18:** "Pray for us: for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly."

We must pray for one another so that we can live **honest** and righteous lives.

- **Hebrews 13:18:** "Pray for us: for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly."

Christians must be **honest** and live a life that's full of good works.

- **1 Peter 2:12:** "Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation."

One of the reasons Christians need to live **honest** lives is to silence the ignorance of fools.

- **1 Peter 2:12, 15:** "Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation. ... For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men:"

Some false teachers act in secret. They're not **honest** about the evil things they're doing.

- **2 Peter 2:1:** "But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction."

Peter was **honest** about what false teachers are like and the damage they do. He warned the church against them and made it clear they were going to Hell.

- **2 Peter 2:3:** "And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not."