



Our hope is that you were challenged by Sunday's message and would desire to take the study a little deeper. Whether for personal study, family study, or for a Home Group gathering, use this study to go deeper.

Open

July 29, 2018

My wife and I tell our kids, "Be honest! If you've done something wrong, admit to it. Your punishment for lying will be as bad, if not worse, than the consequence of the original offense." That should do it, right? Not so much. All of us (not just children, but easily seen in them) face circumstances that invite honest or dishonest words or actions. The opportunities are numberless, even in a single day.

The book of Proverbs provides practical application of divine qualities. It helps us "connect the dots" from God's character and commands to everyday life.

Main Point

Sometimes we can deceive a man, but never God. And if we can't fool Him, why do it to someone else? God's delights in His children displaying His character and His truth in practical ways. When dishonesty is so common, the world will see the contrast of honesty.

Read

Proverbs 11:1; 12:22; Matthew 5:13-16; 21:12-13

Discuss

- A balance was used to guarantee the exchange of two things was fair. We don't use them often today. What are some examples of a "balance" in our daily lives? How do we avoid offering someone else a "false balance"?
- In Proverbs 12:22, "lying lips" doesn't take a lot of imagination. But we can't have this discussion without acknowledging two, timeless questions:
What about a little, white lie? And what of Rahab (Joshua 2:1-7)?
- In Proverbs 11:1 and 12:22, these two forms of dishonesty are described as an "abomination to the LORD." Why such strong language?
- As a result of these remarks, it brings new insight to Jesus' conduct in the temple (Matthew 21:12-13). Discuss the contrast of Jesus' words, between a "house of prayer" and a "robber's den". How do those things relate?
- How were temple worship and sacrifice supposed to look? Why would an honest exchange be so important to Jesus?



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