

DATE: June 13, 2010

TITLE: "TRUTHFULNESS" "TELL THE TRUTH"

TEXT: Exodus 20:16

SERIES: Back to Basics (#9 of 10)

(* Make mention as to why so many scriptures listed)

***PROP: The word "Truthfulness" – that I can hold up.

INTRODUCTION: What comes to mind when you think of the word, 'truthfulness'? Truthfulness- what comes to mind when you think of the word, 'truthfulness'? In the midst of a culture where not telling the truth seems common place, God confronts the issue of truthfulness head on.

ILLUSTRATION: (*John draw cartoon) Someone once told a story that went like this, "A woman's red station wagon was crushed by an elephant at a circus. The owners of the animal apologized, explaining that the animal, for some reason, simply liked to sit on red cars. In spite of the damage, the woman's car was still drivable. Later on, as she was on her way to the garage to get repairs done, she was stopped short by an accident involving two other cars just ahead of her. When the ambulance arrived a few minutes later, the attendants took one look at her car and ran over to assist her. 'Oh, I wasn't involved in this accident,' she explained. 'An elephant sat on my car.' The ambulance attendants quickly bundled her off to the hospital for possible shock and head injuries, despite the lady's vehement protests." They could not accept the truth.

Truthfulness- what comes to mind when you think of the word, 'truthfulness'?

Truthfulness calls us to:

I. TELL THE TRUTH, FOR THE WORDS YOU SPEAK IMPACT OTHERS

"You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor." (Exodus 20:16)

1. The truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth was an extremely important matter in Israel.
2. The message of this ninth commandment is simple and clear, tell the truth.
3. The importance of speaking the truth in the Old Testament cannot be overstated.
4. The prophet Zechariah said, **"These are the things you are to do: Speak the truth to each other, and render true and sound judgment in your courts; do not plot evil against your neighbor, and do not love to swear falsely. I hate all this," declares the Lord." (Zechariah 8:16-17)**
5. The importance of truthfulness continues in the New Testament. **Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body." (Ephesians 4:25)**
6. Truth is the foundation for trust, which is at the heart of relationships.

ILLUSTRATION: (*Picture or background) Augustine, Philosopher and Theologian of the 300's said, "When regard for truth is been broken down or even slightly weakened, all things will remain doubtful."

7. This commandment calls us to set aside deceit and speak with truthfulness.
8. We must set aside all tricks of the trade when it comes to deceit and truthfulness.

9. How we frame a truth can deceive.

ILLUSTRATION: To please his father, a college freshman went out for track. He had no athletic ability, though the father had been a good miler in his day. His first race was a two-man race in which he ran against the school miler. He was badly beaten. Not wanting to disappoint his father, the boy wrote home as follows: "You will be happy to know that I ran against Bill Williams, the best miler in school. He came in next to last, while I came in second."

10. The first five commandments dealt primarily with a person's relationship with God.

11. Starting with the sixth commandment, the major focus is on our relationship with others.

12. The sixth commandment guards human life, while the seventh guards purity, and the eighth, a person's property.

13. The ninth guards a person's reputation against the threat of false accusation.

14. This commandment is against character destruction

15. The protection of the process of justice was a major concern in Israel.

16. In this commandment, the full weight of the identity, character and action of Yahweh is thrown behind telling the truth.

17. The Hebrew word, 'testimony', used here, means, 'answer, give reply, or testify', especially, like it is written here, when it is followed by the words, 'for' or 'against'.

18. The ninth commandment contains several technical legal terms, which point to its original significance.

19. The ninth commandment forbids all false and slanderous speech about others.

20. Saying something about someone as a witness was taken seriously.

21. The evidence given could determine a person's future, so it was vital that it was true.

22. This commandment deals with lying, which directly affects another person

23. The giving of a false witness about someone is addressed numerous times in the Old Testament.

(*Picture) "Do not testify against your neighbor without cause, or use your lips to deceive." Proverbs 24:28

Like a club or a sword or a sharp arrow is the man who gives false testimony against his neighbor." Proverbs 25:18 "

24. The importance of maintaining a true witness runs throughout the Old Testament, and the difference between a false witness and a true witness is clear.

"A truthful witness gives honest testimony, but a false witness tells lies." Proverbs 12:17,

"A truthful witness saves lives, but a false witness is deceitful." (Proverbs 14:25)

25. The whole matter of responsibility of a witness is clear in the Old Testament, for it can have serious consequences.

EXAMPLE: (*Picture of vineyard with scripture) The Old Testament story of Naboth's vineyard is an example of the results of false testimony. Naboth had a vineyard close to the palace of Ahab, King of Samaria. The king said to Naboth, "Let me have your vineyard to use for a vegetable garden, since it is close to my palace. In exchange I will give you a better vineyard or, if you prefer, I will pay you whatever it is worth." (I Kings 21:2) "But Naboth replied, "The Lord forbid that I should give you the inheritance of my fathers." (I Kings 21:3). Ahab was sullen and angry, and his wife Jezebel said to him, "Let me take care of it." "So, she wrote

letters in Ahab's name, placed his seal on them, and sent them to the elders and nobles who lived in Naboth's city with him. In those letters she wrote: 'Proclaim a day of fasting and seat Naboth in a prominent place among the people. But seat two scoundrels opposite him and have them testify that he has cursed both God and the king. Then take him out and stone him to death.'" (I Kings 21:8-10).

26. The words spoken in false testimony against him resulted in his death.

Example: Jesus was accused with false witnesses when He, too, was being tried.

Example: False witnesses were produced at the trial of Stephen, the first Christian martyr. "They produced false witnesses, who testified, "This fellow never stops speaking against this holy place and against the law." (Acts 6:13)

27. A false witness can destroy the reputation, the happiness, the freedom and the very life of another.

28. We have an absolute moral obligation to speak the truth in our public and private conversations and in every communication.

29. The reputation of the neighbor was important, just as the Israelites own reputation was important.

30. When we damage the reputation of a Christian, we damage the reputation of the Christian community and of the God we served.

31. We must guard the reputation of others carefully by the words we speak.

32. Words were important because of the power they possessed and the character they contained.

33. Words have more power than we often give them credit for, as they can be a powerful weapon.

"They make ready their tongue like a bow, to shoot lies; it is not by truth that they triumph in the land. They go from one sin to another; they do not acknowledge me," declares the Lord." (Jeremiah 9:3)

34. Words once spoken cannot be taken back.

35. The tongue used against someone can be as deadly and painful as a knife, gun or sword.

36. James said of the tongue, **"but no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison." (James 3:8)**

37. Words have power to destroy the character and reputation of people.

38. Let us not underestimate the power of the tongue.

"Likewise the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark." (James 3:5)

ILLUSTRATION: It took place on September 11, 1995. A squirrel climbed on the Metro-North Railroad power lines near New York City. This set off an electrical surge, which weakened an overhead bracket, which let a wire dangle toward the tracks, which tangled in a train, which tore down all the lines. As a result, 47,000 commuters were stuck in Manhattan for hours that evening. Something small can cause a lot of damage.

39. Words have the power to lift up or the power to tear down.

40. Words can shift blame or hide the truth.

41. The story of Adam and Eve reveals truth as an early casualty in the drama of humanity.

**ILLUSTRATION: (*Background with this) Sir Walter Scott expressed it well:
“O what a tangled web we weave,
When first we practice to deceive!”**

42. God intends for people to tell the truth, but, often, the exhausting and more strenuous and stressful alternative of lying is chosen.

ILLUSTRATION: A 2004 study at Temple University School of Medicine found that lying takes more brain energy than telling the truth. Participants were divided into two groups. An MRI machine indicated that the liars had to use seven areas of the brain in their response. By comparison, those who told the truth only used four areas of the brain. Dr. Scott H. Faro concludes, “Lying is a complex behavior.... there’s more activity and more interactions that occur during a lie than in truth telling.”

43. A lying word can seem most convenient at the moment, for, at times, the truth may seem inconvenient

“Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing. Truthful lips endure forever, but a lying tongue lasts only a moment.” Proverbs 12:18-19

44. Truthfulness can bring healing and hope.

45. Words can slander and blaspheme.

46. Words can be used to tell a half-truth, which is a deception, for deception is at the heart of all lies.

ILLUSTRATION: Klyne Snodgrass, in the 1990 book, Between Two Truths - Living with Biblical Tensions, tells this, “Once, the devil was walking along with one of his cohorts. They saw a man ahead of them pick up something shiny. “What did he find?” asked the cohort. “A piece of the truth,” the devil replied.

“Doesn't it bother you that he found a piece of the truth?” asked the cohort.

“No,” said the Devil, “I will see to it that he makes a religion out of it.”

47. Partial truth destroys, for the words we speak can impact others.

48. Telling of a God of love without telling of sin with its consequences can be a religion the enemy loves to promote.

49. This commandment speaks against tale-bearing and gossip.

ILLUSTRATION: (*Picture with this) Earl Wilson once said, “Gossip is when you hear something you like about someone you don’t.”

50. It has been observed that in the context of gossiping, this commandment is probably broken more than any other.

ILLUSTRATION: One gossip said, “There’s something I must tell you before I find out it isn’t true!”

51. Religious gossip can sneak into the prayer circle.

52. Gossip is always against our neighbor and often can be false.

(*Picture) “Without wood a fire goes out; without gossip a quarrel dies down.” (Proverbs 26:20)

53. We may not think of ourselves as gossips, but do we gossip.

ILLUSTRATION: Dr. Clarence Bass, Professor Emeritus at Bethel Theological Seminary, early in his ministry, preached in a church in Los Angeles. He thought he had done quite well with his preaching, as he stood at the door greeting people as they left the sanctuary. The remarks about his preaching were complimentary. That

is, until a little old man commented, "You preached too long." Dr. Bass wasn't fazed by the remark, especially in light of the many positive comments. "You didn't preach loud enough," came another negative comment; it was from the same little old man. Dr. Bass thought it strange that the man had come through the line twice, but when the same man came through the line a third time and exclaimed, "You used too many big words" --this called for some explanation. Dr. Bass sought out a deacon who stood nearby and asked him, "Do you see that little old man over there? Who is he?" "Don't pay any attention to him," the deacon replied. "All he does is go around and repeat everything he hears."

54. Words can be held in silence, which can hide the truth.

55. Words can destroy through carelessness, exaggeration, flattery, innuendo, insinuation, or subtle hints.

Examples: "Have you noticed how late Mr. So and So has been working since he got that new secretary?"

Examples "Have you seen how well Councilman So and So has been doing financially since he got elected?"

56. Included in the six things that God hates and seven things detestable to Him, listed in Proverbs 6:16-19, are a lying tongue and a false witness who pours out lies.

57. We can assume and consume lies that deceive, misguide, hurt, and destroy.

58. The Psalmist cried out, **"Set a guard over my mouth, O Lord; keep watch over the door of my lips."** (Psalm 141:3)

59. Have we become sloppy in the use of our tongue?

ILLUSTRATION: (Put on screen with question marks – a throbbing question mark and on comes five questions) An acrostic of the word, "THINK", gives us five questions that may be helpful to ponder before we speak.

T - Is it True?

H - Will it Help?

I - Is it Inspiring?

N - Is it Necessary?

K - Is it Kind?

60. Tell the truth, for the words you speak impact others

II. TELL THE TRUTH BECAUSE GOD IS THE GOD OF TRUTH AND TRUTH MATTERS

1. The Bible tells us much about God's character.

2. During this series, we have been studying some of the characteristics of God in our classes that meet on Sunday.

3. The heart of the character of God is truth.

"Whoever invokes a blessing in the land will do so by the God of truth; he who takes an oath in the land will swear by the God of truth" Isaiah 65:16

4. God is true and there is nothing false in Him

5. God is true in all He is and all that He does.

"Your righteousness is everlasting and your law is true." (Psalm 119:142)

6. In contrast to the world, the word of God is truth. (John 17:17)

"Yet you are near, O Lord, and all your commands are true." (Psalm 119:151)

7. He is true to His word, true to His character and true to His nature.

8. God is trustworthy because God is a God of truth.

“O Sovereign Lord, you are God! Your words are trustworthy, and you have promised these good things to your servant.” (II Samuel 7:28)

9. God is truth, so He will always be truthful.

“God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope offered to us may be greatly encouraged.” (Hebrews 6:18)

10. We can depend upon the promises of God because God is the God of truth.

11. God is a faithful God who does not deal deceitfully with His people.

12. By faith, we must embrace the truth.

13. One of the names Jesus gave Himself was Truth.

14. To embrace the truth, we must embrace Christ.

15. We can trust in His promises because God is the God of Truth.

“Into your hands I commit my spirit; redeem me, O Lord, the God of truth.” (Psalm 31:5)

16. We can trust God’s promise to forgive sins because God is a God of truth.

17. We can trust God’s promise to give peace because God is a God of truth.

18. We can trust God’s promise and provision of salvation because God is a God of truth.

19. We can trust God’s promise of eternal life because God is a God of truth.

20. Everything about God reflects absolute and undiluted truth.

21. The God of truth stands in great contrast to the devil, who is the father of all lies.

22. Satan wants to deceive and wants to lie.

23. Jesus said of the devil, “He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.” (John 8:44)

24. He will do all he can to deceive people from the God of truth and the truth of Christ.

25. The Old Testament, especially in the Psalms and in the wisdom literature, has a passionate interest in truth.

26. This interest in truth is a reflection of an essential characteristic of Yahweh Himself.

27. It is also because of the practical and consequential awareness of the cost to individuals and society as a whole when lying becomes epidemic.

28. God is the God of truth who sees and hears our words.

29. He knows the truth of everything about our lives, the world, and us.

30. He knows the truth of our motives, actions, and feelings, for God is the God of truth.

31. There is absolute truth, for there is a God who is absolutely true.

32. In this commandment, the sacredness of truth is declared.

33. There are some who say truth doesn’t matter anymore, because truth doesn’t even exist.

34. The postmodern society denies the existence of absolute or universal truth.

35. The concept of truth is sliding down the slippery slope.

ILLUSTRATION: (*Picture with this) “Men occasionally stumble over the truth, but most of them pick themselves up and hurry off, as if nothing had happened.” (Winston Churchill)

36. Some have proposed that instead of absolute truth there are as many relative truths as there are people on the planet.

ILLUSTRATION: The moral relativist, the person who believes that something is right if you feel it is right, may feel free in his rejection of absolute standards of good and bad, but his freedom is the freedom of the sailor at sea without a compass. He is free to choose to travel in any direction he fancies, precisely because he has no way of knowing which direction the harbor lies in. (Harold Kushner)

37. The concept is, “what is true for you may not be true for me.”

38. Philosopher, Richard Roty distilled this postmodern concept when he said, “Truth is made, not found.”

39. If there is no truth, there are no lies.

40. Since God is the author of all truth, it doesn't matter what the world thinks about His word, it is still truth!

41. Truth is still the truth even when it is ignored or denied.

ILLUSTRATION: (*Picture of cow) History records, once, when a stubborn disputer seemed unconvinced, Lincoln said, "Well, let's see, how many legs has a cow?" "Four, of course," came the reply, disgustedly. "That's right," agreed Lincoln. "Now suppose you call the cow's tail a leg; how many legs would the cow have?" "Why, five, of course," was the confident reply "Now, that's where you're wrong," said Lincoln. "Calling a cow's tail a leg doesn't make it a leg."

42. No amount of telling the falsehood will change the truth, but it will change the relationship we have with the person we lied to or about.

43. Truth is not just about personal preferences.

44. In postmodern thinking, some doubt that it is now even possible to lie.

45. Some argue that it could be healthy

ILLUSTRATION: Edmund Morris wrote the biography of Ronald Reagan. However, he made an incredible admission. He said that the book actually wasn't intended to be a traditional biography. Rather, it is a traditional biography mixed with his own fictional imagination. The publisher of the book even had the audacity to say this was an improvement upon the biographical form.

46. You really don't know the person when you don't know if what is said was true or not.

ILLUSTRATION: A magazine entitled, Child, published an article some years ago, titled. “The Truth about Lying”. The caption underneath the title said, “The old view: Lying, like other issues of morality, was seen only in black and white. Children were taught that all lying was bad and deserving of strict punishment, and they were frequently reminded that lying will make your nose grow as long as Pinocchio’s. New view: Today some lying is considered normal; In fact, a child’s first few lies are seen as an important step in the development of the self.” (P. 172 (1990))

47. Lying has become a cultural trait in America

48. In the majority of Americans, 2 out of 3 believe there is nothing wrong with telling a lie.

49. Studies have shown 91 percent of Americans lie regularly.

50. Only 31 percent of us believe honesty is the best policy.

ILLUSTRATION: Last year, Barna Research Company reported in an interview with thousands of Americans, “One-third of all adults (34%) believe that moral truth is absolute and unaffected by the circumstances. Slightly less than half of the born-again adults (46%) believe in absolute moral truth.”

51. It is tragic to realize just how easily we accept bending the truth.

ILLUSTRATION: In the July 15, 1993 Boardroom Reports, Peter LeVine writes: "When the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey ran a help-wanted ad for electricians with expertise at using Sontag connectors, it got 170 responses--even though there is no such thing as a Sontag connector. The Authority ran the ad to find out how many applicants falsify resumes." -- Leadership, Vol. 15, no. 1.

52. God makes it clear that truth really does matter and truth matters to Him

Psalm 101:7 “No one who practices deceit will dwell in my house; no one who speaks falsely will stand in my presence.”

53. Truth matters in our relationship with God and in our relationships with others.

54. Truth matters to God, for God is the God of truth.

III. TELL THE TRUTH, FOR GOD CALLS US TO BE TRUTHFUL

1. The loss of truth in public is well known.

2. God wants us to become and be people of truth.

3. Truthfulness is a requirement of the God of truth.

4. Lying is inconsistent with the life of the Christian.

5. An expectation of the God of truth is that His people would be truthful.

ILLUSTRATION: According to some statistics from the early nineties, 17 percent of Americans don't lie because of fear of being caught.

6. We will all give account to God for the words we speak.

7. Others may not catch us in our speech but God always does.

ILLUSTRATION: (*John draw cartoon – second caption with “My Father”) A school principal received a phone call. The voice said, "Thomas Bradley won't be in school today." The principal was a bit suspicious of the voice. He asked, "Who is speaking?" The voice came back, "My father." --James S. Hewett, Illustrations Unlimited (Wheaton: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc, 1988) p. 288.

8. The gift of speech is not without accountability.

9. Words spoken are not without consequences.

“For, whoever would love life and see good days must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from deceitful speech.” (1 Peter 3:10)

10. God holds us accountable because He expects truth from His people.

“The Lord detests lying lips, but he delights in men who are truthful.” (Proverbs 12:22)

11. Lies mostly come from our fearing man more than God.

12. Honor God with your speech.

13. Is God pleased with what I am talking about and what I am saying?

14. In every word you say about another person, is God pleased?

15. In everything we say, is God pleased?
16. The words we speak should honor the Lord.
17. If they are not in the character of God, don't say them.
18. As Christians, every day, we write a dedication to God.
19. We have the opportunity in the words we speak every day to honor Him with our speech.
20. In a day of propaganda, managed news, clever double-talk, fine print, the white lie and the constant deceit of a polite society, there is a need for this commandment.

ILLUSTRATION: Statistics show 91 percent of us lie regularly. One in five Americans can't make it through a single day – and we're talking about conscious, premeditated lies. Only 45 percent of people refrain from lying because they think it's wrong. A separate poll of 25,000 high schoolers found that nearly half agreed with the statement, "A person has to lie or cheat sometimes in order to succeed." ("Culture Clips," Plugged In, June 2006)

21. Research revealed that lying has become a cultural trait in America.
 22. Lying is embedded in our national character.
 23. Americans lie about everything-and usually for no good reason.
- ILLUSTRATION: Austin O'Malley states: "A lie has no legs. It requires other lies to support it. Tell one lie and you are forced to tell others to back it up. Stretching the truth won't make it last any longer. Those that think it is permissible to tell white lies soon grow colorblind."**

24. The challenge is that Gods culture is different than that of the world.
25. Regardless of the culture of the world, we must live in the culture of Christ.
26. God expects the truth from His people

Ephesians 4:15 "Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ."

27. God's people are to be people of the truth.
- "Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator." (Colossians 3:9-10)**

28. "To tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth" is challenging but possible through the power of Christ.

ILLUSTRATION: Some years ago, a young man came to me admitting he was a compulsive liar. He had been in the church leadership. God did a great work in his life because God expects truth from His people and can give the power to do that. He became a fine young family serving the Lord because he knew his behavior had to change and he believed that God could change it.

29. The Lord had the power to set him free from the bondage of lying.
30. Truth comes from the Lord.

"To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (John 8:31-32).

31. We must be people of truth.
32. In our age when deceit threatens every area of our society, the last word must be speaking the truth, for your truth sets others free.
33. We must be open and truthful to ourselves, not deceiving ourselves.

34. We must be people of our word who are people of the truth.

35. Tell the truth to each other.

ILLUSTRATION: Seven-year-old first baseman, Tanner Munsey never thought he would end up in Sports Illustrated, but he did. While playing T-Ball in Wellington, Florida, Tanner fielded a ground ball and tried to tag a runner going from first to second base. The umpire, Laura Benson, called the runner out, but young Tanner immediately ran to her side and said, "Ma'am, I didn't tag the runner." Umpire Benson reversed herself and sent the runner to second base. Two weeks later, Laura Benson was again the umpire and Tanner was playing shortstop. This time, Benson ruled that Tanner had missed the tag on a runner going to third base, and she called the runner safe. Tanner, obviously disappointed, tossed the ball to the pitcher and returned to his position. Benson asked Tanner what was wrong, and Tanner quietly said he'd tagged the boy. Umpire Benson's response? "You're out!" She sent the runner to the bench. When the opposing coach rushed the field to protest, Benson explained what had happened two weeks before, saying, "If a kid is that honest, I have to give it to him." (Bill White, Paramount, California; source: Sports Illustrated (9-16-93))

36. Are we people who are known for telling the truth?

37. Our reputation is important to Yahweh most of all, for we are His people and we are to be His witnesses in the world.

38. We have a responsibility to tell the truth about the truth.

39. We have a responsibility to tell the truth about God.

40. We must study to know the truth about God and then proclaim the truth about God to others.

41. We must be seekers of the truth.

ILLUSTRATION: (*moving background) Blaise Pascal observed, "Truth is so obscure in these times, and falsehood so established, that, unless we love the truth, we cannot know it."

42. Give yourself to knowing the truth of God, not settling to spoon feeding or the leftovers of another's study.

43. Be disciples of the Word.

44. We are not to be ashamed of the gospel of truth

(*Picture of Bible) "I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile."

(Romans 1:16)

45. We are not to bear false witness, but we are called to be people of truth.

46. We must tell the truth that people go to heaven because of Jesus Christ and not because they are good people.

47. As people of truth, we are to witness the truth about God.

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

48. We must be witnesses of the gospel of truth.

ILLUSTRATION: (*picture) Theologian, Carl F.H. Henry observed, "Some people live their whole lives just around the corner from the world of truth."

49. This is why we must proclaim the truth of Christ.

50. People need the truth in order to come to repentance.
51. People need the truth to come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.
52. So many people are living around the corner from truth.
53. God assigned responsibility to us to speak what is true and also to speak on behalf of truth itself.
54. We are to speak the truth in love, for truth is life-transforming.

ILLUSTRATION: Johann Kant, father of famous Prussian Philosopher, Emmanuel Kant, died in 1746. It is told that when he was an old man, he made a dangerous trip through the forests of Poland to his native country of Silesia. On the way, he encountered robbers, who demanded his valuables, finally asking, "Have you given us all?", and only letting him go when he answered "All." When safely out of their sight, his hand touched something hard in the hem of his robe. It was his gold, sewn there for safety and quite forgotten by him in his fear and confusion. At once, he hurried back to find the robbers, and having found them, he said meekly, "I have told you what was not true; it was unintentional. I was too terrified to think. Here, take the gold in my robes." Then, to the old man's astonishment, nobody offered to take his gold. After a moment, one robber went and brought back his purse. Another robber restored his book of prayer, while still another led his horse to him and helped him to mount. Then, they all asked for his blessing and watched him slowly ride away. That day, truth triumphed over thievery.

55. God's truth will triumph for all who accept it and live in the triumph of truth.

CONCLUSION:

I began the message by asking what comes to mind when you think of the word, 'Truthfulness'.

Do you come to mind when you think of the word, 'truthfulness'?

Do you see yourself as a truthful person?

Does God see you as a truthful person?

God has instructed you and I to live lives of truthfulness.

I. TELL THE TRUTH, FOR THE WORDS YOU SPEAK IMPACT OTHERS

II. TELL THE TRUTH BECAUSE GOD IS THE GOD OF TRUTH AND TRUTH MATTERS

III. TELL THE TRUTH, FOR GOD CALLS US TO BE TRUTHFUL

Ask God to make truthfulness a characteristic of your life.

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