

Chapter Six:

Serving

With

Honesty

Day 1

Honesty That Brings Forgiveness

(Jeremiah 5:1-2)

How honest are you about the things you do wrong? Why? Is that answer different based on who the wrong was committed against? Why? Do you expect judgment or forgiveness when you are honest about the wrong you have done? How does that answer influence your level of honesty? Do you extend judgment or forgiveness when others are honest with you about their wrongdoings? Why? How does your honesty with God result in forgiveness? How can you practice an honesty that brings forgiveness as you serve?

Fear keeps many people from being honest even when they know that “honesty is the best policy”. Even when we receive forgiveness from God as we’re honest with Him about our sin, we’re not so sure others will respond in a similar way? When we respond with forgiveness when those we serve are honest about their wrongdoing, we not only respond in a way that reflects God’s nature, it is also the way we want to be treated.

As you pray, ask God to help you overcome the fear of being honest. Pray that you would know God’s forgiveness as His response to your honesty and that you would learn to forgive others as a response to their honesty.

Notes: _____

Day 2

Honesty In Measurements

(Deuteronomy 25:15)

How does a command to be honest in “weights and measures” apply to you, or does it? Why? Have you ever received less from someone than what you were led to believe you should? How did it make you feel? Have you ever given less than what you led others to expect from you? Why? When you “measure up” a person, how do you know if your measurements are honest? What is the measurement God uses for you? How would your measurements of people change if you used the same standard that God applies to you?

While most of us don’t interact on a daily basis with those we serve in a way that involves actual weights and measures, it is still vital that we’re honest in the way we measure one another. When we view each person we serve as a person made in God’s image, we have measured them accurately. Anything less shows a lack of honesty in our practice of measurements.

As you pray, ask God to help you see any areas where you’ve not been honest in the way you measure people or things. Pray that you would consider how God measures a person and apply that same standard to yourself and those you serve.

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Day 3

Honesty With Finances

(2 Kings 12:15)

What was the answer God gave to the question, “Can a man rob God?” (Malachi 3:8)? How does that answer make you feel? Do people trust you in matters of finance? Why? Do the financial dealings of people influence your trust of them in other areas? How? How careful are you in the handling things that involve other people’s money? Would those “other people” agree? Why? Why do you think money is such a stumbling block for so many? How does being honest with the resources, of your own and of others, that you have available to you help you serve more effectively?

While the finances we have, or don’t have, should never define us, how accurately we handle them says a lot about our character. Because the love of money can be such a huge temptation for many people, how honest we are with what we have says a lot to those who are watching us. Our honesty with finances can go a long way toward helping those we serve believe we are honest in other areas as well.

As you pray, ask God to help you accurately evaluate how honest you really are with Him about your finances. Pray that you would not be one who robs God in any way as you serve.

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Day 4

Honesty of Intentions

(1 Chronicles 29:17)

Have you ever agreed to do something that you never intended to follow through with? Why? How often do you find the things you intended to do not being done? Why? Is it easier to say you plan on doing something or to actually do it? How pure are your motives as you serve? Are you sure? Is it possible to do good things with bad, or misleading, intentions? How? How can being honest about your intentions help you serve others more effectively?

It is fairly easy to have good intentions but often more difficult to have honest intentions. Even when we think we are doing a good job of making it look like we're serving others for their benefit, there is often at least someone who can see right through us if we have ulterior motives in what we do. If we find ourselves consistently "brushing off" those we claim to be serving, we may need to examine the level of honesty in our intentions.

As you pray, ask God to reveal more clearly why you serve. Pray that you would not only seek to serve with pure motives, but that you would be honest about your intentions as you make that journey.

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Day 5
Honesty in Our Testimony
(Proverbs 12:17)

How much do you value truthful testimony? Is that answer different based on whether you're the one giving the testimony or receiving it? Why? Is it easy for you to be honest all the time? Why? When is it most difficult? How does honesty, or lack of it, in your testimony influence how well you are able to serve? What does the level of a person's honesty do to your willingness to trust them? How important is earned trust in serving?

While not always easy, honesty about people is necessary as we serve others. It doesn't take long for a small amount of false testimony about people, or about God, to spread. Even when we think it is no big deal, a lack of honesty in one part of our testimony will cause those we serve to begin to doubt everything we do and say. An honest testimony, with love, in all things will help those we serve see Jesus in us.

As you pray, ask God to help you evaluate how honest you really are. Pray that you would give honest testimony in all of your conversations about God and about people. Pray that you would value honesty in yourself and in others. Pray for the courage and love to be honest in the right way.

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Day 6

Honesty in Our Words

(Proverbs 16:13)

How carefully do you choose your words? Why? Do you think the people around you would say you are always honest with your words? Why? How much trust do you place in a person that you know is not always truthful? Why? What would your answer tell you about the importance of being honest with your words to others? When you're serving, how does the level of honesty people perceive in your words influence your effectiveness?

Not everyone will appreciate a person with honest words, yet without them we lose all credibility in the eyes of those who need to see Jesus in us. When we choose honest words spoken in love, even in things we think may not matter, we build a reputation among those we serve as being one whose words have value. While we don't always have to speak everything we know, God's desire is that when we do speak our words would be truthful.

As you pray, ask God to help you examine how honest you are with the words you use. Pray that you would know when to speak and when to be silent. Pray that your practice of honest words would always be spoken with tact and in love.

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Day 7

Honesty in Our Answers

(Proverbs 24:26)

Who would you let kiss you on the lips? Why? Does that seem like a strange question in a devotion about honesty? What does an honest answer say to you about the person giving it? What do you think about honesty being an expression of true love? What does giving a dishonest answer say about your level of respect for the person you are answering? How can your honest answers to those you serve, and those you serve with, express to them a love that comes from God.

While God comparing an honest answer to a kiss on the lips may seem rather strange, I believe He wants us to understand the amount of pure love which an honest answer can express. When those we serve hear honest answers from us, they will not only hear about God's love for them but they will also be witness to our love for God and for them. If we don't love a person enough to give them an honest answer, our serving will never accomplish what God intends.

As you pray, ask God to increase your love for people. Pray that you would be filled with a love that can give honest answers even when it is difficult. Pray that the people you serve would know of God's love because of your honesty.

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