

My Friend Jesus Tells Me the Truth; He Is Reliable, Dependable

Lesson 7

I. JESUS IS MY EXAMPLE OF TELLING THE TRUTH.

A. Why was it easy for Jesus to tell the truth?

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6).

B. How did Jesus tell the truth to those who were considering following Him?
Luke 14:25-33

C. How did Jesus demonstrate dependability?

1. He made promises.

"Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled" (Matthew 5:17, 18)

"For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10).

2. Jesus kept those promises, even when it was difficult.
a. Even when he didn't feel well and wasn't happy.

And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed. Then He said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me" (Matthew 26:37, 38).

b. Even when He didn't get the encouragement He needed.

Then He came to the disciples and found them asleep, and said to Peter, "What? Could you not watch with Me one hour? Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed *is* willing, but the flesh *is* weak" (Matthew 26:40, 41).

- c. Even when He asked over and over and could find no easier way than to do what He said He would do.

So He left them, went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words (Matthew 26:44).

- 3. Jesus thought about getting out of His suffering.
 - a. If Jesus had prayed to His Father, what would He have given to Him?

“Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels?” (Matthew 26:53).

- b. What would have been the consequences of making the choice of calling for the angels?

“How then could the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must happen thus?” (Matthew 26:54).

II. HOW CAN I BE RELIABLE, DEPENDABLE?

- A. Believe what Jesus said about the freeing quality of truth.

“And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:32).

- B. Realize that consistent truthfulness is a difficult goal to reach.

- 1. Telling the truth is difficult because it is difficult to know the truth – even our own truth.

“The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*,
And desperately wicked;
Who can know it?” (Jeremiah 17:9).

- a. God often warns us about deceiving ourselves.

For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself (Galatians 6:3).

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless (James 1:22, 26).

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us (1 John 1:8).

- b. How can I guard against lying to myself?

Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts,
And in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom (Psalm 51:6).

Be angry, and do not sin.

Meditate within your heart on your bed, and be still (Psalm 4:4).

2. Paul wrote to faithful Christians who needed to quit lying.

Therefore, putting away lying, "*Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,*" for we are members of one another (Ephesians 4:25).

Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God,
To the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 1:1).

And they cast *him* out of the city and stoned *him*. And the witnesses laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul (Acts 7:58).

3. Although it is impossible for God to lie (Hebrews 6:18), men do not always keep their promises.

The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9).

4. This failure to keep promises may be due to:
 - a. Dishonesty.
 - b. Disability.
 - c. Lack of information.
 - d. Fear.
 - e. Forgetfulness.

C. Count the cost of not knowing, loving, and telling the truth.

And with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness (2 Thessalonians 2:10-12).

D. Consider these principles.

1. Understand clearly what will be expected of you before you make promises.

Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Him, saying, "Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask." And He said to them, "What do you want Me to do for you?" (Mark 10:35, 36).

2. Don't promise what you can't deliver.

They said to Him, "Grant us that we may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on Your left, in Your glory." But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" They said to Him, "We are able." So Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink the cup that I drink, and with the baptism I am baptized with you will be baptized; but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but *it is for those* for whom it is prepared" (Mark 10:37-40).

3. Mind your own business.

So He said to them, “You will indeed drink My cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with; but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but *it is for those* for whom it is prepared by My Father” (Matthew 20:23).

That you also aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you (1 Thessalonians 4:11).

4. Don’t prop up what you say.

“Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform your oaths to the Lord.’ But I say to you, do not swear at all: neither by heaven, for it is God’s throne; nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. Nor shall you swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black” (Matthew 5:33-36).

5. Say what you mean, mean what you say.

“But let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No,’ ‘No.’ For whatever is more than these is from the evil one” (Matthew 5:37).

6. Be accountable when it doesn’t work out that way.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).

7. Is it the time to tell this part of the truth?

“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear *them* now” (John 16:12).

8. Listen to understand before you talk to answer.

He who answers a matter before he hears *it*,
It is folly and shame to him (Proverbs 18:13).

9. Try to get all possible pertinent information from different sources before drawing conclusions.

The first *one* to plead his cause *seems* right,
Until his neighbor comes and examines him (Proverbs 18:17).

10. Be conscious of telling the truth in “little things.”

“He who *is* faithful in *what is* least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in *what is* least is unjust also in much” (Luke 16:10).

Conclusion:

- A. Why is telling the truth a friendship and leadership principle that we need to practice?
- B. When are some times when it will be hard to tell the truth as a leader or as a friend?
- C. What will a growing Christian do when he or she finds that what he or she has promised has not or will not come true?