The Dishonest Manager KZ Lesson Sun Am 9/18/22

# Memory Verse: Luke 16:10 NKJV

# 10He 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.

Target Thought Question? Do we want Jesus to trust us?

Luke 16:1-7

16 He also said to His disciples: “There was a certain rich man who had a steward, and an accusation was brought to him that this man was wasting his goods. 2So he called him and said to him, ‘What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your stewardship, for you can no longer be steward.’ 3“Then the steward said within himself, ‘What shall I do? For my master is taking the stewardship away from me. I cannot dig; I am ashamed to beg. 4I have resolved what to do, that when I am put out of the stewardship, they may receive me into their houses.’ 5“So he called every one of his master’s debtors to *him,* and said to the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ 6And he said, ‘A hundred measures of oil.’ So he said to him, ‘Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.’ 7Then he said to another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ So he said, ‘A hundred measures of wheat.’ And he said to him, ‘Take your bill, and write eighty.’

Today we’ll be learning from Jesus about honesty. Pretend your mom gave you two cookies to bring to your next door neighbor. This is your favorite kind of cookie, and it smells so good! Your mom said after you come back from your neighbor’s and eat some lunch, then you’d get to have four cookies, but you’re hungry right now.

If you think the right choice is to eat one cookie on the way to your neighbor’s—he would never know, raise your hand. If you think the right choice is to bring both the cookies to your neighbor and return home for lunch, raise your hand.

The honest or trustworthy choice is to give your neighbor the two cookies. If you can be trusted with two cookies, then you can be trusted with many cookies, right? Remember 2 of the 10 commandments is not to lie or steal. Remember Jesus knows everything we can’t fool or trick Him even if we can fool others.

Here are some more examples for us,

* Grandma gave you $10 to buy her a soda at the church craft show. After you do, you notice you have enough money leftover to buy a cool toy you saw. Do you bring the change back to grandma, or do you use the money to buy the toy before you go back to her?
* You’re at the arcade and you find a wallet with $30 in it, but there’s nothing in it that says the name of the owner. Do you put the $30 in your pocket and leave the wallet where it is, or do you turn the wallet into the lost-and-found?

Honesty is shown by both what we say and what we do. We always have a choice—like we did in our activity—to be honest about what we say and do. And when we’re honest with small, easy things, then Jesus says we can be trusted with bigger and harder choices. Jesus teaches us right from wrong and wants to make good choices because He knows everything and does not want us to have bad consequences from bad choices. He loves us so much that He only wants us to have a good life.

Jesus told a story about a rich man who had a manager working for him who was dishonest. The rich man asked his manager to explain how he’d been using the rich man’s money, and sure enough, he had been taking some of the money for himself and cheating his employer.

What do you think happened, and why? Explain whether you would trust the worker if you were his boss.

The manager was fired, but before he was, he made up a plan to make some friends who could help him when he was out of work. He went to all the people who owed his employer. He found out how much they each owed, and said they could pay a much smaller amount, if they paid now. These people were happy to pay a fraction of what they owed, and the manager became their friend since he gave them a discount. Was this the right choice for anyone?

After Jesus told this parable, he said to his disciples, "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much." If people know that they can trust us in small things, they will know that they can trust us in the big things too (Luke 16:1-13).

Lets’ pray: God, help us to remember what Jesus taught about honesty--and help us to be honest in every situation--big or small. In Jesus’ name we ask amen.

Can we fool or trick Jesus?

Do we always have a choice?

Why does Jesus teach us right from wrong?