

What Does The Bible Say About Being Honest?

Lesson 39

Matthew 26:57-68

Memory Verse

Speak the truth to each other. Zechariah 8:16

Introduction

Sometimes it is really easy to tell a little lie. It may seem like we get attention for a little while or keep us out of trouble. Jesus had a choice whether to tell the truth or not.

People tell lies for all kinds of reasons. Some may want to look good. Others may be afraid, because they did something wrong. Still others may lie in order to receive something. What does God want us to do? Let's see how Jesus handles this subject.

At Easter time, we learn about how Jesus died and came back to life three days later.

While Jesus was praying in a special garden, His friend, Judas, came with soldiers and pointed Him out. The men grabbed Jesus and arrested Him. They drug him to the leaders for a trial. All the teachers and leaders were there.

Scripture

Matthew 26:57-60

The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for false evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death. But they did not find any, though many false witnesses came forward.

A trial is supposed to be a place where both sides of a story are told. There are supposed to be people there that fairly decide justice for a case. They are not to be prejudiced for or against a person.

Well, the people in this case all hated Jesus and wanted Him dead. They did not understand that Jesus really was God's Son. In fact, the trial they held was illegal because they brought everyone together at night.

In fact, there were even people that came to testify against Jesus. They told untrue things, but kept getting facts mixed up.

Matthew 26:60-61

Finally two came forward and declared, 'This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and rebuild it in three days.' "

Two people came to the group and told them how Jesus said that he would destroy and then rebuild the church then rebuild the church temple in three days. Again, Jesus was quiet and did not respond.

Please know that Jesus could have told the group that He was talking about how HE would die and then three days later come back to life. He may have been quiet because He knew that the group would not believe Him.

Matthew 26:62-63

Then the high priest stood up and said to Jesus, "Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?" But Jesus remained silent.

The high priest said to him, "I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God."

Discussion

Ask: What did Jesus do during this awful trial?

He was silent! That's right. Jesus did not say a word. He could have stood up and demanded a new trial because of the corrupt people or the timing. Instead, Jesus was quiet.

Matthew 26:64

"Yes, it is as you say," Jesus replied. "But I say to all of you: In the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."

Ask: What did Jesus do when the leader asked him if he was God's son?

Jesus told the leader that He was God's Son.

When the leader asked Jesus if He was God's Son, Jesus knew that if He answered this question truthfully, something awful would happen. He knew that they would not believe Him and sentence Him to death. Jesus could have lied or remained quiet; however, Jesus told the truth. He stood up for what was right and true.

Matthew 26:65-66

Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "He has spoken blasphemy! Why do we need any more witnesses? Look, now you have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?"

"He is worthy of death," they answered.

Ask: What was the reaction of the men when they heard Jesus' confession?

The men could not believe their ears. He heard Jesus say this but they did not believe Him. Immediately, they decided that He must die. They spit on Him and hit Him with their fists.

Application

Jesus knew what was ahead. He would die on a cross. However, He also knew that something wonderful was going to happen three days later. He would come back to life! Jesus chose to tell the truth and He helped make a way for us to go to Heaven, if we believe in Him.

Ask: How does God feel when we lie?

It does not please God when we lie. When we lie, someone always finds out and we have to suffer the consequences. Also, God knows and He is not pleased.

Ask: Is it bad to lie?

When we lie, we sin. That means we have done something wrong. That makes God sad and it separates us from God because He is clean and pure. God cared about us so much that He made a plan for us to get back to Him and be together with Him.

Ask: How can we get rid of sin?

God knew there was only one way to clean up all the bad things we have done. He sent His Son to die for all the bad things we have done. Jesus died on a cross for us. He died for our sins.

Ask: Why?

Jesus did this so that we could go to heaven.

Ask: How?

When we believe in Jesus and trust Him, He does an amazing thing. He erases all the bad things we have done. God does not remember them any more. We are clean and can be with God. All a person has to do is trust Jesus and ask Him to be with them forever. Jesus stays with you and helps you do right.

Ask: Would you like to invite Jesus to be a part of your life?

God wants to change our lives and our hearts. God wants us to know Him and to know His love. God does not force us to follow Him. God waits for us to invite Him to be a part of our lives.

Romans 10:9-10

That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

Romans 10:9-10 tell us that we need to do two things. First, we have to confess with our mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord. Second, we have to believe in our heart that God has raised him from the dead. Then we will be saved and we will have a new life.