

A False Balance

Introduction

Read the following or relate it in your own words.

Honesty is very important to God. God does not tolerate deceitfulness, lying, stealing, hypocrisy, and more. Anything that is less than complete truthfulness, complete fairness, and complete honesty is not acceptable to God, and is sin. There are no details too little to escape honesty as God views honesty, even when it comes to dividing up cookies.

The Scripture

Read the Scripture to the group.

“A false balance is abomination to the LORD: but a just weight is his delight.” —Proverbs 11:1

A Real Life Example

Read the following or relate it in your own words.

The Importance of a Cookie's Weight

Becky and Linda had been helping their mom make cookies. The cookies were cooling nicely and Mom told Becky that she could put three cookies on a paper plate for herself and three on a paper plate for Linda. Becky and Linda were not very experienced at making cookies, so the cookies varied a lot in size. Becky decided to choose three nice large ones for herself, and three rather small ones for Linda. She was just about to bring them out on the porch where Linda was when she remembered a memory verse.

She suddenly remembered, *“A false balance is abomination to the LORD: but a just weight is his delight.”* Becky looked again at the two plates. They did not look even. They did not balance evenly in her hands. The weight of one was slightly greater. Becky did not know exactly what an abomination was, but she did not even like the sound of it. She went back and exchanged Linda's cookies for larger ones. “That looks much more like a just weight,” she thought to herself, and she carefully carried her treasure out to the porch.

Questions for Discussion

1. How do you think Becky's mom expected the cookies to be shared when she said that the girls could have three cookies each?
2. Since Becky chose only three cookies, and did not take any of Linda's cookies, why was she dishonest?
3. Even though Becky did not steal and did not lie, how was she about to deceive her mom

and her sister?

4. Why would Becky be sinning against her mom and her sister even though they did not know?
5. Why would Becky's sin be just as bad as stealing in God's eyes?
6. In how many things in our lives do you think we need to consider being honest? Name a few of them.

Conclusion and Resolution

Read the Scripture again. Read or explain the conclusion in your own words. Ask the group to suggest what specific changes that they can resolve to make in their daily lives that will help them to implement needed changes in this area. Ask them to especially consider things they have learned in the Bible to use as scriptural guideposts to a more competent and productive life.

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There is not anything too small or insignificant that can be overlooked when it comes to honesty. We are honest or we are not. When we are not honest, we are deceitful. When we are deceitful, we are liars, and we all know where liars end up. You can never go wrong by being honest in the smallest things. And, if we are honest in the small things, we will be honest in the larger things. Anything less than true honesty is false and is sin, and sin is what nailed Jesus to the cross.

Teacher's Notes
