



Receive and Be Trustworthy

Matthew 25:14–30

“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

November 19, 2017

Thought for the Week

How to Become a Trustworthy Person

Be of good character. Have more than good intentions in life. While it's nice to mean well, it's far better to show people that you're a person who is reliable, tries their best at all times and thinks clearly

Be reliable and keep your word. When you say that you will do something for someone, and then do it. People rely on a promise and seeing it through is the hallmark of a trustworthy person.

Be honest. Be honest in everything you do. Honesty is the keystone to people knowing where they stand with you. Honesty includes having good manners though; when being frank, at least be polite.

Be compassionate, kind and considerate. These traits feed into trustworthiness because they let people know that you give people the time of day and that you're willing to give second chances. Compassion must be felt from within and learned through experience by standing in other people's shoes, seeing things from their perspective.

Keep confidences and secrets. People tell you things in confidence because they trust you. That is a bond to never be broken.

Make good friends. Avoid befriending the gossiping types other than to say hello to them as you pass by. Instead, find people of good character, who are also aiming to be trustworthy, caring and strong, just like you

Don't deceive people and don't lie. There will be times when deception and lying seem like the right way out of something. Yet, the truth will eventually come out and it is better to take control of bad actions, bad news and bad happenings before your deception or untruthful statements unravel.

Avoid gossip, rumormongering or innuendo. None of these things read trustworthy. They're the total opposite. Avoid getting involved in gossip, avoid starting rumors and don't succumb to making insidious suggestions about people.

Apologize when it is needed. Tell people you may have hurt that you're sorry for making a mistake, for getting them wrong or for being totally out of order.

Maintain the long-term relationship in place of the short-term gain. Cheating on, lying to or sneaking around someone you care about because you're focused on an initial current thrill will end in pain. If things aren't going well in any relationship, communication is key, not subterfuge and cheating.

Realize that being trustworthy is a journey, not an endpoint. It takes time to change bad habits, a poor attitude and bad ways of reacting to others. Earning trust takes time too, especially if you have been a difficult human being in the past.

Remind yourself at all times that being trustworthy is a valuable asset to your life and to the lives of the people you care about. When people you care about know they can rely on your word and that you are honorable and honest, you will be given important tasks, you will become the keeper of great confidences and you will be respected.

Be strong. It is important to remember that life isn't a popularity contest. Sometimes people won't appreciate your honesty, your strength against unkindness and your unwillingness to gossip or spread rumors. That's just a fact you must live with, understanding that all people have to come to their own realizations about holding better values in life.

Believe in yourself and validate the good in you, at all times. You do best in life when you begin from strong foundations. Trust yourself and love yourself so that you can relay that inner trust and love to others, trusting and loving them with strength and goodwill. Grow yourself, and then you can grow others. Knowing that you do not need others to save you or shape you will aid you in being trustworthy because you don't need to stroke their egos just to feel good. It will also help you if you are betrayed by someone you trusted (it happens). Remember, you have the capacity, will and resilience to carry on regardless. Have courage in all that you do and rely on your strengths.

On Being Trustworthy

It is appropriate to consider this moral implication: Because God is trustworthy and because we are to emulate God's character to the fullest possible extent, it is vital that believers also be trustworthy.

We all have felt the pain of being let down by another human being. People constantly disappoint us. A friend offers to help you move some furniture on a Saturday morning, but he never shows up. Your daughter tells you she will be home at 10, but it's 11:45 before she returns; "I lost track, of the time," she says. Your manager at work promises to let the boss know about your key role in that big project, but he takes all the credit for himself. A neighbor constantly lets his dog dig in your shrubs—even after you ask him not to. There are myriad examples of one human being failing another.

It is not so with God. As we have seen, He bound Himself to keep His promise to Abraham. He pledged that He would cease to be God before He would let His promise go unfulfilled. It is true that God reserves the right to fulfill His promises in His own time. But that does not dispute His trustworthiness. The Word of God over and over again declares that God does what He says He will do. James 1:17 says, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning." God is faithful and true, utterly trustworthy. And such should be the character of those who name the name of Christ.

Obviously, none of us will ever be perfect in this area. We will fail people just as they fail us. But we should be known as people who are trustworthy and dependable in an ever-increasing measure. These character traits serve as a powerful testimony in today's world and bring glory to the God we emulate.

Do you have a reputation for dependability? Or do others think of you as less than trustworthy? If the latter, how can you address this problem? Simply put: promise cautiously, deliver diligently. Do not say you "forgot" or make other excuses. Repent of this sin. Pray today that God would make you into a person on whom others can rely.