

Tuesday, April 26

A false balance is an abomination to the LORD, but a just weight is his delight. (Proverbs 11:1)

1. What is a false balance and what is a just weight?
2. In what area of life is God commanding honesty here?
3. Why do you think God is concerned about economic activity, about buying and selling?
4. While it might make sense for God to have strong negative feelings about a false balance, does it surprise you that God has such a strong positive feeling toward a just weight?
 - a. What would it be about a just weight that God would delight in?
 - b. What kind of spirit and intention does one have in their economic activity when they seek to be careful to use a just weight?
 - c. Is it only the honesty of the interaction or do you think God also delights in the economic activity being done with the just weight? What might please God about it?
5. How would you define economic justice? How is it related to this verse?
6. How much honesty do you use, or seek to use, in your economic activity? Have you ever taken advantage of someone, or they of you?

KTFK: are not / God is / our selling / our scales / and greatly / and buying, / delights when / lying, / concerned with

Song: “Purify My Heart”

Prayer: “Lord God, we all have felt the temptation to put our finger on the scale in one way or another. Help us to see the evil in this and to remember that not only do you delight in just weights, but that you are our provider, so we can joyfully engage honestly and trust that you will always provide what we need. Amen.”

Wednesday, April 27

³⁹ They answered him, “Abraham is our father.” Jesus said to them, “If you were Abraham’s children, you would be doing the works Abraham did, ⁴⁰ but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did. ⁴¹ You are doing the works your father did.” They said to him, “We were not born of sexual immorality. We have one Father—even God.” ⁴² Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. ⁴³ Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. ⁴⁴ You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. ⁴⁵ But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me. ⁴⁶ Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? ⁴⁷ Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God.” (John 8:39-47)

1. What kind of honesty is Jesus talking about here?
2. At first glance it might seem as though Jesus is telling these people that they are actually unable to understand the truth of what he is saying, but the last sentence of verse 43 clarifies this. What does he mean that they “cannot bear to hear his word”?
3. Why is the ability to honestly acknowledge spiritual truth such a critical thing?
4. Is there any truth that a Christian should be afraid of acknowledging?
5. What does this tell us about people who resist true teaching? Do they really not understand it or might there be something else going on? What danger is there in our

assuming that it is a problem with understanding when it is not?

6. Is there anything you can think of that got Jesus in more trouble than being honest? Are you honest in both of these ways: honestly acknowledging the truth of God and honestly speaking it with others?
7. Why do you think there is such a direct connection here between this kind of lying and murder? How does an inability to acknowledge the truth of God lead one to a murderous state of mind? How is this related to persecution?

KTFK: what the / who do. / said is / desire to / true, or / over time / Lord has / you will / Honestly acknowledge / silence those

Song: “Speak, O Lord”

Prayer: “Lord God, how true it is that hatred grows where your word is denied – hatred of you and hatred of all who acknowledge your truth. Help us all to fully acknowledge the truth of what you have said that we might truly embrace you as Savior and Lord and not be party to the many ways that the deniers of your truth seek to silence it. Amen.”

Thursday, April 28

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; ¹⁷ and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, ¹⁸ praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, ¹⁹ and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak. (Ephesians 6:10-20)

1. Why do you think truth is the first piece of armor that we are instructed to put on?
2. What kind of truth (or truths) do you think are meant here?
3. How is this kind of truth connected to the next piece of armor, the breastplate of righteousness, and to the other pieces of armor that are listed?
4. Why is truth such a critical piece of armor in our battle against spiritual forces?
5. How are the schemes of the devil related to the truth? How close to the truth might they be?
6. Where do we place ourselves when we fail to “fasten on” the belt of truth?

KTFK: against the / on the / if we’ll / We will / his schemes, / God our / never stand / truth that / Lord esteems. / not put / devil and

Song: “Purify My Heart”

Prayer: “Lord God, surely there is only one place we can stand if we hope to stand against the devil’s schemes, and that is on your truth. Help us to live in the truth, acknowledging the truth of where our own hearts are and also the truth of your word to us. Help us to keep these two truths working closely each day that we might never fall. Amen.”

Friday, April 29

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³ If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. ⁴ Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant ⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶ it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. (1 Corinthians 13:1-7)

1. According to this famous passage, how important is the concept and virtue of love in our Christian lives? Why?
2. How would you define Christian love? What does Christian love want for others?
3. How do we know when we are acting in true Christian love?
4. Based on this passage, what is love's connection to the truth?
5. Based upon what this kind of truth is compared to here (wrongdoing), what kind of "truth" does love rejoice with?
6. How then do we love someone who is engaged in wrongdoing?
7. What did Jesus' love for the rich young ruler cause Jesus to do? (See Mark 10:17-22)
8. Is it possible to share truth with someone without loving them?
9. Is it possible to love them without sharing truth with them?

KTFK: someone we / share. / have us / with sin / with the / love them / care, but / truth that / not rejoice / Let us / God would / to show / words of

Song: "This Little Light of Mine"

Prayer: "Lord, help us to love others with words of truth. Amen."

Saturday, April 30

Read the entire passage again and review the key thoughts from each day. Which did you find most important for you this week?

Apr 29 - Let us / not rejoice / with sin / to show / someone we / care, but / love them / with the / words of / truth that / God would / have us / share.

Apr 28 - We will / never stand / against the / devil and / his schemes, / if we'll / not put / on the / truth that / God our / Lord esteems.

Apr 27 - Honestly acknowledge / what the / Lord has / said is / true, or / over time / you will / desire to / silence those / who do.

Apr 26 - God is / concerned with / our selling / and buying, / and greatly / delights when / our scales / are not / lying.

Apr 25 - We must / protect our / neighbor's name / from slander / and from / smearing, and / never be / the source / of lies / that others / may start / jeering.

Family Worship 2022

April 25 - 30

"Honesty"

Kids and Parents: See if you can unscramble the daily KTFK - Key Thought for Kids (Answers on back page)

This week, we continue our review of the main themes of the Life Action visit with the theme of Honesty. Because this theme has so many different settings where its importance comes into play, instead of using just one passage, we are using five. Each of these passages helps us to think about the need for honesty in a different area of our lives. May we all be blessed and refined as we think about this critically important virtue.

Monday, April 25

¹⁶ "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor. (Exodus 20:16)

1. We typically understand the 9th commandment to warn us against telling lies of all kinds, but what specific kind of lies does this commandment focus on?
 - a. Where might this kind of thing be done?
2. Why do you think God is so concerned that we do not give testimony about someone that is false?
3. What is at stake when this happens?
4. Why would anyone want to give false testimony against their neighbor? What's in it for them?
5. In what kinds of situations do you think we need to be most concerned that we not testify falsely about others?
6. Why do you think God is so concerned with the names or reputations of people – especially those who are innocent?
7. Have you ever testified falsely about someone?
8. Has anyone ever testified falsely about you?

KTFK: smearing, and / and from / from slander / of lies / the source / never be / neighbor's name / protect our / jeering. / may start / We must / that others

Song: "Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

Prayer: "Lord God, it can be so easy to speak evil of someone to others without knowing for sure that it is true, or even to intentionally make it sound as bad as possible for some selfish gain. Help me to know the intense wickedness of this attitude and to tear it from my heart. Help me to do the opposite – to defend the name of others and to refuse to participate in any discussion that has the effect of prosecuting someone else in matters that are not fully known. Amen."