



SERIES BIG IDEA:

**We are to love and lead in our homes the way our Heavenly Father loves and leads us.**

**Demanding perfection:**

- Is unloving and destroys one's security and worth.
- Is a selfishly prideful act by the one in demand.
- Is a result of insecurity.

**The perfection infection is the result of sin destroying God's perfect design.**

**Jesus fulfilled the demand for our perfection and paid the penalty of our imperfections to give us life when we trust in Him as Savior and follow Him as Lord.**

**God doesn't need me to be perfect, He needs me to be honest.**

TEACHING BIG IDEA:

**Relationships are built on honesty, not perfection.**

<sup>18</sup>A certain ruler asked him, "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" <sup>19</sup>"Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good—except God alone. <sup>20</sup>You know the commandments: 'You shall not commit adultery, you shall not murder, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, honor your father and mother.'"

<sup>21</sup>"All these I have kept since I was a boy," he said. <sup>22</sup>When Jesus heard this, he said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." <sup>23</sup>When he heard this, he became very sad, because he was very wealthy. <sup>24</sup>Jesus looked at him and said, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God! <sup>25</sup>Indeed, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." <sup>26</sup>Those who heard this asked, "Who then can be saved?" <sup>27</sup>Jesus replied, "What is impossible with man is possible with God."

<sup>28</sup>Peter said to him, "We have left all we had to follow you!" <sup>29</sup>"Truly I tell you," Jesus said to them, "no one who has left home or wife or brothers or sisters or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God <sup>30</sup>will fail to receive many times as much in this age, and in the age to come eternal life."

Luke 18:18-30 (NIV)

**Perfection gains me nothing. Sacrifice gains me everything.**

**Dishonesty is selfish and breaks the relationship.**

**Dishonesty is often a cover-up for my imperfections and insecurities.**

<sup>1</sup>Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. <sup>2</sup>A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. <sup>3</sup>He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. <sup>4</sup>So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

<sup>5</sup>When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." <sup>6</sup>So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

<sup>7</sup>All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a sinner." <sup>8</sup>But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount." <sup>9</sup>Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. <sup>10</sup>For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

Luke 19:1-10 (NIV)



Jesus saved Zacchaeus because Zacchaeus honestly confessed his imperfection and made right what he did wrong.

- **Honesty builds trust in our relationship.**
- **Honesty is a confession of my imperfection and a sacrifice of my selfishness.**
- **Honest confession leads to healing and restoration.**

*Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.*

James 5:16 (NIV)

**Love requires honesty, not perfection.**

### MY NOTES:



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### TEACHING SUMMARY:

Do you solemnly swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth so help you, God?

We have all heard those words either in person, on television, or in a movie. There is a gravity in those questions to the point that, if you swear to do so and then don't, you can go to jail.

Honesty, truth-telling is something that for all of us at times is hard. When the truth hurts us, when it causes us to put someone else in a bad position, or when it makes us look bad, it can be hard.

But in all relationships, it is a key building block and without it, a relationship will not last. Without honesty, we can never truly live in relationship with other people or live in truthful submission to Christ as Lord.

Christ's only expectation for a relationship with him is complete, honest submission....not perfection.

In our relationships with others, we should not only be honest but rather than desiring perfection we should desire honesty.

### TALK IT OVER:

Have you ever felt the expectation of perfection? How did that feel?

What areas of your life are the most difficult, to be honest about, and are the most desirable to hide your imperfections?

Do your words and actions say that you expect honesty or perfection out of your children and loved ones? How can you improve in that area?

What is one next step you can take today?

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS:

Mon: Romans 5:6-12  
Tue: Ecclesiastes 7:20; Romans 3:12  
Wed: Isaiah 6:1-5; Matthew 3:1-6; 1 John 1:8-10  
Thu: Hebrews 4:14-15; 1 Peter 2:22-25  
Fri: Deuteronomy 25:13-16; Proverbs 29:27  
Sat: Proverbs 6:16-19