

Twenty-fifth Sunday of the Year

Always be honest

INTRODUCTION

Have you ever heard the saying, 'Honesty is the best policy'? This means that it is always better to be honest rather than tell lies. If we are honest about the little things in life, we will be honest about everything else too.

SIGN OF THE CROSS

LIGHT THE CANDLES

Light the candles and pray:

In a world where there is so much dishonesty,
may our goodness shine out
like a light in the darkness to give others hope.

SORRY

Close your eyes and think about all the things which have happened over the past week. Have we always been as kind and thoughtful as we should have been? Have we done anything to make God feel sad or disappointed with us? If we are truly sorry in our hearts, then God our Father will always forgive us.

Listen carefully to the words of this reading (cf *Psalm 25:11-16*):

God is full of kindness and love, and wants to show us all the path we must follow. He leads us with patience and understanding, and forgives us when we stray and lose our way. When we look to him for help, he rescues us from harm and helps us to try again, for he is full of love and forgiveness.

GLORIA

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

To welcome today's Gospel sing Acclamation 6:
Jesus here we are.

GOSPEL (cf *Luke 16:10-11*)

Jesus said, 'When a person is honest about the small things in life, then they will be honest about more important things too. If you cannot be trusted with something as unimportant as money, how can you be trusted with the most precious treasure of all.'

DISCUSSION

If you saw someone dropping a pound coin without noticing, what would you do? – You would have to choose between being honest, and giving the coin back, or dishonest, and keeping

the coin yourself. When a person is filled with the spirit of God's goodness, they can be trusted to make the right choice. A good person will always be honest, however great or small the amount of money may be.

Listen to this short story:

Peter had been saving his pocket money for a long time and just needed one more pound to afford the football he wanted so much. One day while shopping with his mum, he noticed that an old lady had dropped some money as she struggled to put it in her purse. The coin rolled across the floor and lay unnoticed. Peter picked it up and found to his delight that it was a pound, just what he needed! (At this point ask the children what they think Peter should do, before reading on to see if they were right!)

... Peter took the coin over to the old woman who thanked him for his kindness and honesty. Peter smiled, feeling very good inside.

Why do you think Peter felt good inside? – Peter had chosen God's way, by being honest and truthful. His actions had made the old woman very happy, and seeing her happiness made him feel good inside. We all know how wonderful we feel when we show someone that we care about them. Peter felt the joy of sharing God's love and knowing that God was pleased with him.

What is the most precious treasure of all which Jesus trusts us with? – The most precious treasure of all is the love of our heavenly Father which means more than all our worldly possessions. Money cannot make us happy, because true happiness comes from loving God. We are free to live as we choose, because God trusts us to do what we know is right.

ACTIVITY

Either use the activity sheets or help each child to fold a sheet of paper in half to find the middle. On one half, ask them to draw a picture of themselves in the playground, with a £1 coin they have found at their feet. Give each child a 'choice wheel' and a butterfly pin and help them to pin it on the other half of the paper. Get the children to draw an arrow and, turning the wheel, to point to whatever choice they think they should make. Discuss!

CREED

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord, help us to be truthful and honest with each other and to be guided by your goodness.