

Honesty in Wisdom

Scripture: Proverbs 16: 10-16
Date: January 17, 2021

HONESTY EXPECTED

REFLECTIONS

New Year's is a time of reflection where we take stock of our lives. We assess where we are at and where we want to be a year later. An assessment that requires an honest look at ourselves. Perhaps its our weight or perhaps its our way of living. In faith we might dive into Psalm 139: 22-23 and invited God to show us more of who He is, more of who we are to Him and how we are to live for Him

RESOLUTIONS

Regardless of the topic we make decisions – resolutions - to improve ourselves. Exercising, eating better, reading more etc. Our text speaks of guidelines / protocols on how to best live for God. Proverbs 16: 10 calls us to speak God's truth and to speak justice in the world around us. Proverbs 16: 12 calls us to live lives of righteousness and speak honestly.

RECKONING

For some goals – resolutions – other people might comment on how well we are doing or we might look to bathroom scales for an objective assessment of our diets. But the don't reveal all of how we are doing. The earlier verses in Psalm 139 remind us that God knows all that we are and all that we do (v. 3). Jeremiah 17: 10 and Hebrews 4: 12-13 reveal that God's word – God Himself – reveals all of who we are and holds us accountable for that. In Job we read that God will weigh us with scales to see our holiness. In Proverbs 16: 11 we see that God measures us – but with His standards of fairness not ours.

REVELATION

When we invited God to search us and reveal to us in Psalm 139 there is also an invitation to show us the way everlasting. Who we are is paired with how we are to live. We see in God's revelation our calling, our gifting, our potential. A reminder that we were created to do good works for Him - by His power at work within us.

Yet we are also reminded that God sees our doubts of His existence and our denials of His truth and His calling. He sees us as a rebellious / rejecting people and how we've become separated from Him – from each other – from ourselves. All because of our sinful ways and words.

God sees the greatness and the guiltiness within us.

HONESTY REJECTED

REJECTION

This revelation can be overwhelming to us. Such intimacy, such knowledge creates confusion and fear within us. George Martin is quoted as saying - *People often claim to hunger for truth but seldom like it when it's served up.* In the early 1990's movie *A Few Good Men*, Jack Nicholson's character upon asked to speak the truth shouts defiantly – You Can't Handle The Truth.

We're not certain of what is fact and what is fake in our world so we struggle to trust God when He reveals Himself to us and even our own selves back at us.

DECEPTION - DENIAL

We don't trust the facts. We don't believe it. The scales aren't correct. I didn't do what you said I did. I can't be good at that – it's an accident. These are all part of our coping mechanism of dealing with information that is too much for us to believe.

JUSTIFICATION – DOUBT

The revelation might be true – but it's not really that bad (or good). Those things called sins – they are more like white lies. No one is perfect - no one can be perfect. What God declares isn't that big of a deal. We don't want to be too exposed as so we justify the bad in our world – and even the good. We don't want to stand out and be recognized – good or bad.

PROJECTION – DEFLECTION

Finally, we see the event as probable but our responsibility as not. We play the blame game and shift that responsibility elsewhere. It might have happened but it's not my fault – it's someone else's. It could have happened to anyone. It was an accident.

HONESTY ACCEPTED

CONFESSION - GUILT

Yet the reality – the truth – about who we are is that God isn't wrong. He is correct in his assessment of His creation of us and His calling to us. What he declares is honest truth.

We are likewise called to admit what God already knows is true. Confession is the acknowledgement or admission of what we know to be true. To confess – in sheer honesty – our greatness found in God's created strengths, passions, hopes and dreams. Likewise we are to confess – in sheer honesty – our selfishness, our pride, our fear, our anger, our hurts, our fear, our brokenness.

Because if we can't be honest before God / with God about our strengths and our weaknesses then who can we be truly honest with.

SALVATION - GRACE

In the analogy of God's justice being a set of scales. The sin that sits on our side weighs us down and incompatible with God. Yet by His grace Jesus Christ doesn't just sit on our side of the scales – He demolishes all the power of the sin that is weighed against us.

We are called to honestly accept this truth. Not just as some religious history or as just as some phase in your life or just as some particular part of your life. But rather, to own the truth that we are God's children holy and dearly loved – even as we struggle with fully accepting it.

REVELATION – GOODNESS

Proverbs 16 shows us the goodness found in living with God's honest revelation. In vs. 15 we find life with God. We gain life when God smiles on us with His favour and that favour refreshes us like a rain nourishing crops in the spring. In vs. 16 it tells us that we will gain wisdom to live this life. That wisdom and insight of God is better than gold or silver.

APPLICATION / CONCLUSION

New Year's resolutions are works on our part to remedy our lives. God's revelation is His power to show us the honest truth of who we are and then to guide us into a fuller and just righteousness to live our faith here in this world and to live out our hope for the one yet to come.

PSALM 139 – SKIT GUYS - <https://youtu.be/OPF3tAKVOFE>