

## Honesty Begins with Me

We were taught early the virtue of honesty with fables like “the Boy Who Cried Wolf,” “Pinocchio”, or “the Emperor’s New Clothes.” It was reinforced by stories too. George Washington was honest as a little boy to admit cutting down his father’s treasured cherry tree. Abraham Lincoln was an honest young storekeeper. Once he overcharged a customer by mistake. He walked two and a half miles on the rugged country road to pay her back.

Jesus said, “Simply let your yes be yes and no be no. Anything beyond this comes from the evil one.” (Mt 5: 37) James also said, “Let your yes be yes and no be no, or you will be condemned.” (Js 5:12)

We understand the virtue of honesty, but aware that we are living in a dishonest world. From radio talk shows to political propagandas, we are frequently hit by half-truths or distortions. We know we cannot trust commercials but we also realize that we cannot believe reporters and researchers either. We have many honest presidents but we also have presidents who lied to us.

It has been said, “It takes two to lie. One to lie and one to listen.” While we cannot change the world, let us change ourselves. Don’t lie and don’t listen to lies. After we change ourselves, we can change our family. After we change our family, we can change our church. Let us establish an honest circle and enlarge our honest circle.

**Let us pray: Almighty God, we want to be honest. Help us to keep our words and earn the trust of others. Amen.**

## 真誠由我開始

我們自小便受教要真誠。也許你還記得「狼來了」，「木偶長鼻子」或「皇帝的新衣」等寓言故事，更難忘華盛頓少時砍下他父親心愛的櫻桃樹而勇於承認及林肯年輕時當店員，多收了錢，連夜跑二里半的山路去送還給顧客的故事。

聖經也叫我們要真誠，耶穌說：「是就說是，不是就說不是，若再多說，就是出了那惡者。」(太 5:37) 雅各也說：「是就說是，不是就說不是，免得你們落在審判之下。」(雅 5:12)

我們知應該真誠，但也明白我們生活在一個不盡真誠的社會裏。從電台時事討論的廣播節目到電視的政治宣傳廣告，都充滿了虛假及謊言。商業廣告當然不能當真，連記者的採訪報導及學者研究報告，也未可盡信。真誠的言論當然不少，但亦有很多是謊言惑眾的。

曾有人說：「要有兩個人唱和，謊言才能產生，此即一個人說，一個人聽。」我們不易改變世界，就讓我們先改變自己吧！改變了自己就可改變家庭，改變了家庭，就可改變教會。讓我們創造一個真誠的圈子，再把它漸漸擴展出去，不說謊也不聽信謊言。

**請禱告：全能的上帝啊，我要真誠，求祢助我，學主榜樣，莫負人家信任深。阿們。**