



PART THREE INTRODUCTION

Trust is essential for any healthy relationship, and vital for organizations and nations to thrive well. With the element of trust in place, we can see conflicts in the world lessen. Yet the 2018 Edelman Trust Barometer reveals the world's growing distrust in businesses, the governments, NGOs and the media.

Does it mean that people by nature do not want to trust others? With the increase of accommodation-hosting (like Airbnb) and couch-surfing trends across the world, we are persuaded to believe that inherently, people desire to be trusting, and build trusting relationships. Psalms 22:9 tells us that trust is something that is built from the moment a child is born. God designed us to be trusting creatures.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What do you think makes a trustworthy person? Do you think that you are trustworthy, and why?
2. Think about a situation in your life where someone in your family failed to live up to an expectation that you had of them. What was your response and your thought process?
3. Read 2 Kings 22:3-7. Do an inductive bible study (observations, interpretation and application). You can use the following as a guide.
 - i. Posture your heart. Spend some time in prayer and ask the Holy Spirit to be your teacher. Open your heart to the Lord to speak to you.
 - ii. Read the passage aloud.
 - iii. Ask some context questions of the passage:
 - What sort of writing is this? (a letter, a poem, a narrative etc.?)
 - Are there any clues about the circumstances under which it was written?
 - What has happened so far in this particular book of the Bible?
 - iv. Some observation questions of the passage:
 - Are there any major sub-sections or breaks in the passage?
 - What is the main point or points?

- What surprises are there?
 - What are the key words? What words or ideas are repeated?
- v. Some meaning questions of the text:
- How does this passage relate to other parts of the book?
 - How does the passage relate to Jesus?
 - What does this teach us about God?
 - How could we sum up the meaning of this passage in our own words?
- vi. Some application questions of the passage:
- How does this passage challenge (or confirm) your understanding?
 - Is there some attitude I need to change?
 - How does this passage call on me to change the way I live?

WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

Are you waiting for people in your life to live up to certain expectations, in order for them to earn your trust?

In the Gospels, we see that Peter denied Jesus three times even though he had previously promised that he would be the only disciple that would not fall away from Jesus (Matt 26:33). However, after the resurrection, Jesus entrusts Peter to 'feed His lambs' (John 21:15-17). Instead of bringing up Peter's past offences or waiting for Peter to prove himself trustworthy, Jesus chose to trust Peter. It was by seeing the best in Peter that empowered Peter to then build the very first church.

Trust is a gift that we can give. By giving this gift, we allow our loved ones to be trustworthy. Rather than choosing to be suspicious for the worst, we can trust for the best in them.

At the same time, we can learn to be trustworthy people by practicing the following:

- Be reliable
- Be honest
- Keep confidences
- Avoid gossip
- Be consistent
- Be concerned

Will there be days where we fall short of these practices? Of course! But we can take heart in the truth that God's mercies are always new and that He is quick to forgive when we repent. Therefore, let us confess our sins to one another in order to pursue restoration in our relationships.

CHANGE YOUR MINDSET

“Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.” (James 5:16 ESV)