

Lesson 5-2 Robert

The Gift of Honesty

1. We are studying Robert who is 18 years old and had to quit school to help support his family. His father died 4 years ago and Robert had been doing odd jobs around the neighborhood to help feed his family and pay the bills. Now that he is 18 years old, his mother talked to him and said, "it is time that you find a good job and start living and planning your own life. Your younger brother can take over your role in the family." Robert responded to his mother saying, "What can I do with very little education and no talents and there are no job opportunities here?" His mother responded that Robert should go to the city for a while and live with his Uncle Leo until he gets a job. What do you think are Robert's thoughts? Does he have hope of success?

2. Robert arrives in the city and lives with his uncle Leo. Robert has 50 dollars with him. What should he do with the money?

3. Robert starts looking for jobs, but no one is hiring. Finally he gets an interview with someone in a department store. They ask Robert about his experience, education and talents. List 5 things Robert can say?

4. They make him an offer. He gets very little pay and works part time. His job is to keep the floors clean and deliver packages to the various store departments. He is very happy to have a real job and the hope of getting a pay check. What should he do with his first paycheck?

5. Robert works with a young man named Maynard. Maynard complains about the low pay and steals several pieces of clothing to make up for the low pay. Maynard says, "The extra clothes are like a pay increase." Since Robert, like Maynard, is getting very low pay, should Robert steal just one pair of socks? It would be easy and he, most probably, wouldn't get caught.

6. Will the store miss a pair of socks?

7. Another employee also told Robert that he thought it was ok to steal a few things. He said that since the owners paid such low wages it was expected that the employees would take a few things. What do you think?

8. Yet another employee told Robert that the owner was not honest in his business, so, why should the employees be honest? Also, he said that the store owners were very rich and bought the clothes for wholesale prices and the loss would be insignificant. What do you think?

9. How important is Robert's attitude?

10. How will it affect Robert if he is jealous of the business owners and loses respect for them?

11. How does it affect Robert when other employees have a bad attitude toward the store owners?

12. What should Robert's attitude be towards the owners? How can he keep a good attitude?

13. What should Robert do if he feels the store owners are truly taking advantage of him?

14. Robert was confused by all this and wondered if he should take a pair of socks and not have to spend his own money. What would you do?

15. why?

16. Robert decided to ask his uncle Leo what to do. Leo said that honesty is a very precious gift that you can give yourself, and it was up to Robert to decide what kind of person he wanted to be: honest or not. How about you, have you decided yet?

17. How can you give yourself a gift?

18. Since Robert has free will; can God make him be honest?

19. Can parents force their children to be honest?

20. Can Robert make himself honest?

21. How?

22. Maynard sold his honesty for a few pairs of socks and a couple of shirts. Did he get a good deal?

23. How much money would it take to buy your honesty? \$10, \$100, \$1000, \$10,000? How about \$1,000,000 ?

24. How much would Robert have to steal from the department store to achieve his goals for success? Remember: Robert is hoping for a family and someday a trip around the world.

25. Is your honesty eternal? (Ref: 2 Corinthians 4:18)

25. Robert is very content. He loves having a job and making money. He feels very important; however, can he achieve his goals at this job, with or without stealing? Can he support a family with a part-time low paying job? How can he be proactive and prepare for better things? (Break up in groups of 3-4 students and develop a plan for Robert to achieve his goals. Then choose one representative to report your ideas to the whole class.)

In the next lesson we will see how Robert gets a better job.