

Honesty Case Study 1:

Honesty: A moral Compass James E. Faust

John, was a nine-year-old Swiss pioneer child who was in one of the handcart companies. His father put a chunk of buffalo meat in the handcart and said it was to be saved for Sunday dinner. John said, "I was so very hungry and the meat smelled so good to me while pushing at the handcart that I could not resist. I had a little pocket knife. ... Although I expected a severe whipping when father found it out, I cut off little pieces each day. I would chew them like jerky and they would last most of the day. When father came to get the meat he noticed the little knife marks, and he asked me if I had been cutting off some of it.

What would be the consequences of being honest?

What would be the consequences of being dishonest?

I said 'Yes. I was so hungry I could not let it alone.' Instead of giving me a scolding or whipping, father turned away and wiped tears from his eyes." This was because he was proud of me being honest.

Honesty Case Study 2:

Courageous Mormon Boy: by Emily Susan Madsen

One morning when Joseph F. Smith and several other missionaries were returning to Salt Lake City, a group of rough Mormon-haters rode up on horses, firing their guns and cursing.

The leader jumped off his horse and shouted, "We will kill anyone who is a Mormon!" The other missionaries had fled into the woods, but Joseph F. bravely stood his ground. The man shoved a gun in Joseph F.'s face and asked, "Are you a Mormon?"

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Joseph F. stood tall and said, "Yes siree; dyed in the wool; true blue, through and through!"

The man was surprised at his reply. He put the gun away, shook Joseph's hand, and said, "Well, you are the pleasantest man I ever met! I'm glad to see a fellow stand up for his convictions." He jumped back on his horse and rode off with his companions.

Honesty Case Study 3

Honesty and the Apples: by John Beatty Fish

A few months before leaving England, eleven-year-old John was skipping up a dirt path toward his home. As he passed by an orchard he noticed the beautiful, ripe apples on the tree. His mouth watered, and he decided to take an apple from the nearest tree.

There was only one problem. The trees did not belong to John, and his father and mother had taught him that being honest was the best way to live. "Never take anything that does not belong to you," his father had told him many times.

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Ignoring his parents' teachings, John quickly climbed a tree next to the path and picked three large apples. Before he got home, he had eaten all three apples and his stomach had begun to ache.

"What gave you a stomachache?" his mother asked.

What would be the consequences of being dishonest?

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"I don't know," John replied, being dishonest again. He knew that if he told his mother about the apples, she would ask where he got them.

John was tucked into bed to sleep off his illness. As he lay on his straw tick mattress that night, he made a promise to himself: He would work and save enough money to pay for those three apples. And he would tell the owner of the orchard that he had climbed the tree and stolen them.

Before he could keep his promise, however, his family sailed for America. John thought about those stolen apples every day during the long weeks it took to sail across the Atlantic Ocean.

Then John was part of the Mormon Pioneer and he pushed a hand cart to Utah.. Every day he thought about the stolen fruit. His conscience was so hurt that he could not even eat an apple.

Thirty years later, long after he was grown up and married, John Batty was called on a mission. He was asked to return to England to preach the gospel.

While he was there he passed the same orchard from which he had stolen the apples as a boy. Standing among the trees was a very old, stooped, white-haired man.

What would the consequences be of being dishonest?

What would the consequences be if he were honest?

Here was John's chance to repent of stealing those apples.

"Sir," he said, "I used to live nearby when I was just a boy. One day before my family sailed for America, I climbed one of those trees and stole three apples from you. I have been sorry ever since. I would like to ask your forgiveness and also pay you for them."

"Certainly," the man said, "but they will cost you three times as much as they cost clear back then."

"That is fair," John replied with a smile.

With only a little change in his pocket, John paid for the three stolen apples and bought another one to eat. In his journal that night, he wrote, "That was the sweetest apple I ever tasted!"

Case Study 4

Jacob Hamblin: Trustworthy Pioneer by Pat Gram

Jacob Hamblin was a pioneer who lived around many Indians. The Indians knew that he was fair and honest, that they could trust his word. Once Jacob was confronted by twenty-four Indian warriors who thought that the LDS people had killed some of the Indians. They wanted to kill Jacob's, but he told them that his people that they were not responsible for those deaths. Finally, the Indians decided to settle the matter peacefully because they knew that Jacob Hamblin had never lied to them.

Later, Jacob had a son also named Jacob. He sent his son to trade with an Indian Chief. He would sell a horse to get some blankets. When he got there, the chief brought out a good amount of blankets, but Jacob Jr. thought that he could probably get even more blankets.

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He shook his head and told the chief that he would need more blankets for that horse. The chief brought out many more blankets for the trade. Jacob Jr. took the blankets home to his father. His father looked at how many blankets he brought and knew that it wasn't a fair trade. He made Jacob Jr. take the extra blankets back to the Indian Chief. When he got there, the chief said, "I knew that you would come back. I knew that Jacob would not cheat me".