

## **THE QUESTION OF THE WEEK**

“The person who is trustworthy in small matters is also trustworthy in great ones.  
The person who is dishonest in small matters is also dishonest in great ones”

Luke 16: 10

When I was growing up my father would take the time to explain certain things to me. He would couch his words in phrases like this: “Now this is how a man acts. When he gives his word to someone that person has to be able to believe that the man is going to keep his word, be true to his word, keep his promises. That man to whom the promise has been made has to be able to rely on that promise.” That was my father’s explanation about honesty and reliability. Then he said “A man’s word is his bond.” I didn’t understand what that meant. I had heard of stocks and bond but my bond, what was that?

My father went on to say that a bond is a connection, a dependable connection. When municipalities or governments issue bonds they are making a promise that when the time comes for the person to redeem the bonds they have purchased the government will give them their money and interest on that money. People make investments like this all the time. There is an element of trust involved. Why would a person give some of their hard earned money to a government or municipality so they could use it to build something or create something unless there would be a little extra in it for the person lending them the money? So, my word is my bond means that my word is reliable, dependable. I will keep my promises. Governments and municipalities must keep their word too.

Jesus uses similar language in the gospel for today. Jesus speaks of a person being trustworthy—worthy of one’s trust. Reliable. Dependable. Honest. Truthful. It is about integrity. If you have integrity in little things you will have it in big things. If you don’t have integrity in the little things of life you won’t have integrity in the big things in life. Eventually whether or not a person has integrity will be found out. In the area of honesty, you cannot deceive forever. The truth will emerge. Jesus counsels us very clearly. Let your word be your bond. Be honest in all things—big and little. Do we get it? The question of the week.