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**20 Day Exercise Submission**

1. Write an honest and truthful two- or three-paragraph response for each of the following

scenarios. In your response, explain why you decided on the action you did and provide

biblical support.

a. You are an employee at a fast-food restaurant in charge of the grill. It is busy

today, and many orders are coming in fast. In the cooking process, you drop a

hamburger patty on the floor. Your manager passes by and says, “Just pick it up

and serve it.” What would you do?

b. Pastor Jerry and his wife, Charlene, have become close friends with you and

your family. Your pastor comes from a wealthy family and has an easy life

overall. Charlene, however, was raised by a single mother. Her father died when

she was young, and her childhood was difficult. Many times, she has said that

Jerry was the best thing that could have happened to her. They have struggled

to have a child, but so far they are childless. One day, you are eating lunch in a

restaurant alone, and you see Pastor Jerry sitting at a table with another male.

Pastor Jerry and the other man are kissing passionately. He sees you, quickly

walks over to you, and explains that he wants you to keep this a secret, but he is

gay. He begs you not to tell anyone. Both men leave the restaurant together.

Later that week, you see Charlene shopping for baby clothes. She tells you that

is pregnant and very happy. What do you do?

c. You at the grocery store and see a very expensive roast while looking at the

meat selection. You place it in your cart, thinking it will be a special treat for the

family. However, when you get home, you notice that the cashier did not charge

you for the roast. What do you do?

d. Your teenage son has been getting into much trouble. First, he was arrested for

shoplifting. Then, you were called by the school because he was in a fight. Oh

yes, then there was that time the police smoking pot and drinking caught him. It

has been difficult. However, one day he promises you he will do better. Sure

enough, he seems to be cleaning up his act. Then, one night, you get a call from

the police. Your son was arrested for an armed robbery. He was the driver of

the getaway car. Do you go to the police station to support him, or do you let

him suffer whatever consequences the law gives? Why?

e. One day, you are out shopping with a friend. As you pass an ATM, you notice

several $20 bills sticking out of the machine. What do you do?

f. Last year, you and your spouse made a considerable amount of money. Since

your car was on its last legs, and constantly in for costly repairs, you both

decided to buy an expensive new car. The monthly payments were high, but

you could afford it. Unfortunately, your spouse became unemployed a few

months ago due to cutbacks. So, the money has been a bit difficult in the

household. Last week, you received the car’s pink slip in the mail! You still had

several years’ worth of payments. The bank made an error. What do you do?

**a. You are an employee at a fast-food restaurant in charge of the grill. It is busy**

**today, and many orders are coming in fast. In the cooking process, you drop a**

**hamburger patty on the floor. Your manager passes by and says, “Just pick it up**

**and serve it.” What would you do?**

I have never previously worked in the food industry in any capacity, but I regularly cook at home, and I am sure I would have dropped the food I was preparing at some point. Honestly, I most likely would have picked up the burger patty, rinsed it, and returned it to the grill once the floor is not outrageously dirty. The early biology classes I took in undergrad tell me that bacteria is killed with heat so that aspect of un-cleanliness would have been taken care of.

The bible verse that most comes to mind is the verse that states that we are allowed to eat anythng; Romans 14:14 states that I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself, but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean. This verse refers to Jesus telling the disciples that they can eat anything as all animals are now clean and, therefore not forbidden. Another verse in Romans 14:20 that speaks to the eating of clean food is “ do not for the sake of food, destroy the work of God. Everything is indeed clean, but it is wrong for anyone to make another stumble by what he eats.” This verse is convicting to me because although in my own household, if food were to fall on the ground and I pick it up rinse it as I am aware that my house is clean. Other people may not necessarily be comfortable eating such food, Icannot expect others to have the same comfort level as me, and this would be even more important in a public space such as a restaurant.

**b. Pastor Jerry and his wife, Charlene, have become close friends with you and**

**your family. Your pastor comes from a wealthy family and has an easy life**

**overall. Charlene, however, was raised by a single mother. Her father died when**

**she was young, and her childhood was difficult. Many times, she has said that**

**Jerry was the best thing that could have happened to her. They have struggled**

**to have a child, but so far they are childless. One day, you are eating lunch in a**

**restaurant alone, and you see Pastor Jerry sitting at a table with another male.**

**Pastor Jerry and the other man are kissing passionately. He sees you, quickly**

**walks over to you, and explains that he wants you to keep this a secret, but he is**

**gay. He begs you not to tell anyone. Both men leave the restaurant together.**

**Later that week, you see Charlene shopping for baby clothes. She tells you that**

**is pregnant and very happy. What do you do?**

Pastor Jerry is held to a higher standard than the average Christian as he is the leader of a flock; someone of that position is responsible for teaching, guiding and nurturing other Christians of the body of Christ. Scripture also speaks to the correct way you should go about correcting a brother in Christ. Matthew 18:15–17 reminds us we are encouraged to go to that person first and bring our concern to them, and then we are advised to bring a witness with us if that person does not correct their behaviour. Despite the awkwardness that may be felt in addressing someone with this particular concern, it is the biblically correct thing to do.

I would address Pastor Jerry and tell him that what he is doing to his wife is disrespectful as she is pregnant, but it goes against their covenant to the Lord. If pastor Jerry is not receptive to coming clean to his wife, I would then be inclined to speak to the church board or elders of the church that he is a part of. Scripture encourages us to speak to the church as a whole I believe it would be appropriate to have a church elder talk to him, or whomever he is subject to as the pastor as most churches should have some sought of disciplinary procedure to deal with specific situations. If I am required to accompany them to speak to Pastor Jerry, I will leave the final decisions up to the church in the ways that they believe are appropriate for the situation to be dealt with.

**c. You are at the grocery store and see a very expensive roast while looking at the**

**meat selection. You place it in your cart, thinking it will be a special treat for the**

**family. However, when you get home, you notice that the cashier did not charge**

**you for the roast. What do you do?**

My first job was as a sales clerk in a boutique where I was aware inventory was checked regularly. Although I would appreciate getting groceries for free, my first thought would be if the cashier would be penalised for the mistake if someone checked inventory concerning sales made. Because of my experience in handling cash and the care I took in doing that job, I would be more inclined to return to the store. Returning grocery goods that were not paid for is something that rarely happens so if one is to do such an uncommon act, this would be a great witness of the Lord and the character that is expected of Christian people.

As Proverbs 12: 22 says, “The Lord detests lying lips, but he delights in trustworthy people. As simple as returning the meat to the grocery may seem, this verse reminds us that this act would be pleasing to the Lord. Another verse in Proverbs 10:9 reminds us that Whoever walks in integrity walks securely but states that whoever takes crooked paths will be found out, I prefer not to grieve the Holy Spirit in my actions nor have to be paranoid about being found out.

**d. Your teenage son has been getting into much trouble. First, he was arrested for**

**shoplifting. Then, you were called by the school because he was in a fight. Oh**

**yes, then there was that time the police smoking pot and drinking caught him. It**

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**the police. Your son was arrested for an armed robbery. He was the driver of**

**the getaway car. Do you go to the police station to support him, or do you let**

**him suffer whatever consequences the law gives? Why?**

Galatians 6:7 “Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. This verse speaks to the consequences of one’s actions. This mother would have been correcting her child, and unfortunately, he still would have committed a crime and was arrested. The Lord is not only a just Lord but he is a merciful God who shows care and compassion to his children.

If I was in this situation with my child, I would go to the police station and support him but I would also let him know that justice would have to take its course, and if he is convicted, that would be fair as he would have taken it upon himself to not listen to my previous guidance and is now reaping the consequences of his action. There is a famous saying in Trinidad and Tobago,”you have to burn to learn” I would pray that the severity of the situation would leave him changed and deter him from further similar activities.

**e. One day, you are out shopping with a friend. As you pass an ATM, you notice**

**several $20 bills sticking out of the machine. What do you do?**

Hopefully, the ATM is close to the actual bank, so it would be easier to report to them that their machine needs fixing. From a Trinidadian context, I would not want to be accused of tampering with the ATM, but I would call the bank and inform them rather than approach and take the money out to use the ATM. If there are people around, I would also ask if anyone used it and didn’t retrieve their money in their haste. This would be another occasion for Chistian character to be showcased as Matthew 5: 16 states; “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”

**f. Last year, you and your spouse made a considerable amount of money. Since**

**your car was on its last legs, and constantly in for costly repairs, you both**

**decided to buy an expensive new car. The monthly payments were high, but**

**you could afford it. Unfortunately, your spouse became unemployed a few**

**months ago due to cutbacks. So, the money has been a bit difficult in the**

**household. Last week, you received the car’s pink slip in the mail! You still had**

**several years’ worth of payments. The bank made an error. What do you do?**

I am not 100 percent sure what I would do in this particular situation because one would be inclined to get excited and even claim it to be a blessing from the Lord that their payments had been erased. The Lord does still perform miraculous events in this time, however I am aware of a situation where a woman would have received double her salary by human error. She didn’t report it and spent it; months later she was charged for fraud, although the inital mistake was not hers.

Although I may have been praying for the Lord to relieve me of that financial situation, I would probably still call and inquire from the bank about what would have taken place. 2 Corinthians 8:21” For we are taking pains to do what is right, not only in the eyes of the Lord but also in the eyes of man”. In situations such as these, where you may feel the Lord is delivering you from a trial you may have been going through, it is vital to pray for confirmation during these situations if you are unsure.

Bibliography

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