

Bible Devotions: Lock Stock & Barrel
Devotional Reading for Outdoorsmen
(Old Testament)

Leviticus 19:35-36

Honesty

You shall do no injustice in judgment, in measurement of length, weight, or volume. You shall have honest scales, honest weights, an honest ephah, and an honest hin: I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt.

Accurate measurements are vital in most outdoor sports. I'm reluctant to say this but outdoorsmen often find themselves tempted to exaggerate size, weight, distance, length, and other valuations. We probably do the same thing with our own height or weight. That could be disastrous in certain situations.

On my first Wild Cave Tour in Mammoth Cave National Park, a member of our group appeared to exceed the suggested maximums of weight and girth. After being sized up by our guide, the young man insisted he could make the trip. The ranger just smiled and off we went.

The moderately grueling six mile tour offered canyon hopping, stream straddling, mud crawling, ledge sliding, and other spelunking challenges. All went well until we came to a tiny, impassible-looking hole in the cave wall. One by one the team members squeezed through. Then came the young man's turn, leaving myself and an entomologist as the last two. Halfway through the hole, the big guy got stuck.

The more he worked at it, the worse he wedged himself. As he panicked and gasped for breath, his torso expanded and plugged the hole even more. We could barely hear the ranger on the other side trying to calm him down. After half an hour, the team implemented a final option: force.

The ranger gave instructions for the two of us to help push while he and another caver pulled. However, our side of the hole was so cramped that I had to place my feet against the big guy's feet and my back against the scientist's back as he placed his feet on the cave ceiling (you had to be there). We shouted, "READY!" The ranger shouted, "GO!" The big guy grunted..

Finally, the big guy's body slowly oozed through the small, jagged hole. His tee shirt shredded as rock tore into his ribs. With a final heave, we popped him through. Believe me, it even sounded like it hurt. So much for honest measurements.

You shall do no injustice in judgment, in measurement of length, weight, or volume. That's practical advice for everyone. It's a fairness doctrine for young and old, rich and poor, citizen and foreigner. Governments around the globe enforce rules on these measurements, using strict specifications and calibration procedures.

For the children of God, honest scales and honest weights are required because God is Lord of all. Should we think that it is because He expects us to treat each other fairly? Or that the command is a friendly reminder to be honest? Left to our own devices, we won't be fair or honest.

God could have said, "Okay guys, I want you to be nice to each other." The standard of honesty, then, would rely on a fickle and fallible understanding of honesty and truth. Because of this, God set the standard high – squarely on His Lordship.

We are to be just in our judgments because He is Lord, not because we are nice people. We are to be honest in our measurements because He is Lord, not because we are ethical and trustworthy. And we are to remember that He is the Lord who rescued us from bondage. We can't measure up to that.

The measurements we make in any of our activities should be just and honest all because God is Lord of everything. He doesn't want His created persons and His created stuff to be used for ill-gotten gain.

Honestly. No kidding.

Bible Devotions: Hook Line & Sinker (study guide)

Leviticus 19:35-36

Honesty

HOOK

1. What is the largest fish you've ever caught? What was its weight and/or length?

2. Name two caves you've toured. For each one, list what you thought was the best feature.

3. What outdoor item is about 1 foot long? 2 feet long? 3 feet long? Etc., through 10 feet long.

LINE

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What area of life most challenges you to be honest? How will you improve on that?

Why should you be honest with others? How do you react to an injustice done to you? How will you improve on your reaction?

SINKER

Take a few minutes to write your thoughts on this devotional. Reflect on your own experiences.

Key words: honesty injustice measurement
