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AN INTERVIEW WITH  
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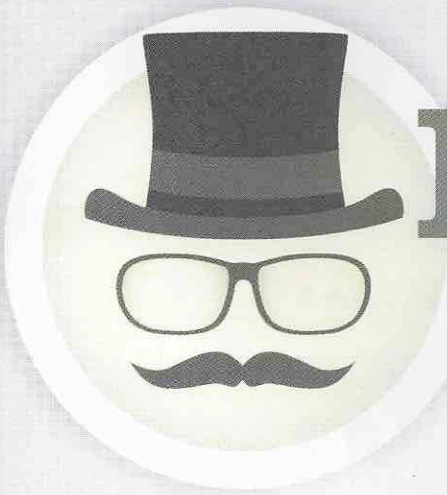


THE  
**GOOD**  
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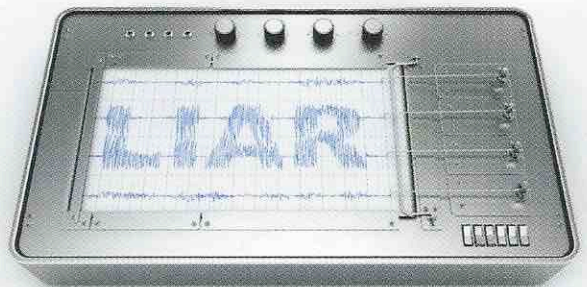


# MAN TO MAN



By Jeffrey Dean

## Don't Set Off the Lie Detectors



Honesty and trustworthiness are two principles we all should strive to master. People want to place their faith, support, and even finances in those who prove themselves honorable. I found this out the hard way my senior year of high school. I don't remember telling a lie to a friend of mine that year, but I do remember my friend adamantly believing that I did. During our Senior Banquet, while reading the senior predictions, she made this prediction about me: "Jeffrey will one day own his own business. The business: lie detector machines. Unfortunately, he will never become successful because every time he walks into his own factory, all of the machines will go off!"

Pretty cold, huh? These probably weren't her exact words. Nonetheless, I've never forgotten the gist of what she said. She thought I had lied to her. Therefore, in her eyes, I could not be trusted. I learned a valuable (and embarrassing) lesson that day: no one likes a liar. If you've ever been lied to, then you know what I'm talking about.

During the last half of the seventh century B.C., the prophet Jeremiah was commissioned by God to warn His people of their lack of honesty and integrity and their outright defiance of His holy Word. The people of Jerusalem had turned to their own selfish ways and pleasures and were refusing to return to God. God told Jeremiah to patrol Jerusalem's streets, look around, take note, and see if even one honest man or woman could be found (Jeremiah 5). If so, God wanted to bless and

forgive that person. Sadly, not one righteous person could be found.

God longs to bless those who are honest and live upright lives. As a matter of fact, Proverbs 12:22 says the Lord detests lying lips. *Detests!* That's some pretty strong language from God—language you and I can't ignore. Ever since that incident in high school, I've worked hard to be a man of integrity who both sticks to what I say I will do and strives to always do what is right. It's really important to me now. Obviously, it's important to God too! He means serious business when it comes to being a person who is trustworthy.

Is honesty a principle you work hard to achieve? Being honest all the time is not as easy as it sounds. Sometimes it can be a lot easier to exaggerate the truth, especially when the real story might get you in hot water with Mom or Dad. And a little white lie doesn't seem all that bad when it prevents someone's feelings from being hurt. Unfortunately for us, God's Word doesn't say to be honest and trustworthy "unless the end result will hurt another's feelings" or "unless it will get you grounded for a few weeks."

Learning now the importance of being a person who can be trusted will benefit you your entire life. So, work hard to apply these principles:

- If you don't believe it and don't mean it, don't say it.
- Don't mislead others with crafty statements or lying exaggerations.

- Make sure your yes is yes and your no is no.
- Be on time to meetings, classes, and events. Your consideration of others' time speaks volumes about your character.
- Just because you can get away with something doesn't make it okay. Remember, what you do in private will eventually shape how you live in public.
- Always tell the truth, even when the truth hurts. Others might not like how it feels, but in time they will feel better knowing you were honest with them.

George Washington once wrote, "I hope I shall always possess firmness and virtue enough to maintain what I consider the most enviable of all titles, the character of an honest man." Such a principle to follow will always prove beneficial, and it just might keep the lie detectors from becoming your worst enemy!



Jeffrey Dean is a pastor, international evangelist, and author. Jeffrey has spoken to more than 3 million people. He is the writer of several books, including *Watch This*, *This Is Me*, and his latest release, *The Graduate Handbook*. You can connect with Jeffrey at [www.Jeffreydean.com](http://www.Jeffreydean.com).