

What Is Honest (2)

Connie Meyer

Philip sighed as he watched raindrops wiggle down the windowpane. What was there to do today? He glanced around and spied the bookshelf. Yes, it was a good day to read a book! He chose one, settled into a comfortable chair, and began to read...

“The mood in the council chamber was dark and ominous. Orders had to be obeyed. The king required it—or death.

At the head of the table sat Margaret of Parma, ruler of the land while the king was away. Surrounding her were several advisors, some agreeing with the king’s cause—and some not. It was the king’s wish to have every heretic in the land destroyed. What did that mean? It was 1559 and the Reformed faith was gaining strength. The king, however, was Roman Catholic. The king hated the Reformed faith and required anyone professing it to be put to death. Those were the orders.

But one advisor would not obey. He was William of Nassau, Prince of Orange. He had been born to Reformed parents and as a young boy had been taught the Reformed faith. However, at only eleven years of age he had been taken away to live at the palace of Charles V, a Roman Catholic emperor, and there he had been required to embrace the emperor’s faith. Now he was twenty-six years old and stood as one of the most powerful men in the kingdom— if he remained true to the king.

But now would he have the courage to be true to his parents’ faith? Would he have the strength to be honest about what he believed? He would. He spoke to his own peers, but he spoke: “This cannot continue! I do not find it acceptable for the king to deprive his people of the freedom to believe and worship God in the way they believe to be right!

This was the beginning of a long, hard struggle for the prince, a struggle that would show him to be one of the finest champions of the Reformed faith.”

Philip read until he finished the whole book. Would he, could he, be as honest and true?

“Finally, brethren,..whatsoever things are honest...think on these things,” Philippians 4:8.

(If you would like to read a book similar to what Philip read, look for *William of Orange, The Silent Prince* by W. G. Van de Hulst at your local library or Christian bookstore.) ❖

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