

The Good Place

Chapter 7: The Eternal Shriek

Icebreaker: Would you rather someone be honest or polite? Do you tend to be honest or polite? (For example, if someone asked you if you liked their shirt, but you didn't. Would you say you liked it to spare their feelings, or tell them you don't like it?)

Discuss: Do the ends justify the means?

used to say that a desired result is so good or important that any method, even a morally bad one, may be used to achieve it

Proverb: the end justifies the means

Morally wrong actions are sometimes necessary to achieve morally right outcomes; actions can only be considered morally right or wrong by virtue of the morality of the outcome.

To what degree is it OK to do something morally questionable over what is morally right? To spare someone's feelings, To save someone's life, to save you from embarrassment, to get something you want?

Previously: Our last episode Michael was trying to find the reason things were falling apart in the neighborhood. Eleanor was helping him, while concealing her own guilt. At the end of the episode Michael tells everyone that he is the reason for the neighborhood failings.

Watch Episode 7:

Do the ends justify the means? What do these verses say about that?

- 1 Thessalonians 5: 21b-22 hold on to what is good, 22 reject every kind of evil.
- 1 Corinthians 15: 33 Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character." [e] 34 Come back to your senses as you ought, and stop sinning; for there are some who are ignorant of God—I say this to your shame.
- 1 Peter 1: 13-15 Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming. 14 As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. 15 But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; 16 for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy." [a]
- Romans 3: 3-8 What if some were unfaithful? Will their unfaithfulness nullify God's faithfulness? 4 Not at all! Let God be true, and every human being a liar. As it is written: "So that you may be proved right when you speak and prevail when you judge." 5 But if our unrighteousness brings out God's righteousness more clearly, what shall we say? That God is unjust in bringing his wrath on us? (I am using a human argument.) 6 Certainly not! If that were so, how could God judge the world? 7 Someone might argue, "If my falsehood enhances God's truthfulness and so increases his glory, why am I still condemned as a sinner?" 8 Why not say—as some slanderously claim that we say—"Let us do evil that good may result"? Their condemnation is just!

What were the ends, what were the means?

- Chidi: Lying about the boots to spare a person's feelings
- Eleanor: Killing Janet to save Michael.

Is lying always wrong? Is it ever OK to lie?

Who do you connect with on lying, Chidi or Eleanor?

Is lying so bad?

- Leviticus 19: 11 "Do not steal. Do not lie. Do not deceive one another.
- Exodus 20: 16 "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor."
- Proverbs 12: 22 The LORD detests lying lips, but he delights in people who are trustworthy.
- Colossians 3: 9-10 Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator

Is it OK to kill? Is Janet a "non-human entity?" Why is Chidi facing an ethical crisis when it comes to killing Janet?

- **Exodus 20: 13** "You shall not murder."
- **Matthew 5: 21-22** "You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'You shall not murder,[a] and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' 22 But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister[b][c] will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, 'Raca,'[d] is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell.
- **Proverbs 6: 16-19** There are six things the LORD hates, seven that are detestable to him: 17 haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, 18 a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, 19 a false witness who pours out lies and a person who stirs up conflict in the community.

Based on Proverbs 6:16-19, which of these has Eleanor committed? Why? Does her ends justify her means?

Were you surprised that Eleanor finally admitted her guilt? Why do you think she did that? What does her confession say about the ends vs the means?