"The person who is dishonest in very small matters is also dishonest in great ones ... if you are not trustworthy with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your (promised inheritance)?"

From the Gospel of St. Luke

I think it’d be safe to say that most of us think of ourselves as pretty good people. We believe in God. We go to church. We love our families. We’re loyal to our friends. We try to be good neighbors. We give to charity and try to help out when we can. We try to be honest and honorable and we may not be perfect, but most of the time, we live a good, decent life.

Whatever faults I may have, they’re little and, anyway, I’m not really hurting anybody!

Sure, I tell a few fibs once in a while but it’s no big deal, just little white lies. (Strike a match.)

Sure, I may listen to some talk around the water cooler at work and tell a few stories myself .. who doesn’t gossip sometimes? But it’s not like it’s anything malicious! (Strike a match.)

And yeah, I’ve cheated a coupla times but we get so much homework and I’m out straight with sports practices. I just don’t have the time
to study sometimes, but it’s not like I’m a phoney or a fraud! (Strike a match.)

I’ve probably watched some stuff I shouldn’t have, hung out with people who aren’t the best influence on me, done some things I’m not proud of, but it’s not like I’m an axe murderer or something! (Strike a match.)

I mean I believe in God. I pray when I need something. I go to church when I can make it but it’s just that Sunday is our family day, my day to catch up on stuff, my one day to sleep in, my day to do yardwork and shopping and homework. I’m I really am a good Christian. (Strike a match.)

Funny thing though, one lie makes it easier to lie again and again. One little juicy bit of gossip whets the appetite for more.

And cheating on a little quiz makes it much easier to pass off somebody else’s work as your own, to cheat in friendship, to cheat on the people you love.

And hang out with trouble, before you know it, you’ll be trouble yourself. Stick the moral compass in your pocket often enough and you’ll never find the way to true North.

Let God slide one week, it’s easy to keep on sliding all the way to Christmas or Easter or never!

Just a few little sparks. Just a coupla little fires. But, add ’em up, and a good reputation, a pure heart, the best of intentions, a holy worthy life can go up in smoke. (Light fire.)
“The person who is dishonest in very small matters is also dishonest in great ones.”