



Sermon Notes

February 3, 2008
Tim Strickland

Where Your Treasure Is... #5
Integrity & Treasure
Various Passages

Proverbs 10:2

*Treasures gained by wickedness do not profit,
but righteousness delivers from death.*

Proverbs 10:9

*Whoever walks in integrity walks securely,
but he who makes his ways crooked will be found out.*

Proverbs 11:1

*A false balance is an abomination to the Lord,
but a just weight is his delight.*

Proverbs 11:3

*The integrity of the upright guides them,
but the crookedness of the treacherous destroys them.*

Proverbs 15:27

*Whoever is greedy for unjust gain troubles his own household,
but he who hates bribes will live.*

Proverbs 21:6

*The getting of treasures by a lying tongue
is a fleeting vapor and a snare of death.*

Proverbs 28:6

*Better is a poor man who walks in his integrity
than a rich man who is crooked in his ways.*

Introduction

Today: **"Integrity & Treasure"**

- Message #5 in "Where Your Treasure Is", a series about God, money & you

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1. Walking in integrity

a. What is integrity?

Definition: Integrity is when your beliefs, words and actions align with the heart of God

• Psalm 26:1-7

*Vindicate me, O Lord,
for I have walked in my integrity,
and I have trusted in the Lord without wavering.
[2] Prove me, O Lord, and try me;
test my heart and my mind.
[3] For your steadfast love is before my eyes,
and I walk in your faithfulness.
[4] I do not sit with men of falsehood,
nor do I consort with hypocrites.
[5] I hate the assembly of evildoers,
and I will not sit with the wicked.
[6] I wash my hands in innocence
and go around your altar, O Lord,
[7] proclaiming thanksgiving aloud,
and telling all your wondrous deeds.*

b. Blessings of walking in integrity

• Proverbs 10:9

*Whoever walks in integrity walks securely,
but he who makes his ways crooked will be found out.*

• Proverbs 11:3

*The integrity of the upright guides them,
but the crookedness of the treacherous destroys them.*

• Proverbs 11:20

*Those of crooked heart are an abomination to the Lord,
but those of blameless ways are his delight.*

2. The Lord speaks against unjust gain in many forms

a. Theft

- **Exodus 20:15** "You shall not steal. (8th Commandment)

b. Profit through lying

- **Prov. 21:6** *The getting of treasures by a lying tongue is a fleeting vapor and a snare of death.*

c. Deceitful business practices

- **Prov. 11:1** *A false balance is an abomination to the Lord, but a just weight is his delight.*

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- d. Profit through oppression of the poor and weak
- **Prov. 22:22-23** *Do not rob the poor, because he is poor, or crush the afflicted at the gate, ²³ for the Lord will plead their cause and rob of life those who rob them.*
 - See also **Deut 24:14-15** – Pay wages that are due.
- e. Unpaid Bills
- **Romans 13:7** *Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.*
- f. Bribery
- **Prov. 17:23** *The wicked accepts a bribe in secret to pervert the ways of justice.*

3. How can I go forward with integrity?

- a. Repent of sins where you have lacked integrity
- **1 John 1:9** *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*
- b. Commit to God's standards of integrity and trust solely in Him to enable you to live up to his standards
- **Psalm 37:5-6** *Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act. ⁶ He will bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday.*
- c. Make thing right, where possible.
- **Luke 19:8** *And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold."*
- d. Replace unjust gain with honest work and generosity, and greed with contentment
- **Ephesians 4:28** *Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.*
 - **Luke 3:10-14** – John the Baptist's preaching of repentance promotes honest work, generosity and contentment

Note: The steps in #3 above are based on the Biblical pattern of dealing with sin found in Colossians 3:5-17 (esp. vv 9-10), Ephesians 4:17-32 (esp. v22-24), and Romans 12:2. The steps are as follows:

1. Put off Sin
2. Be Renewed in your Mind
3. Put on Righteousness

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Our Response

1. Ask yourself: Am I walking in integrity in my life? Repent of sins where you have lacked integrity.
2. Fill yourself with the knowledge of God's high standard of integrity.
3. Make things right, where possible and begin living a life of honest work, generosity and contentment.

Ephesians 4:28 *Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.*

Questions for Application

1. What does it mean to have integrity?
2. What are some ways you are tempted to sacrifice integrity for financial gain? Look through the sins listed in point #2 in today's notes. Are any of these areas particularly tempting to you?
3. Why do you think is it so tempting to do what you know is wrong for rewards you know will not last? What is the allurements of such sin? Discuss.
4. In hearing this message, has the Lord brought to your mind any specific sin that you need to deal with? Look at the steps in point #3 in today's message as it relates to your situation.
5. Pray together for strength from the Lord to make Him the greatest treasure in your life. Ask Him for the strength to overcome specific temptation to sin, in the areas of financial integrity discussed today. Confess your sins to one another as appropriate and pray for one another. (I recommend you do this with believers who you know and trust, such as those in your small group.)

James 5:16 *Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.*

Questions, Comments? - inthebeginning@look.ca

If you have questions or comments about today's message, please drop me an email to the address above. Thanks,

Tim



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