

Daily Devotional, June 1, 2020 Integrity-What is Missing in the News

“Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but whoever takes crooked paths will be found out.” Proverbs 10:9 (NIV)

God’s assignment for your life will never come with a compromise to your integrity. I don’t care how well the position pays or what that position calls on you to do, I don’t care how many times you’ll get to lead a meeting or a forum, to make political speeches for your party, play your musical instrument or sing, or share the stage. I don’t care how good you look on the front of somebody’s flyer or on the 10:00 news, nor do I care about the business cards with your name spelled correctly, how grand your office is or the amount of time you’ll travel, or the fact that you wear a badge or hold a public office. Being in and one with God will never come with you selling out who you are. Your integrity is the inner workings of you and if it can be bought, sold, transferred, and negotiated; you need to have a talk with your inner-self. Integrity is defined as the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles, that is, moral uprightness. ***“Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but whoever takes crooked paths will be found out.” Proverbs 10:9 (NIV)*** Let’s break this down.

“Whoever walks in integrity walks securely”. When you walk in honesty, there is nothing folks can hold over your head. In other words, when you live with nothing to hide, you don’t have to hide. See, when I carry myself the way I portray to be, I don’t worry about you running a background check because I know what it’ll show. When I walk in integrity, you can talk about me and it shouldn’t bother me because I know the truth of my story. When I walk in integrity, you can tell lies and the people who know me will not believe them. When I walk in integrity, I have no anxiety when I’m brought into the light, and I can sleep peacefully at night. ***“But whoever takes crooked paths will be found out”***. Taking crooked paths means to misrepresent, to sneak around. So, this is saying, when you twist, bend, and distort the truth; you will be found out. When you lie on your job application and/or resume, it’ll be found out. When you misrepresent yourself, it will be found out and you run the risk of always being worried if and when it will happen. You also run the risk of abusing the power of your position.

What brought me to write these words today are the horrible pictures I have been seeing across our country that have been consuming my television screen these past days. I watch what were supposed to have been peaceful demonstrations over the abuse exhibited by a disgraceful police officer’s actions, protected by our rights to peacefully assemble under our nation’s constitution. But instead I see infiltrators, who move underneath that blanketed right, to undermine the efforts of those whose voices should be rightfully heard. Instead, they not only destroy the integrity of those peacefully assembled, but show zero integrity by causing massive destruction to innocent business owners’ property, stealing wantonly, and causing physical harm not only to police and other public servants, but also to demonstrators who have become human shields to cover their acts of lawlessness.

Who are these people? Who wants to live like this? Always having to look over your shoulder. As an employee always being nervous when you are called in the office, wondering if this time will be the moment you get fired from your job. Always anxious because you’re wondering if, today is the day folks will find out you lied when you testified, or you aren’t the person you “post” to be on social media. Who wants to live like, “I hope no one can trace the serial number on this cell phone that I stole”, or “busts me when I try to sell these 9 pair of Air Jordans that I swiped from Foot Locker”. Who wants to live like this? I know that times are rough right now, many people are out of work, but *many more* are now without jobs—some small business owners, actual neighbors of these offenders—have now lost *everything*. ***“The integrity of the upright guides them, But the unfaithful are destroyed by their duplicity.” Proverbs 11:3 (NIV)***

My friends, just be you—the one God created you to be—and allow people to decide if they can handle it or not, but never, **ever** compromise your integrity to fit in because you might get in and realize you don’t like it.

Better the poor whose walk is blameless than the rich whose ways are perverse. Proverbs 28:6 (NIV)