

Integrity

The word “integrity” is related to the math term “integer.” An integer has certain qualities, including being a whole number with no fractions left over or parts missing. Just as an integer is a whole number, a person of integrity is a whole person. That’s because the common root word for the words “integrity” and “integer” means “whole.” In fact, the root word means much more; it has the powerful sense of being intact and untouched.

Belonging to God is the only true way to be intact, untouched, and whole. This week we will study Job, a man who maintained his intact life with God despite the greatest efforts to separate them from one another. Let’s learn together what it means to live a life like Job’s, a life of integrity.

Monday – Fearing God and Shunning Evil

“The one concern of the devil is to keep Christians from praying. He fears nothing from prayerless studies, prayerless work, and prayerless religion. He laughs at our toil, mocks at our wisdom, but trembles when we pray.” Samuel Chadwick, 19th-20th c. English pastor

1. Please read Job 1:1-12. What does this passage (especially vs.8) tell you about God’s relationship with Job?
2. As you read the passage, how did Job view God (see vs.5)? How did Job relate to God?

Making it Personal: What does it mean to fear God and shun evil? Is that an accurate description of your life? Why or why not?

Tuesday – May the Name of the Lord be Praised

“Whomever the Lord has adopted and deemed worthy of His fellowship ought to prepare themselves for a hard, toilsome, and unquiet life, crammed with very many and various kinds of evil.” John Calvin

1. Read Job 1:13-22. How would your response have differed from Job’s in verses 20-22?

Text Insight – Job’s response included more than prayer and worship. It also included the very physical act of tearing his robe, shaving his head, and falling to the ground. The tearing of clothes may have symbolized inner turmoil and shock and the shaving of Job’s head may have referred to his loss of glory.

2. What do you think Job is trying to say in verse 21 as he referenced his birth and death?

Making it Personal: If your life is going well, thank God for that. If you are facing difficulties, turn to God in worship and stay close to him still.

Wednesday – Maintaining Integrity

“Integrity is not a 90 percent thing, not a 95 percent thing; either you have it or you don’t.” Peter Scotese, 20th c. American industrialist

1. Please read Job 2:1-3. Why does God commend Job so highly?

Text Insight: God’s words “without any reason” in verse 3 and Satan’s words “for nothing” in 1:9 are a translation of the same original Hebrew words. God turned Satan’s words back at him to tell Satan that he was the one acting unreasonably, not Job.

2. Look at verse 1. How much time had passed? What did Satan do in that time? What had Job been doing?

Digging Deeper (optional) – How do you pray when life stinks? Read Psalm 42. What stands out to you?

Making it Personal: What kind of a season do you find yourself in? If you are in a season of trial and testing, have you spoken about it with God as the Job did and the Psalmist did in Psalm 42? Ask God to grow a life of integrity in you, so that you will honor him in all you do.

Thursday – Holding on to Your Integrity

“Our integrity is never worth so much as when we have parted with our all to keep it.” Charles Colton, 18th-19th c. English pastor and writer

1. Please read Job 2:4-10. What did Satan suggest to turn Job against God? Why did he think it would work?
2. What do you think Job’s wife was thinking when she spoke to him?
3. How does Job’s response lead to the conclusion of verse 10?

Making it Personal: Consider now how you would like to respond when hard times come, so you can be like Job.

Friday – Real Friendship

“A true friend never gets in your way unless you happen to be going down.” Arnold Glasow, 20th c. American writer and publisher

1. Please read Job 2:11-13. What did Job’s friends do for him. When have you had friends come around you in times of trouble?
2. What does the fact that they first met together by agreement tell you about their concern for Job? Why do you think it was wise that none of them tried to act alone?
3. In Job 42:10-17, what did God do for Job?

Making it Personal: Do you know someone who needs a friend? Pray for God to show you how you can be a good friend.

For the Weekend: Read Romans 8:18 & 37-39. What promise does God give us even though we may have difficulties in this life? How does Job’s experience encourage you in believing God’s promises?