

October 4, 2015 – Sermon Notes, Pastor Alan Smith

“Integrity”

- Have you ever noticed that it is hard to find someone with integrity?
- If we just look at the political world today compare to the past.
- Federal government scandals from 1778 – 1945 was 56 (167 years)
- During the period of 1945 – present day that number jumps to 270 (69 years)
- **integrity; the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles; moral uprightness: Oxford dictionary**
- We see that we are losing men and women of integrity.
- Today we need people of integrity. We need people like Job.
- Job was a man that was described by God as a man that was blameless and of complete integrity.
- Let's look at his story.
- In the beginning of Job, we see that he was a wealthy man.
- He was completely wealthy. He had a large and loving family. He possessed many animals and servants. He lived a righteous life and honored God.
- There was probably none like him on the Earth.
- Then we see this strange setting in Heaven. Satan presented himself before God and God asks Satan where have you come from? Satan tells Him that he was patrolling the Earth.
- God asks **“Have you noticed my servant Job? He is the finest man in all the earth. He is blameless—a man of complete integrity. He fears God and stays away from evil.”**
- Satan being the accuser tells God that Job fears Him because of He has protected Job.
- God allows Satan to test Job.
- The test was tragedy after tragedy.
- How does a man of integrity respond to losing almost everything?

- ²⁰ Job stood up and tore his robe in grief. Then he shaved his head and fell to the ground to worship. ²¹ He said, “I came naked from my mother’s womb,
- and I will be naked when I leave. The Lord gave me what I had, and the Lord has taken it away.
- Praise the name of the Lord!” ²² In all of this, Job did not sin by blaming God.
- Another test for Job. He was covered with boils from his head to his feet. He was also tested by his wife.
- ⁹ His wife said to him, “Are you still trying to maintain your integrity? Curse God and die.”
- ¹⁰ But Job replied, “You talk like a foolish woman. Should we accept only good things from the hand of God and never anything bad?” So in all this, Job said nothing wrong.
- There seems to be a pattern here. Having integrity is realizing that life will not always be easy and we need to accept the sovereignty of God.
- Living a life of integrity means to follow moral standards.
- **INTEGRITY Faithful support of a standard of values. Terms which occur in parallel with integrity suggest its shades of meaning: righteousness; uprightness; without wavering; blameless Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary**
- One of the synonyms for integrity is righteousness.
- Let’s look at righteousness.
- Righteousness includes keeping the laws of God
- **2 Corinthians 6:14 (NLT) — 14 Don’t team up with those who are unbelievers. How can righteousness be a partner with wickedness? How can light live with darkness?**
- **1 John 3:7 (NLT) — 7 Dear children, don’t let anyone deceive you about this: When people do what is right, it shows that they are righteous, even as Christ is righteous.**

- **Deuteronomy 6:25 (NLT) — 25 For we will be counted as righteous when we obey all the commands the LORD our God has given us.'**
- I know that our salvation is not dependent on obeying the law but when we accept Jesus, but, when we become a child of God we should obey the laws of God.
- It is the Holy Spirit that lives inside of us that makes living a righteous life a desire.
- It is not only a desire to live a righteous but a requirement by God.
- **Matthew 6:33 (NLT) — 33 Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.**
- **1 Timothy 6:11 (NLT) — 11 But you, Timothy, are a man of God; so run from all these evil things. Pursue righteousness and a godly life, along with faith, love, perseverance, and gentleness.**
- **Ephesians 6:14 (NLT) — 14 Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness.**
- God loves the righteous
- **Psalms 146:8 (NLT) — 8 The LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are weighed down. The LORD loves the godly.**
- **Proverbs 15:9 (NLT) — 9 The LORD detests the way of the wicked, but he loves those who pursue godliness.**
- We receive God's love and his blessing.
- **Proverbs 12:28 (NLT) — 28 The way of the godly leads to life; that path does not lead to death.**
- **Matthew 13:43 (NLT) — 43 Then the righteous will shine like the sun in their Father's Kingdom. Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand!**
- **Psalms 5:12 (NLT) — 12 For you bless the godly, O LORD; you surround them with your shield of love.**
- The righteous will suffer for their faith.
- **1 Peter 3:14 (NLT) — 14 But even if you suffer for doing what is right, God will reward you for it. So don't worry or be afraid of their threats.**

- Our nation has seen more and more evil that has happened to us.
- I believe that God is allowing that evil to happen because we as a nation are going away from Him. There have been 41 school shootings this year.
- We ask ourselves why this is happening?
- We are no longer a nation that is honoring God and I believe because of this God is pulling His hand of protection away from us. The church is losing its integrity and God pulls His hand of protection from us.
- **Proverbs 15:9 (NLT) — 9 The LORD detests the way of the wicked, but he loves those who pursue godliness.**
- Job had a wall of protection around Him and He allowed Satan to attack Job.
- Where is the men and women that are pursuing righteousness? Where are the churches that are willing to stand up for what is right in God's eyes and not the world's?
- It is time that we are known for our integrity like Job was. It is time that we live such a life that God says have you seen my servant or have you seen my servants at Brownsville.
- Do we have the desire to live the way God wants us to live? Are we willing to live a life of integrity.