

Masterclass – Integrity

Luke 12:1-12 – Warnings and Encouragements

¹ Meanwhile, when a crowd of many thousands had gathered, so that they were trampling on one another, Jesus began to speak first to his disciples, saying: “Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. ² There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. ³ What you have said in the dark will be heard in the daylight, and what you have whispered in the ear in the inner rooms will be proclaimed from the roofs.

⁴ “I tell you, my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can do no more.

⁵ But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear him who, after your body has been killed, has authority to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him. ⁶ Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. ⁷ Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. ⁸ I tell you, whoever publicly acknowledges me before others, the Son of Man will also acknowledge before the angels of God. ⁹ But whoever disowns me before others will be disowned before the angels of God. ¹⁰ And everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven. ¹¹ When you are brought before synagogues, rulers and authorities, do not worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say, ¹² for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say.”

1. How would you define integrity?
2. Is it wrong to give away free food to a friend if you work at a restaurant or to take some for yourself, or to occasionally steal something “small”?
3. Read Luke 12:1-3. What is hypocrisy and what form did it take with the Pharisees?
4. What does verses 2-3 imply about the things we do?
5. What do you think Steve means by:
‘Hypocrisy is the exception we make to our beliefs while believing we have no exceptions.’
6. What stands out to you in the following quote?
Just as honesty is essential for trust and trust is essential for any healthy relationship and for the ability to lead, so integrity is essential to becoming trustworthy. It has been said that if you can’t trust someone in all areas, you can’t trust them in any. We compromise our integrity whenever we betray a trust. Integrity is a prerequisite to credibility. It involves an inner sense of wholeness which results from being consistently honest and morally upright. Integrity is crucial in all aspects of life: professional, personal, social and spiritual. (Dr. Steven C. Riser)
7. What are the implications for the Christian witness?
8. What does the Royal Commission on Sexual Abuse demonstrate about the importance of integrity?
9. Why is excuse-making the great enemy of integrity?
10. Read Genesis 3:8-13, what is happening to integrity in this story?
11. How can geysers of desire punch through our beliefs and damage our integrity?
12. How can this list help to restore our integrity?

Guarding against hypocrisy

1. Focus on behaviour
2. Be aware of your drivers
3. Are you harming anyone?
4. Are you keeping secrets?
5. Are you constantly struggling with moral dilemmas?
6. Let the Holy Spirit make it right