

DAY 9

Lead Like Jesus: Integrity

Before the Passover Festival, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world to the Father ...

John 13:1

Leadership Affirmation

I live in full confidence that I am here for a reason and that You will use me to lead others until You determine the purpose for my life on earth has been fulfilled.

Great leaders have integrity. It's an attribute of their character. It's who they are. They know where they are going under the guiding hand of the Father. And they do not waver from their calling, no matter the cost.

The word "integrity" comes from the Latin word *integritas*.^{vii} We also get the word "integer" from this Latin root. You may remember from middle school that an integer is a whole number, meaning it's not fractional. An integer is not divided in any way.

That idea informs our understanding of integrity as a character attribute. Someone who has integrity is not divided. They are complete. The person with integrity behaves consistently in all areas of his or her life at all times. There are no double standards for a person with integrity.

Great leaders must have integrity. Integrity establishes credibility.^{viii} Credibility builds trust. Trust builds influence. When you trust your leaders, you're willing to follow them because of that trust factor.

The phrase *Jesus knew that his hour had come* puts His integrity on full display. Everything His life had been pointing toward was about to come to completion. From conception to the resurrection, the entirety of His life was an atoning work. The cross satisfied the penalty of the law. His sinless life satisfied the component of the law that demands adherence. There was never a single moment in Jesus' entire life where He wavered in His righteous code of ethics and principles. In both active and passive obedience, He was faultless.

We can pursue integrity, but we cannot fully possess it to the level of Jesus' perfection. We may see glimpses of integrity in humanity, but we see it perfectly in Jesus. He bore the full wrath of God for my sin and for your sin because that was the singular purpose for which He came. The righteousness He imputed to our account at our salvation becomes both the root and the fruit of our integrity.

Prayer for Protection

Heavenly Father, I resist satan's whispers that lure me from the high calling of integrity.