

DAY 16

Integrity Begets Trustworthiness

Taking the twelve aside, he began to tell them the things that would happen to him.

Mark 10:32

Leadership Affirmation

I lead by speaking truth in a manner worthy of the trust Jesus has invested in me.

Jesus had many “teaching moments” with His disciples. They were just like us in so many ways, always clamoring for recognition and attention. That is the scene that unfolds in Mark 10. Jesus and His disciples were on the road, going up to Jerusalem.

As they journeyed, Jesus openly shared with His disciples about His impending suffering, death, and resurrection. He was open and honest, not trying to cover it up so that they wouldn’t abandon him. No subterfuge. No hidden agenda. No secret meetings. Just openness, honesty, and transparency.

Jesus has the attribute of integrity, which manifested as the attitude of trustworthiness. We can trust Jesus. And we can trust people with integrity because people with integrity behave in a trustworthy manner.

Our character is always on display. When we’re put in a stressful situation, our character is amplified. When we make difficult decisions on the spot, our instincts force us to make choices that are true to our nature.

An untrustworthy person will be unreliable. Untrustworthy people get defensive and make excuses. Untrustworthy people will lie and cheat to get ahead. Unfortunately, that too often describes our own leadership, whether at home, at church, or in the community.

When you contrast this with Jesus, you see that He has integrity to the max. He is trustworthy in how He deals with people. Jesus is open. Jesus is honest. Jesus is transparent. He owns His role. He doesn’t make promises He can’t keep. He isn’t harsh. He always tempered His speech with grace.

We all have these integrity failures, but not Jesus. When we lead like Jesus, every situation is an opportunity to build trust, to be open and honest, to behave in a manner that is internally consistent with *His* character working its way through our lives as we surrender more fully to Him each day.

Prayer for Protection

Father, I refuse to pattern my life after the leadership principles of those who do not know You.