

Discussion Question:

Think of role-models. Why scandalous?

What is integrity?

- ⤴ I believe there are four components to integrity: what you say, do, believe, and all these things in a morally upright fashion. When all four of these are in alignment with one another then there is integrity.
 - Being morally upright is important because people can say evil, do evil and believe evil, but that does not mean they have integrity
- ⤴ When one of these four components are not in alignment then there is a lack of integrity.

Read: Genesis 12:10-20

- ⤴ Many good things can be said about Abraham such as about how he had faith in God's promise for a son (Genesis 15:6)
- ⤴ However, this account shows us that Abram trusted in himself even though in Gen 12:7 Abram believed and built an altar to the LORD
- ⤴ Abram was certain in the beauty of his wife and believed that because he was her husband they would kill him and take her for themselves
- ⤴ Abram lacked integrity: what he said (that she is my sister) and what he believed (that God would give his descendants this land) were not in alignment with one another
- ⤴ Why does the bible make mention of this account? And not only once, but twice (Genesis 20:2)
 - Because the bible makes no effort to try and hide the sins of the people who God has used in history
 - The people God used in history were sinners

This is why we need to look to Christ for integrity, we don't have the strength to be people of integrity without failing because of our sinful nature.

Story about myself

I was attending seminary this past term and I needed to find some resources so I could write a paper. One time I was going through Robarts which is this really big library on the U of T campus and I found one book that I need to borrow. However, because I had already graduated, my library card would not have worked. As I was trying to figure out what to do, I ran into a friend who was a current U of T student so his library card could help me borrow the book. After borrowing it and seeing the receipt it said that the book was due in two week. I told him that was not a problem and that I would get it in before then. Exactly two weeks later the book was still sitting on my computer table so I immediately texted my friend saying sorry and how I had failed to return the book. I also said that I would return it immediately the next day and pay him back for any charges. He texted me back saying how one week ago he renewed everything he took out of the library so I was still safe and there were no charges. However, the next day I didn't bring that book back and it wasn't until about a week later that I finally brought the book in.

So why am I telling you this story? This is a relatively trivial, but just as serious an example of people lacking integrity. On two occasions I had said something and did another thing. On these two occasions I believed one thing and did another. I had an integrity issue.

We are not perfect people and I'm sure that there are examples in your own life where you lacked integrity.

But our hope is not in ourselves. Our hope should be in someone far greater who has never failed to have integrity. His name is Jesus.

What did Jesus do?

On one occasion when Jesus was being questioned why he stayed around sinners he answered in Luke 5:31 "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance."

Jesus' mission was very clear. He came so that sinners, like you and me, can be saved. He did what we could not.

Why did he need to do this?

God is a God of justice and when things go wrong, a price must be paid. We have sinned and our rightful payment needs to be death (Romans 6:23).

How did he accomplish this?

Christ paid for that price (1 Cor 15:3-4). Christ died for us and because of that an exchange took place.

Christ is righteous

We are sinners

Christ took our sins

We are given Christ's righteousness

At the beginning, I had asked if you could be someone else, who would you be and why you would want to be that person. I'm here to encourage you that it is not by being someone that makes you perfect before God. It is not the things that we do, but the sacrifice that Christ made that gives us the look of perfection before God.