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Integrity

1 Samuel 24

We hear about the scandals—the business executives who choose money, in amounts beyond imagination for most of us, over their responsibilities to employees and stockholders. In some cases their choices have brought whole companies down. But what about the ones who say no?

I have a friend who recently told me of how it had been assumed that she would join others in bending the rules at the highest level of her profession. “You scratch my back; I’ll scratch yours. Everyone does it.” But she didn’t. And it is costly. She has not advanced to the top. She is still young—and she might. But she also knows that the choices she has made may mean that she never reaches the goal she has been working toward for years.

GROUP DISCUSSION. When do you find your ideas about integrity coming into conflict with life choices?

PERSONAL REFLECTION. When have you failed to choose the way of integrity? Begin by confessing that to God and allowing yourself to experience assurance of God’s forgiveness.

In 1 Samuel 24 we meet David in a tough moment. He has been running for some time from King Saul, who is trying to kill David out of jealousy. *Read 1 Samuel 24.*

1. What strong action verbs do you notice in these verses?

2. Describe David's situation from what you know here. What would it have been like for him?

What about Saul?

3. Taking into account the relationship between David and Saul (see 1 Samuel 18 for background), how might one justify the statements David's men make in verse 4?

4. Why does David regret cutting Saul's robe (vv. 5-7)?

5. What small actions of questionable integrity are tempting for you?

6. What do you find surprising about David's actions in verses 8-15?

7. How does integrity involve risk taking?

8. How do David's words and actions show him to be a man of integrity?

9. How does Saul's response (vv. 16-22) give even more credibility to David's actions?

10. What power does integrity have to turn enemies into friends?

11. What current situation or relationship would you like to change through actions of integrity?

How might you do that?

Pray for understanding regarding what it means to be a person of integrity in the various situations of your life.

Now or Later

Ask God to reveal the areas of your life in which you need to grow in integrity and to give you friends who will “keep you honest.”