

Thy Kingdom Come #26: Kingdom Integrity

Reflect

1. What does "integrity" mean? What does it look like?
2. Consider your life and people you know well. In what areas of life do we show integrity? In what areas do we show hypocrisy?
3. As Christians, we confess that we each sin and fall short. Is integrity possible in my relationship with God?

Read Your Bible

- Psalm 26:1-4
- Matthew 21:28-32

Apply God's Word to Your Life

1. Psalm 26 is asking God for vindication. What does it mean to be vindicated?
2. What does the writer say in Psalm 26 about his own behavior? How has he shown integrity? Can you relate?
3. How does God vindicate us? How does Jesus make integrity possible?
4. In Matthew 21, notice the differences between the two sons. How would their initial response have felt to their dad? What about their following actions?
5. Jesus highlights the integrity of the first son in his story. Can you relate more to the first or second son, in your own relationship with God as your heavenly Father?
6. Notice that the tax collectors and prostitutes were "entering the kingdom of God" while others were not. What was keeping the others out?
7. How can you put this truth into action personally?

Conclusion: Is integrity really possible? It doesn't always feel like it! I want to keep my word, but I get so tired of my sinfulness. I find that repentance is a daily necessity and that "Time for Getting Right with God" always cuts a little too close to home in worship. But, does that rule out integrity? No! On the contrary, repentance is what makes authentic integrity possible! Jesus hates hypocrisy. He makes clear that it is better to repent and do right, than to pretend! So, when I find broken promises in a relationship, I have two options: my pride or my apology. Which one is harder? But, every time we embrace the gift of repentance in Jesus, we find an unrivaled opportunity to step into promises anew. God's plan for your earthly life has always accounted for your worst failures, but it also provides every day for your growth in integrity. Jesus came to make you new and is not tired of you! He says once again, "Come home."

Pray: Lord Jesus, everything I have is yours. Which is scary, because I have been selfish! But, I recall to mind that you have welcomed me freely. Though I sold my heart to sin, you purchased it back at highest cost to yourself. Now my faithlessness is swallowed up in your faithfulness. Strengthen my heart in repentance and grace! Teach me the way of righteousness and integrity before you. Give me courage to live near your cross and in the life that flows there. By your power and name, amen.