

It comes back to story

Esther

Week 5
FAMILY & GROUP DISCUSSION

Integrity (Esther 2:19-23)

INTRODUCTION

Everyone has an internal set of rules that they live by. We make up these rules to keep ourselves safe from harm, embarrassment, and sometimes, sin. When someone else has their own set of internal rules, and they differ from our own, we tend to dislike someone else because they have different standards.

DISCUSSION

What are the positives and negatives of our internal rules?

EXPLANATION

List some of the rules you have for yourself.

List some rules you know other people have for their lives.

How have you seen these internal rules help some people?

How have you seen these internal rules destroy some people?

APPLICATION

Give your own quick definition for the word integrity.

Why do you think people are so different on the inside then they are on the outside?

Why do you think scripture stresses integrity as strongly as it does?

On a scale of 1-10 (1 being terrible and 10 being Jesus), how would you rate yourself with personal integrity?

Why?

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Matthew 5:43-44
Psalm 120:2
Ephesians 4:25
Colosians 3:9
Proverbs 11:1

Matthew 5:13-14
Matthew 5:29-30
Romans 3:22-24
Matthew 5:43-44

Week 5 Notes

& SCRIPTURE VERSES



Integrity (Esther 2:19-23)

Matthew 5:43-44 *"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you"*

Everyone has an internal set of rules that they live by. We make up these rules to keep ourselves safe from harm, embarrassment, and sometimes, sin. When someone else has their own set of internal rules, and they differ from our own, we tend to dislike someone else because they have different standards. Mordecai and Xerxes have different rules... but the only standard that should matter is Jesus.

Esther 2:19-20 (The Rules)

Xerxes rule: be good looking. Mordecai's rule: don't tell him you are a Jew.

We are a people who loves rules: you don't break the rules, you don't go around the rules or there are consequences.

How we live our lives truly show who we are and if we truly love and follow our God where He leads. Are we the kind of people other people know they can trust? *Psalms 120:2 Save me, O LORD, from lying lips and from deceitful tongues.* Integrity Problems Start Early and Run Deep *Eph 4:25, Col 3:9, Prov 11:1.*

The journey to doing right (and wanting good for all people) requires cultivation, it requires a decision, it requires a belief...that you are a child of God.

Esther 2:21-12 (The Integrity)

Haman, knowing how capricious the king is, still protects his life.

Integrity Is Not the Same as Knowing the Rules - Our problem is not that we don't know the rules, but that we don't live what we already know.

Integrity Is Not the Same as Reputation - Developing a reputation for integrity is not the same as having integrity. (Matt 5:13-14; 29-30)

Paul points out in the New Testament that we all rule breakers *Rom 3:22-24 There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.*

We need God's grace to help us to see the truth about our lives and character. Most often He will enlighten us through times when doing the right thing is the hardest thing to do.

Matt 5:43-44 You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy. But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven.

That is Integrity and it will only come through being a people who walk in God's strength.

