

**BINA BANGSA KJ MORNING DEVOTION
GUIDE**



INTEGRITY

Integrity

Scripture Reading — Nehemiah 7:1-3

Hananiah ... was a man of integrity and feared God more than most people do.
Nehemiah 7:2

The news media churn out stories on all kinds of people doing bad things. Politicians are accused of taking bribes and hiring prostitutes. Priests are suspected of abusing children. Are there any people of integrity any more? What does a person of integrity look like?

Nehemiah knew some people that he could trust to do the right thing. He had observed Hananiah, for example, in his work as commander of the citadel. Nehemiah had seen Hananiah's spiritual life in action, giving evidence of godly, discerning leadership and a heart willing to serve the Lord. Hananiah "feared God more than most people do."

In other words, his everyday life showed great respect for God as his King. He accepted that he was small and God was sover-eign over his life.

That's what integrity looks like.

Jesus is our model of integrity. His life matched his character and being. Maybe that's why people flocked to him; he was different from the teachers of the law and other religious leaders. Jesus was who he was, inside and out. Integrity, for Jesus, was to show what God was like—truth and grace wrapped into a human package.

Jesus wants us to be people of integrity. Does your inner life of patience, goodness, and self-control flow outward into deeds and words that bless others? Ask Jesus to fill your life with his holy character.

Prayer

Dear Jesus, give me a heart and mind that truly follow your will and way. In your name, Amen.

A Good Name

Scripture Reading — Proverbs 22:1, 17-23

A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold. — Proverbs 22:1

When I asked friends to share a favorite proverb from Scripture, a rightly proud mother shared her son's business motto: the words of today's verse. How appropriate! In a business world where large profit margins seem to be the only objective, a commitment to having a good name is most commendable. I also know this is not just a slogan designed to gain clients. Our friend's son demonstrates this motto in every area of his life.

In a world with numerous temptations to cut corners or deliver less than promised, it's vitally important that followers of Christ conduct their business with integrity. The temptation to seek gold or silver—the profits—as our top priority is the same today as it was in Solomon's day. Greater profits may come by way of dishonest weights, selling a sick animal, falsifying records, and more. But when you get caught, your business will also be ruined.

Too often our testimony is negated by the way we do business. Too often we put a Christian symbol on our business card and yet deal dishonestly. Our good intentions and promises must be followed up with actions of integrity—in all we do. Christ's name is at stake, not merely our reputation.

Jesus calls us to honesty. Honoring him, we can sing, "Lord, I lift your name on high," and mean it. Are you honoring God in all you do?

Prayer

Lord Jesus, empower us richly with your Spirit so that we may live lives of integrity in all our relationships. We ask this in your name. Amen.

Source: <https://today.reframemedia.com/devotions/a-good-name>

We are Teachers of Integrity

Scripture Reading — Malachi 2:6; James 2:14-18

True instruction was in his mouth and nothing false was found on his lips. He walked with me in peace and uprightness, and turned many from sin. — Malachi 2:6

These words about the tribe of Levi tell us what an influence we can have when we have integrity. Integrity is when everything about us is in alignment. Levi's actions were both righteous and peaceful, and they matched Levi's words. The Levites not only avoided being dishonest; they sought to help others understand the truth.

Because the Levites' words and actions were aligned, people were drawn away from sin. Integrity is powerfully attractive. A lack of integrity turns people away. In Malachi's day, the priests—that is, the Levites—needed this reminder. God was saying that if they wanted to see God's blessings again, they needed to live with integrity. Integrity would draw other people to be like them. And, more important, teaching the ways of God with integrity would realign them with God's will and God's favor.

Christians today struggle with integrity just as God's people did in Malachi's time. Sometimes we say the right things, but the way we live or the attitude we carry is not aligned with our words. Other times our behavior is good, but our words might be cruel or vulgar.

Integrity would be impossible except for four little words in the example of Levi, "He walked with me." Walking with the Lord is our only hope for aligning our words and actions.

Prayer

Dear Lord, write your ways and words on our hearts. Make us so in tune with your kingdom that we honor you in all we do and say. Amen.

Source: <https://today.reframemedia.com/devotions/teachers-of-integrity>

The World We Live In

Scripture Reading — Esther 1:10-22

He sent dispatches to all parts of the kingdom . . . that every man should be ruler over his own household. — Esther 1:22

The advice of the king's counselors is ironic. The search process would bring Esther, a Jewish woman who shows great integrity, into the most important house of the empire. She would wisely influence the two most important men in the kingdom, intervening to protect God's people.

We like to believe that we're competent managers of our world, especially if we find ourselves in leadership positions. Xerxes had total confidence in his counselors' search for a new queen. They were surprisingly successful.

As the story develops, Esther impresses the king and becomes his favorite. But no one knows she is a Jew. As it turns out, following Mordecai's advice not to reveal her nationality at first is wise (Esther 2:10, 20). Eventually Esther's actions and words would bring triumph for the Jews. Good Persian leadership brought this woman to the right place at the right time. Or was it God's intervention?

Laughable advice, corrupt search objectives, bad influence from inherited wealth, and threats against the faith are commonplace in our world. When we, as Christ's disciples, stand before rulers and leaders, let us be "as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves" (Matthew 10:16). That's good advice: "Whoever gives heed to instruction prospers, and blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord" (Proverbs 16:20).

Prayer

Help us gain wisdom, Lord, that in this world we may speak and behave with integrity in every aspect of our lives. Amen.

Whatever You Do

Scripture Reading — Colossians 3:12-17

Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. — Colossians 3:17

The other day I heard someone ask another person, "What do you do?" The person answered by saying, "Oh, I'm just a housewife." Perhaps you too have heard someone say, "I'm just a farmer," or "I'm just a secretary," or "I'm just a factory worker," or "I'm just a country preacher." In any culture we have our rankings, and our sense of worth is often measured by the work we do. The more impressive your career, the more "important" you are. Celebrities especially get lots of attention when something happens in their lives.

Thankfully the Bible does not measure our worth by how high we have climbed the social ladder or how much education we have. In today's verse we read, "Whatever you do . . . do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus." When life on earth comes to an end, what matters is not how high we climbed, but whether we were faithful to the Lord in whatever calling we pursued. What counts is whether we clothed ourselves with compassion, humility, patience, and other fruitful signs of Christ's work in our lives.

My father was a farm laborer most of his life. He never served on a board or received recognition. But he was faithful in his calling, and he served the Lord as he raised his family. Whatever he did, he tried to do it in the name of the Lord. And that's what counts!

Prayer

Father in heaven, make each one of us faithful in our calling, and help us to do all things "in the name of the Lord Jesus." Amen.