An Honest Scale

Job 27:3-6
3 As long as my breath is in me, And the breath of God in my nostrils,  My lips will not speak wickedness, Nor my tongue utter deceit.  Far be it from me that I should say you are right; Till I die I will not put away my integrity from me.  My righteousness I hold fast, and will not let it go; My heart shall not reproach me as long as I live.  NKJV

Job 31:6
Let me be weighed on honest scales, That God may know my integrity.  NKJV

Intro
Before World War II, Nora Waln wrote a book exposing Hitler and his Nazi plotters.
• The manuscript, Reaching for the Stars, was intercepted in the German mail on its way to an American publisher.
• She fled to London, where she rewrote the book from memory.
• When it was finished, being assured that she was safe from the clutches of Hitler’s tyranny
  o She sent a copy of the book to Heinrich Himmler, the Nazi hangman.
• Infuriated, Himmler took his vengeance by imprisoning seven of the author’s anti-Nazi friends.
• In order to save her friends, Miss Waln came back to Germany in 1939
  o and offered her life in exchange for the freedom of her friends.
• In response to her offer Himmler said he would empty a whole prison
  o if she would rewrite her book to make Hitler appear good instead of evil.
• Her response was notable.
  o She said, “I am willing to forfeit my life, but not my beliefs.”

Integrity
• I want to point out this evening that you possess a very valuable thing
  o It is yours, and yours alone.
    ▪ No one can take it from you,
    ▪ no one can tear it from your grasp
  o It is a very powerful attribute
    ▪ It defines who you are
    ▪ And it frames what others think of you.
  o It is the key to your Christian Witness
    ▪ and it is central to your walk with God.
    ▪ It is your Integrity.
• And I want you to know this evening that integrity is about more than just talking a good talk.
  o It is about walking the walk.
What is Integrity?

- In the moral free-fall in which we live
  - Integrity seems to be an abstract concept at best
- Webster’s defines it as the adherence to a code of morals or values
  - It is the sum total of your Honesty,
    - your Character,
    - your Righteousness,
    - and even your Godliness.
- It is a precious thing
  - that is easy to lose
  - and hard to restore.
- One rash decision,
  - one bad choice,
  - one weak moment
    - can cost you the integrity
    - that it will take year’s of faithfulness to restore
- Perhaps this is why Job was so adamant:
  - Till I die I will not put away my integrity from me.
  - My righteousness I hold fast, and will not let it go
- I want to encourage you this evening
  - to hold fast to your integrity
  - and do not let it go!

Your integrity is central to your walk with God

- and your relationship with others.
  - People measure you by our integrity.
- The only way we are going to win folks to the Lord
  - is if we demonstrate the fact
  - that the Holy Ghost working in us
  - is enough to help a flawed man maintain integrity
    - in a society that has no boundaries
    - between right and wrong.
- In a time when anything goes
  - and everything is OK,
  - it is your integrity that provided the moral compass t
  - hat makes your life,
    - and your testimony,
    - notable to those that are around you.

The thing you have to understand about integrity is that it doesn’t happen on accident

- Although it may be displayed in a moment
  - and while it may be destroyed in an instant
    - It is not something that is easily gained
- You don’t just stand up one day
Integrity is the product of faithfulness
- Of decisions made day in and day out
- It is the result of telling the truth
  - when it would have been easier to tell a lie.
- It is the result of being honest
  - when no one would have known if you cheated or not.
- It is the result of standing by your values and principles
  - when everyone else is abandoning theirs.
- It is built upon the heart that realizes
  - that truth doesn’t change with the times,
  - that right is right and wrong is wrong,
- no matter how our culture defines them.

The simple truth is that integrity is tested a multitude of times in a day
- and each time it is tested it gains in stature
- It is the composition of an untold multitude of right decisions,
  - of honest statements,
  - of good character
  - and godly living.
- The words of Job carry great meaning, this evening,
  - I will hold fast to my integrity.
- I want you to understand that your integrity
  - is central to your walk with God.
- The defining aspects of a Godly life are outgrowths of your integrity
  - The things you do when under pressure,
  - The words you say, the places you go, the way you dress,
  - What you do when no one else is watching
    - These are all indicative of your character
    - and they define your integrity or lack thereof.
- I promise you my friend that somebody is watching your every move
  - and analyzing each decision
    - in an effort to decide
    - if you really are what you say you are.
- They will judge from your integrity
  - if the gift of the Holy Ghost is real or not.
- It is incredibly important this evening
  - that we live lives that are marked by integrity.

An Honest Scale
- Job said
  - “Let me be weighed on honest scales, That God may know my integrity”
- I would submit to you this evening that the key to maintaining your integrity
  - is the scale by which you measure yourself
- If you are going to maintain your integrity
An Honest Scale

- it will be because you’ve judged yourself by an Honest Scale

- The scale, as a means of measuring, is rich topic in the bible.
  - From the earliest of times, food and other goods
    - were measured out by weight using a balance.

- A standard weight was placed on one side,
  - and the material being measured was put on the other.

- When the balance was level,
  - both buyer and seller knew
  - that the amount had been measured correctly.

- However, with human nature being what it is,
  - it did not take long for men to discover that they could to one weight
    - for a standard when buying and a different one for selling.
  - In this way, they could "tip the balances" in their favor by using
    - weights that were advantageous to them.

- Using such a "double standard," was highly destructive to the overall society
  - because it bred distrust and suspicion.
  - For this reason, the Word of God makes it clear that universal and
    - unchanging weights are crucial to a stable society.

- When God gave the law He emphasized to Israel the necessity of justice and
  - honesty when weighing and measuring:
    - **Leviticus 19:35-36**
      - You shall do no injustice in judgment, in measurement of length,
        - weight, or volume. You shall have honest scales, honest weights, an
          - honest ephah, and an honest hin...

- When God inspired Solomon to write the book of Proverbs, He chose to
  - include frequent references to scales and weights.
    - **Proverbs 11:1**
      - Dishonest scales are an abomination to the LORD, but a just
        - weight is His delight.
    - **Proverbs 20:10**
      - Diverse weights and diverse measures, they are both alike, an
        - abomination to the LORD.
    - **Proverbs 20:23**
      - Diverse weights are an abomination to the LORD, and
        - dishonest scales are not good.

- However, while Job was referencing the need for an honest scale to measure
  - by, he wasn’t talking about the kind scale that was used to measure wheat or
    - barley.

- Job emphasizes the fact that, just like we weigh out material goods, when we
  - need to measure them
    - There are times when we need to measure out spiritual and moral
      - things as well.

- And Job’s appeal is for an honest scale to measure his integrity.
  - He is surrounded by his detractors.
  - There are those that have questioned his integrity.
It appears to him that the very judgements of God are against him.
- His wife, his friends, his trusted advisors, everyone has turned their back on him.
- And Job laments, "Let me be weighed on honest scales!
  - Lets be honest, when it comes to issues of integrity
  - When it comes to morals, and the rightness or wrongness of our actions
  - It's hard for us to find an honest scale!

**Yourself**
- The truth is that you aren't a good judge of your own character.
  - You can't trust yourself to measure your own integrity.
  - That scale is hopelessly out of balance!
  - No matter how much you would like to think you are,
    - you are not a honest judge of your own actions
- We are all partial in judging of ourselves and the things we do and say
  - We all think too favorably of our own character
    - As if we were incapable of doing any wrong
- The fact is that we are not always honest with ourselves
  - The truth is that we are a poor judge of our own integrity
- Twice in the proverbs Solomon made similar statements on this subject
  - In both Chapter 16 and 21 Solomon wrote:
    - *Every way of a man is right in his own eyes, But the LORD weighs the hearts.* (Prov 21:2) NKJV
- He said, "Everything that a man does is right in his own eyes"
  - Matthew Henry said
    - "The proud heart is very ingenious in putting a fair face upon a foul matter"
  - The heart, by way of reasoning, has the singular ability
    - to make that which is far from being right
      - appear to be perfectly acceptable to itself.
- The prophet Jeremiah correctly said:
  - In Jer. 17:9
    - "The heart is deceitful above all things,
      - and desperately wicked: who can know it?"
- The truth is that concealed within the heart of a man
  - is the ability to disguise, even from himself,
    - both his purpose and his intentions
- Therefore, when it comes to preserving our own integrity
  - we are poor judges of our own actions
- I want you to know this evening
  - that your integrity is in danger
  - when you begin to justify your actions
    - based upon your own reasoning.
- Anytime you have to resort to your own reasoning and logic
An Honest Scale

- to justify a decision or choice
  - you are in danger of sacrificing your integrity
  - on the alter of convenience.
- Because you are not an honest judge of your own integrity!
  - Those scales in which we weigh our own character are skewed in our favor.
  - We think much too highly of ourselves, and our decisions and the choices that we make.
    - While we would condemn the same actions and same choices if someone else were to make them!
  - We aren’t honest with ourselves, about ourselves!

Culture
- Another dishonest scale of reference that people use is the culture in which we live.
  - I want you to know, this evening, that our culture is not an Honest Scale.
- Jesus told a parable of two men who built homes
  - One built his house upon a solid rock
    - and the other built his house upon the shifting sand.
- When the storms came and the sand shifted
  - the latter house fell.
- Never has there been a more fitting description
  - of the unreliability of culture
  - to provide a foundation for integrity.
- What was wrong yesterday is acceptable today,
  - and what was once a commonly held belief
    - is quickly laughed to scorn.
- From Gay Marriage to Evolution
  - we live in a Godless, humanistic, culture that is constantly shifting.
    - It’s values are constantly changing.
- As you strive to live a life that is pleasing to God,
  - you cannot afford to measure yourself by the world
    - or by the world’s standard of righteousness.
- This world’s standard is as fickle as the wind
  - that might change directions at any moment.
- We can’t afford to judge or lives
  - by that unreliable standard.
- This culture is constantly trying to insert itself into your definition of morality and righteousness.
  - With an everything goes mentality
  - and a doctrine of open-mindedness
    - this world is actively striving to define
      - how you measure yourself.
- It is actively attempting to establish
o a flawed measure of right and wrong
o and apply social pressure to insure
o that you embrace that measure.

• I want to warn you this evening not to get caught in the trap
  o of adopting the mindset and attitude of this world.
• It’s not a reliable scale.
  o It will lead you wrong.

People
• Another common measurement for integrity that is unreliable but is often used is other people.
  o My friend, the people around you are not an Honest Scale.
• It never ceases to amaze me
  o that people seek to justify their own wrong actions or attitudes
    ▪ by pointing out the even worse actions or attitudes of others.
• Can tell you tonight that if you point to others in order to justify yourself,
  o you are not being honest with yourself?
• Because people are not an Honest Scale
  o by which to measure your integrity.
• Being better than someone else
  o will never insure that you are right or that you are godly.
• If you want to keep your integrity intact,
  o you better stop measuring your righteousness
    ▪ and your godliness
    ▪ by the mistakes and failures of others!
  o That’s not an honest scale!

The Royal Cubit
• One of the earliest records of precise measurement is from Egypt.
  o The Egyptians studied the science of geometry to assist them in the construction of the Pyramids.
• It is believed that about 3000 years BC,
  o the Egyptian unit of length came into being.
• The "Royal Egyptian Cubit" was decreed to be
  o equal to the length of the forearm from the bent elbow
    ▪ to the tip of the extended middle finger
    ▪ plus the width of the palm of the hand
    ▪ of the Pharaoh that was ruling at that time.
• With this standardization and uniformity of length,
  o the Egyptians achieved surprising accuracy.
• Thousands of workers were engaged in building the Great Pyramids.
  o Through the use of cubit sticks,
    ▪ they achieved an accuracy of 0.05%.
    ▪ In roughly 756 feet or 9,069.4 inches, they were within 4 1/2 inches.
• In order to maintain this kind of accuracy in measurement
  o they maintained a “Royal Cubit Master”.
• The "Master" was carved out of a block of granite to endure for all times.
  o Workers engaged in building tombs, temples, pyramids, etc.
    ▪ were supplied with cubits made of wood or granite.
• The Royal Architect or Foreman of the construction site
  o was responsible for maintaining & transferring the unit of length
    ▪ to the workers instruments.
• The builders were required to bring back their cubit sticks
  o at each full moon
  o to be compared to the Royal Cubit Master.
    ▪ Failure to do so was punishable by death.
• Though the punishment prescribed was severe,
  o the Egyptians understood
    ▪ that a standard that was not constantly matched to the original
      ▪ would lose its integrity over time.
• An errant saw blade, a dropped cubit, or a misplaced hammer blow
  o could alter the structure of the Cubit
  o and cause the measurements to be off.
• In order to maintain an Honest unit of measure,
  o the cubit was checked each month
    ▪ to see how it compared to the original

An Honest Scale
• I’ve come to this pulpit on a Sunday evening to let you know that God holds
  the only Honest Scale.
  o If you want to know the true measure of integrity
    ▪ You must go back to the original source
• The judgments of God concerning our actions are judgments of truth
  o No matter how we judge ourselves
  o No matter how the culture defines us
  o No matter how we rank compared to those around us
• God measures our lives in a just and unerring balance.
  o God looks to the heart and judges men according to his word.
  o God judges your actions according to his principals
  o God judges your intentions against his perfect will for your life
    ▪ Unlike our judgment, his is precise, exact, unerring and Honest!
• If the measure of a cubit is the distance from elbow to fingertips on the king,
  o then the only true way to properly define a cubit i
    ▪ to go to the king and compare your cubit to his!
• What I’m telling you this evening is that the only way to be sure
  o that you maintain your integrity
    ▪ is to visit the master of the cubit
    ▪ and make sure that you are measuring yourself
      ▪ by his standard!
Notes by Pastor Tony McCall

The Pentecostals of Lake City

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An Honest Scale

• I’m here to tell you that what we need most in our lives is to go back to the king
  o and make sure that our measure of right and wrong
    ▪ is the same as his.
• Each and every one of us needs to make a trip to the throne of God
  o and measure ourselves by his holy standard.
• We all need to find a regular time and place
  o where we shut ourselves away with God
    ▪ and invite him to search our hearts and know us.
  o A place and time where we allow the Lord to try our thoughts
    ▪ and measure our intentions.
• This is the wellspring from which integrity flows.
  o It’s a constant process of returning to the source of righteousness
    ▪ and measuring ourselves again.

Titanic

• Scientists now say that a series of slits, not a giant gash, sank the Titanic.
  o The opulent, 900-foot cruise ship sank in 1912
    ▪ on its first voyage, from England to New York.
  o Fifteen hundred people died in the worst maritime disaster of the time.
• The most widely held theory was that the ship hit an iceberg,
  o which opened a huge gash in the side of the liner.
• But an international team of divers and scientists
  o recently used sound waves to probe the wreckage,
    ▪ buried in the mud under two-and-a-half miles of water.
• Their discovery?
  o The damage was surprisingly small.
• Instead of the huge gash,
  o they found six relatively narrow slits
    ▪ across the six watertight holds.
• My friend, small damage to your integrity,
  o things that are invisible to most,
    ▪ can sink not only a great ship
    ▪ but a great reputation.

• We must guard ourselves against those little things
  o that would destroy our ability to reach our world with this precious truth.
• We have truth, we preach and teach the whole counsel of scripture.
  o This precious truth will stand up to the scrutiny of honest scholars and theologians.
  o It can overcome the objections of amateurs and professionals alike.
  o It is truth and truth doesn’t change.
• Anyone, with an honest heart that will read the scriptures for understanding
o will discover the truth of Jesus name baptism,
o the necessity of repentance
o and the promise of the Holy Ghost.

• However, there is one thing that truth can't overcome and that's a bad witness.
  o If your life lacks this vital component of integrity
    ▪ you will never convince anyone of this wonderful truth that we have.
  o If you claim to be filled with the Holy Ghost,
    ▪ then you must live like it.
  o This is the key to your ability to reach the lost.

I want to admonish you this evening, not to let this life rob you of your integrity
• Decide, like Job, I will hold fast to my integrity,
  o I will not let it go.
• Don't fall into the trap of trading God's measure of integrity
  o for some flawed substitute produced by the world,
    ▪ your friends
    ▪ or even your own heart.
• Make it a point to go to the King on a regular basis
  o and measure your life by his standards.
• Make it a point to read the word of God
  o and allow its honest measure
    ▪ to expose flaws and faults in your character.

Measured
• In Daniel Chapter 5:
  o Belshazzar made a great feast for a thousand of his lords.
    ▪ As they worshipped their own idols
    ▪ they defiled the instruments of worship
    ▪ that were taken from the tabernacle of God.
• They drunk wine, to their own delight,
  o out of the golden vessels
  o which had been consecrated
  o to the Service of God.
• Suddenly their appeared the fingers of a man's hand
  o writing on the wall,
  o and the king was greatly troubled.
• Daniel 5:25 And this is the writing that was written, MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN.
  o When none of his own astrologers, Chaldeans, soothsayers and wise men
    ▪ could read what was written, and interpret it,
    ▪ they finally sent for Daniel,
    ▪ who was able to give the message to the king.
• 26 This is the interpretation of the thing:
  o The first word
    ▪ which was repeated for emphasis
    ▪ meant God hath numbered thy kingdom,
      • and finished it.
  o The last word meant
    ▪ Thy kingdom is divided,
      • and given to the Medes and Persians.
• But the middle word is the one that concerns us today
  o It was TEKEL
• And Daniel interpreted it as:
  o Thou art weighed in the balances,
    ▪ and art found wanting.
• Belshazzar learned a truth that day that every person who ever lived will eventually discover.
  o You can ignore God’s Honest Scale,
    ▪ but you can’t escape it.
• Just as surely as Belshazzar was measured that day and found wanting
  o Every person’s life will one day be measured by God’s Honest Scale.
• The only way to escape judgment on that day
  o is to go to the king yourself
    ▪ and measure yourself
    ▪ before that day of judgment.

Close
• Job, surrounded by his accusers, enshrouded in his own darkness
  o Welcomed the idea of a trial,
    ▪ He said LET ME be weighed on Honest Scales
• A righteous man welcomes a trial,
  o for justice will only uphold his righteousness
• Only those, whose works won’t measure up
  o do all they can to avoid a trial
• What about you,
  o how would you feel tonight
    ▪ if God said I’m going to take the measure of your life right now.
    ▪ This is it.
    ▪ This is the end.
    ▪ I’m going to weigh all of your life
      • and all of your living
      • in my Honest Scale?
• Thankfully, God hasn’t said that tonight.
  o In his mercy he’s extended each of us another opportunity to measure ourselves.
• Let me encourage you, this evening, to take the initiative and visit the master.
  o You need to measure yourself now
So that you won’t be found wanting on that final judgment day, whenever it comes.

- Everyone of us needs to return to the king today
  - and measure our standard against his.
    - We need to measure our heart against his truth.
  - We need to say, like David said,
    - “Search me Lord, and know me.
      - Know my thoughts.
      - Know my intentions.
      - Know all my ways.
    - If there’s anything wrong there, God,
      - let your conviction reveal it to me
      - so that I can keep myself right in your presence...