

September 28-31, 2020 Edition

# The "BIG Story" Of The Bible #18

## Finding Jesus In The Old Testament

### Jesus On Forgiveness

By: Ed &/or Judy Gardner

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When you read the Bible ask yourself if there's anything you're reading where God is speaking to you personally... anything that you need to start applying in your own life. Then try to reflect on what you read... what you heard from God throughout the day and we know you'll be blessed.

\*\*\* These are EXTREMELY rough drafts so if you see typos... well yuo knew the rest ;0) These are essentially the ramblings of thoughts running through Ed or Judy's mind the week before Ed teaches a lesson on these concepts. They are pretty much how Ed gets ready for the weekends. They are not necessarily coherent so if they don't make much sense... sorry about that.

\*\*\*\* Also these devotionals are the product of both Judy & Ed's experiences and education. Figuring out which are from Judy and which are from Ed (sometimes both are contained in a single day) is half the fun.

You can also get these devotionals on Riverside's Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/EagleRiverside](http://www.facebook.com/EagleRiverside)). You don't have to have a FB account to read them but if you do have an account if you "like" the Riverside page and click the box to get updates the devos will show up on your wall every weekday (along with other news and event updates).

## Monday:

*So, chosen by God for this new life of love, dress in the wardrobe God picked out for you: compassion, kindness, humility, quiet strength, discipline. Be even-tempered, content with second place, quick to forgive an offense. Forgive as quickly and completely as the Master forgave you. And regardless of what else you put on, wear love. It's your basic, all-purpose garment. Never be without it. Colossians 3:12-14 (MES)*

*But the Spirit produces the fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. There is no law that says these things are wrong. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified their own sinful selves. They have given up their old selfish feelings and the evil things they wanted to do. We get our new life from the Spirit, so we should follow the Spirit. We must not be proud or make trouble with each other or be jealous of each other. Galatians 5:22-26 (NCV)*

## Reflection:

The quest for honor is the passionate pursuit of greatness. Integrity is the compass you will use to find God's unique path for you on the road to honor. It will not only inform your humility but it will harness your passions and focus your intentions. With integrity as your guide there will be some paths you will automatically reject simply because they lead in a direction contrary to the heart of God. And maybe that's the best definition of integrity-when your heart is joined with the heart of God. What is important to God becomes important to you. The things that make God happy make your heart soar. The things that hurt God, hurt you. When that begins to happen integrity becomes your compass and suddenly the future becomes much clearer. When we choose to ignore integrity and go our own way, somehow the future becomes much foggier and we find ourselves wondering what happened and where to go next.

Have you ever noticed how much easier it is to trust someone with integrity? When people do what they say they are going to do, trust is the natural result. But when someone says one thing and then does another how does that make you feel about that person? How about you? Do your actions and your words line up with each other? Believe me, I know how scary following God's compass can be. When you decide to live your life by God's heart instead of your own there will be plenty of times when you have to make truly courageous decisions- and that's why this path of honor must lead us to courage through integrity and to integrity through humility. Because without humility you won't see the need for integrity, and without courage you won't be able to live your life with integrity.

When I grew up I was a HUGE liar. I lied about everything. I lied to get out of trouble, I lied to make myself look cool, I lied to "protect" people's feelings, I lied just because it was who I had become through a lifestyle of dishonesty. It caused lots of problems for me but that didn't stop me from being who I had decided to be- a liar.

Hi, I'm Ed and I'm a born liar.

But even though I had become a liar, I knew I wasn't doomed to live my life that way if I didn't want to. When I gave up on living life my own way and decided to start living a life

that would make God smile rather than cringe, I knew integrity would have to play a big part. But I didn't know how hard it would be. When you've lived your life lying to get yourself out of trouble or to spare the feelings of someone else, it's not an easy habit to break. And habit is a good word for my lying. People would come to me and ask me if I had done something yet and I would decide it was easier to tell them yes and then make sure I did it after they left rather than tell the truth and disappoint them. I was after all, looking out for their feelings. That seemed like a truly Christian thing to do. But when I would get caught it caused some "minor" problems. Namely people didn't trust me anymore. And when Jonathan was born I remember thinking about how I wanted him to see me as he grew up. I decided I'd rather have the temporary discomfort of telling the truth than having people (especially my son) see me as a person with no honor. And when you live life without the compass of God's integrity that's exactly what happens- you live a life absent of the honor of God. Not that when you're using God's compass you'll be perfect. None of us are. But we all know the difference between a person who's on the quest for honor and the one who has decided it's just not worth the trouble.

So let me ask you- what characteristic of integrity are you having problems with. What threatens to knock you off the quest for honor? I know, you're not all liars like I was, but all of us have that special place inside of us that struggles with integrity. What's yours? You might as well just name it right now and decide that it's not going to rule your life anymore. I know it can be scary but that's where courage comes into the quest for honor. If you don't currently have integrity God can form it in you- but like everything else that we've been talking about, you have a part to play in this transformation as well.

Take a look at the scripture reading for today. Both of those verses are pretty good lists of integrity. In fact in my quiet times one thing I do is go through those lists (or others like them) and ask God to point out what areas I need to work on. Usually one of those qualities of integrity will start flashing at me like a neon sign! Then I've found that I have to do my part if God is going to do His. With transformation there are the things God does for us because we cannot do them for ourselves, and the things we have to take care of ourselves because God will not do them for us. Integrity is one of the things that is going to require us to roll up our sleeves and get to work. Look at what Colossians 3:12 tells us:

So, chosen by God for this new life of love, dress in the wardrobe God picked out for you...

God wants you to wake up every day and get dressed in the clothing of honor. This isn't the garden of Eden where you can be "naked and unashamed". You need your pants and your shirt but you also need to dress yourselves spiritually. And here is the wardrobe God picked out for you:

*...compassion, kindness, humility, quiet strength, discipline. Be even-tempered, content with second place, quick to forgive an offense. Forgive as quickly and completely as the Master forgave you. And regardless of what else you put on, wear love. It's your basic, all-purpose garment. Never be without it.*

Imagine the extreme makeover God could do in your life if you let Him dress you spiritually every morning when you wake up!

I have never been a fashion expert. When I was a teenager I wore clothes that I liked

without ever wondering if they went "together". What does that mean anyways?!?! I went to an amusement park once with a group of friends and I wore my favorite Bermuda shorts (it was the '80s- Bermuda shorts were cool then, ok?) and my favorite shirt. What did I care that the shorts were plaid and the shirt was striped? One particular girl (I think her name was Tammy) seemed to take great pleasure in pointing out how stupid I looked. I didn't care much though so she eventually stopped because there's no pleasure in making fun of someone who's so fashion impaired they just don't get it.

Then I went to college and met Judy. After we started dating she made sure she went shopping with me so I wouldn't embarrass her too much when we were out in public. She showed me what shirts to wear with what pants and what sweater. I even had socks that went with "outfits". I was styling. One day I went into class and Tammy (the girl from the amusement park had transferred to our school by then) took one look at me and asked, "who dressed you?!?!?" I told her that maybe I had dressed myself. She said, "no, I saw how you dress yourself and this isn't your doing!"

Have you ever had a similar situation when it came to your spiritual wardrobe? Are people horrified by your lack of spiritual fashion sense? Do you wake up in the morning and look in the mirror knowing you have no clue what kind of spiritual clothing to put on so you're not naked? Then let God pick out your clothes tomorrow morning when you wake up. You just have to put them on. Then it will be up to you to make sure that they stay on throughout the day. I don't want to act like it will be easy but this much I can promise you. If you put on God's wardrobe every morning and do your best to leave it on as you go through your day people will notice. They'll ask, "who dressed you?!?!?" And when you ask why, maybe they, like Tammy did with me will say, "because I saw how you dressed yourself and this isn't your doing!"

**Prayer:** Father, teach me how humility can lead to integrity so that I won't simply see myself as You do but will also move forward to become more and more like Your Son. Point out what qualities of integrity I need to work on today. Lay out my spiritual clothing for today and give me the wisdom to put it on and leave it on throughout my day. I want to become a person of honor. Show me the areas in my character that are truly weaknesses and are preventing me from becoming like Jesus. Give me whatever I need to overcome my poor character habits. Teach me how to move forward with You... even when I am scared... and show me what my next step is. What do you want me to do today? Give me the strength to do whatever it is. In Jesus' Name, amen.

## Tuesday:

*For all have sinned; all fall short of God's glorious standard. Romans 3:23 (NLT)*

*God did what the law could not do. By sending his Son to be an offering to pay for sin, God used a human life to destroy sin. He did this so that we could be the kind of people the law correctly wants us to be. Romans 6:23 (MES)*

*If you are a thief, stop stealing. Begin using your hands for honest work, and then give generously to others in need. Ephesians 4:28 (NLT)*

Let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily hinders our progress. And let us run with endurance the race that God has set before us.  
Hebrews 12:1 (NLT)

**Reflection:** Have you ever thought much about the Law (the one with a capital "L", the Law of Moses)? If God was going to send His Son to die for us and free us from the Law then why did He go to the trouble of giving the Law in the first place? Why didn't He just bypass the couple of thousand years from the 10 Commandments to the Cross and go straight to the whole "saving" thing? What was the point of the Law?

According to our scripture reading for today, it was to teach us how to be the kind of people God wanted us to be. The catch was that the Law could never make us into those kind of people... only God's transformational process can do that. So the Law showed us what kind of people God wants us to become & the Cross gives us the power to become that. The Law focused on external obedience to a set of commands and the Cross invites us to take the spirit behind those laws and move them inside of us- that's what integrity is. Integrity is what happens when you do the right thing even when nobody's watching to make sure you do it.

**In a nutshell integrity is who you are when no one's watching.**

Imagine a life without integrity. What would your life look like if you didn't give any thought at all to the concept of integrity? Now multiply that out by 6.5 billion people and think about a world where nobody gave any thought to integrity. Once you get that picture in your head I think you'll start to get an idea of what the world was like before the flood. The Bible tells us in Genesis 6:5:

*God saw that human evil was out of control. People thought evil, imagined evil-evil, evil, evil from morning to night. God was sorry that he had made the human race in the first place; it broke his heart.*

That is what the world would be like without people like you who are on the pathway of honor. When you refuse to live a life of pure selfishness and instead pursue integrity in your life you do the opposite of breaking God's heart- you fill His heart with pleasure. Did you ever think about the fact that your life can bring God great pleasure? The Bible tells us in 1 Chronicles 29:17:

*I know, my God, that you examine our hearts and rejoice when you find integrity there.*

God is watching your life. He is intimately acquainted with what you did yesterday and today. But the amazing thing to me is that He's not watching to catch you doing something stupid (how hard would that be after all?). What He's watching for is anyone who will join Him on the pathway to honor. And when He finds that person do you know what He does? He strengthens them: 2 Chronicles 16:9 says:

*The eyes of the LORD search the whole earth in order to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him.*

God's not like Santa Clause... he's not making a list and checking it twice. He's not separating us into who gets good stuff and who gets coal. He's simply looking for those who will fully

commit their hearts to His Son. When He finds you He gives you strength for the quest that you are on. And as was the case with the pathway to humility, the path to integrity is not undiscovered territory. God isn't asking you to go anywhere He has not already gone. The pathway once again is clearly marked out by the footsteps of Jesus. Hebrews 4:15 tells us:

*For our high priest is able to understand our weaknesses. When he lived on earth, he was tempted in every way that we are, but he did not sin.*

Have you noticed that our society seems to be enamored with the word, "authenticity?" The airwaves are filled with shows where people are praised for being, "true to themselves." Authenticity is great as long as the real you is good. But if you're "true self" wants to hurt me then I hope you choose hypocrisy every time. In fact our prisons are filled with people who acted on the desires of their "true selves." That was their problem- their "true selves" weren't very nice.

That's where integrity comes in. God knows we have problems with who we are. He made us, He knows our weaknesses. In fact according to Romans 3, every single one of us has sinned and fallen short of His glorious standard. The amazing thing is that He still sent His son to die for us even knowing how weak and sinful we are. With the power of the Cross He invites us to become more than we could ever be on our own. But He doesn't just want us to stop doing bad stuff, He wants us to fill the vacuum left by what we are no longer doing with positive, life giving stuff.

*If you are a thief, stop stealing. Begin using your hands for honest work, and then give generously to others in need. Ephesians 4:28 (NLT)*

God doesn't just want you to stop stealing- He wants you to begin contributing! Otherwise what was the point of saving you? He invites you to be transformed in who you are at your core, in how you react to every situation, in your character. Authenticity is fine if you're a good person, so that's what He wants to make you, because authenticity without integrity is a deadly combination.

To be authentic means to be, "not false or copied. To be genuine with regard to what the creator intended". To be authenticated means to be established as a genuine product of the manufacturer. So when you get right down to it, the people who say they're being authentic while they hurt others and selfishly take whatever they want are not truly being authentic. They are in fact proving themselves to be forgeries and fakes of what God originally intended. If this is the position you find yourself in there's good news! God can transform even your character. He can infuse you with integrity if you wake up each morning and choose to live your day pursuing it rather than following your own selfish desires. He can guide you down the path of honor so that you will begin to appreciate the person you look at every morning when you stare bleary eyed into your mirror. No matter where you are right now or what you've done in the past, God can and will transform you if you let Him. You have work to do, but with God anything is possible. He can authenticate you as His own product. He can transform you from a cheap copy of what He intended into a priceless original. As you go through today I hope you'll listen to the promise of your manufacturer:

*I will give you a new heart with new and right desires, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony heart of sin and give you a new, obedient heart. Ezekiel 36:26 (NLT)*

**Prayer:** Father, , thank You that my past is not what you are focused on... help me to take my mind off my past too. Make me see myself as You see me. Authenticate me by bringing my life in line with what You intended when you created me. Teach me not to stop simply at cutting out the wrong things I've been doing. Teach me how to fill the vacuum left by those things with the positive, life giving things You have in mind for me. Lord, what is my next step? What do you want me to do today? Give me the strength to do whatever it is. In Jesus' Name, amen.

### Wednesday:

He chose David his servant and took him from the sheep pens; from tending the sheep he brought him to be the shepherd of his people... And David shepherded them with integrity of heart; with skillful hands he led them. Psalm 78:71-72 (NIV)

After removing Saul, he made David their king. He testified concerning him: 'I have found David son of Jesse a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.' Acts 13:22 (NLT)

**Reflection:** Today we continue down the pathway to honor. Remember that the quest for honor began with humility, but will ultimately lead us to courage through integrity. Today we will finish up looking at integrity by looking at the concept of an integrated life.

According to the dictionary to integrate is:

*to join two or more objects or make something part of a larger whole, or to become joined or combined in this way.*

That's what God is looking for from you and it can only happen when you grow in integrity. When you pursue integrity in your life you ensure that God's heart will integrate with yours. And that's our working definition of integrity for these 40 days, when your heart beats with the heart of God.

But what does integrity look like? Remember all those lists we looked at last week from Colossians 3, Galatians 5 & 2 Peter 1? Integrity isn't just about telling the truth- integrity is how you live when your heart beats with the heart of God: When you tell the truth even when lying would be easier. When you are patient with your kids or your spouse even when it would be easier to yell. When you are loving & accepting to people who are unlovable and unacceptable when it would be easier to walk away from them. When your life starts to line up with the heart of God you are on the pathway of integrity.

Have you ever bought bananas? Erwin McManus would disagree. He thinks what you buy are banana peels. What makes you think there are really bananas inside those yellow peels (or for us Alaskans, inside those green peels)? How about a watermelon, ever bought one of those? How do you decide which watermelon to buy? You thump it and listen to see if it sounds hollow, right? Then if it sounds empty you buy it because you still expect something to be inside!

But we know what we will find inside of the banana peels and the watermelons we buy. Why? Because God's natural world has integrity. You know that unless someone's playing a

sick joke on you, there will be bananas and watermelon inside of those peels and rinds. How about you? When people take a look at the outside of you do they get a good impression of who you truly are, or would they be shocked if they got a look at the real you?

I'm not talking about your sinfulness or your humanity. We all deal with those things. I'm talking about being/becoming integrated. God wants us to match up with who we tell people we are. He wants what people see on the outside to line up with what we are becoming on this transformational journey with Him. That's what integration and integrity are all about- not becoming perfect but striving to integrate your heart into the heart of God.

King David was a master at this. That didn't mean that he was perfect- if you've read the story of his life you know he was a long way from it. David made king-sized mistakes in his life. And yet God said about David,

*'I have found David son of Jesse a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.'*

I am sure that integrity and integration played a big part in why David was a man after God's own heart, but there was so much more to David. Humility for instance. If you read the story you'll see David never thought he was too good to do anything. Before he was on the battlefield standing before Goliath he was being the best doggone shepherd he could be. He didn't think that shepherding some stinky sheep was beneath him. In fact whenever danger came calling for those sheep David courageously stood up and defended his sheep because that's what his integrity demanded of him.

If you look closely at David's life you'll see that wherever God put him- he bloomed. He humbly accepted any job God gave him and did his absolute best whether he was a shepherd, warrior, poet, general or king. I believe that's what made David so great. If you look at today's scripture reading you'll see that God promoted David because of what he proved himself capable of as a shepherd.

*He chose David his servant and took him from the sheep pens; from tending the sheep he brought him to be the shepherd of his people... And David shepherded them with integrity of heart; with skillful hands he led them. Psalm 78:71-72 (NIV)*

What made David qualified to shepherd God's people was his honor. He was humble, he had integrity and he was obviously courageous (more about courage beginning tomorrow). That David led with skillful hands I believe was a secondary and not a primary factor in God's decision making process. The thing that made David "king" material was that he was willing to integrate his heart with the heart of God. He was humble, he had integrity of heart and he was courageous. When you looked at David you got what you saw. He wasn't perfect, and I'd imagine you're not either. But if you begin with humility and let God form integrity within your heart then you will also be becoming the kind of material God can work with.

**Prayer:** Father, teach me what it means to live an integrated life. Make what people see on the outside and who I truly am on the inside the same. Show me what it means to be a "man/woman after Your own heart." & teach me to "bloom" wherever you put me. Lord, make it clear to me which parts of this transformational process are your parts and which parts are my responsibility. In Jesus' Name, amen.

## Thursday

Lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God. Be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. Always keep yourselves united in the Holy Spirit, and bind yourselves together with peace. Ephesians 4:1-3 (NLT)

Be filled with the Spirit. Ephesians 5:18 (NCV)

**Reflection:** Just do it! That's God's prescription when it comes to courage, but how do you know where and how God wants you to be courageous? It seems to me that the more you travel this road of honor the clearer the way becomes. The opposite is true also- the more you choose your own path and ignore God's guidance, the more murky your vision becomes. Integrity is the compass that will lead you on the path of honor- but it requires courage to follow where your compass is telling you to go.

I love Ephesians 4. Did you ever notice that immediately following that appeal for courage (to live a life worthy of your calling) is a list of some of the tougher characteristics of integrity to implement in your life? Humility, gentleness, patience, unity... why do these come on the heels of a plea for courage (I'm assuming when Paul says to live a life "worthy of your calling" that he's calling for courageous living)? I think they are bound together here in this passage because they are bound together in real life. It takes courage to pursue a lifestyle of integrity and Paul knew that. He was calling the Ephesians to courageously follow the pathway of honor by pursuing integrity in their every day lives.

Whoever said that Christianity is for wimps has never tried to live a life of integrity. It can be terrifying to do the right thing some time. But it SO simplifies our lives. So how about you? Are you ready to start living a life "worthy of your calling"? Let's make today a day where we ask God for the courage to live lives of integrity.

**Prayer:** Father, make me a courageous person of integrity. I want to become more like Your Son... Show me how to do that. In Jesus Name, amen.

## Friday:

Be strong and very courageous. Obey all the laws Moses gave you. Do not turn away from them, and you will be successful in everything you do. Study this Book of the Law continually. Meditate on it day and night so you may be sure to obey all that is written in it. Only then will you succeed. I command you-be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the LORD your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:2-9 (NLT)

**Reflection:** Over and over again throughout the Bible God urges us to live truly courageous lives. His promise of peace comes at a price. God is a God of love and peace but many times in the Bible the only way to achieve His peace was through courage. God promised a land to Abraham and his descendants. It was to be a wonderful place of peace and rest for the Israelites. But it was a peace that the Israelites would have to take through conquest. If you read the first chapter of the book of Joshua you will see one of the greatest

pep talks ever given in the history of the world. Joshua has been Moses' second in command for 40 years. Now Moses is gone and Joshua is being told by God to lead the people into the promised land and Joshua is scared. You know how I know he's scared? Read chapter one again. How many times does God tell Joshua to be "strong and courageous"? Three times! And the final time He resorts to Joshua's military sensibilities, He commands him to be "strong and courageous." Notice what God tells Joshua:

*I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. ... No one will be able to stand up against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. Joshua 1:3-5*

Here we find the perfect nexus between God's part and our part in any journey with Him. The land was God's promise to the people but it was up to Joshua and the Israelites to take it. God promises that nobody would be able to stand up against Joshua but He doesn't promise they won't try. God was promising to do what the Israelites could not do for themselves, but it was up to the Israelites to do that which He would not do for them. And because Joshua took God's advice and was strong and courageous human history was changed.

God still works the same way. He's made a promise and He has a plan, but it's up to you to step out in faith and execute it. I love the way Romans 16:20 puts this concept:

*The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.*

Even in the New Testament God's peace is often achieved not by "peaceful" means but by courage. And did you notice whose feet will be doing the devil stomping? Your feet! Once again God has the plan and expects you to do your portion of the work. He will not do it all for you. Read the Bible from cover to cover and you will find the same story over and over. God transforming ordinary cowards into men and women of courage who perform heroic deeds because they overcame their fears and just did something! Throughout history He has entrusted His most important missions & sacred tasks to ordinary people like you and me. We think of people like Joshua, Moses & the apostles and we assume they must have been extraordinary people of faith and courage. They became those kinds of people but they didn't start out that way. They became those kind of people and achieved the impossible because they believed God and followed where He guided them. The reason Joshua is so scared in the story we read today is because He understood exactly what God was asking of him and where God was going to take him. To his credit he stepped out in faith even though he was scared. God is asking the same of you and me.

I find it particularly interesting that God doesn't tell Joshua to be strong and courageous for single acts of valor, but He calls Joshua to a life defined by courage. It is also interesting how Joshua is to ensure his success- by living a life of integrity. Notice what God tells Joshua in the pep talk to end all pep talks:

*"Obey all the laws Moses gave you. Do not turn away from them, and you will be successful in everything you do. Study this Book of the Law continually. Meditate on it day and night so you may be sure to obey all that is written in it. Only then will you succeed." Joshua 1:2-9 (NLT)*

How wild is that? Joshua will be successful in his leadership only if he leads in courage and in integrity. With God you cannot separate the two. That's why integrity is so important to the people of God. No matter what God has called you to do right now, whether it's something big and flashy or something small and quiet (and by the way, they are both important in God's eyes), you need integrity to succeed. By living a life of integrity God promises to go with you wherever this journey toward honor might lead. But without it you will be on your own as you try to navigate through a hostile world.

It is a fact of life with God that one of the most important and yet least flashy parts of the quest for honor is doing what you know is right. That is what God is telling Joshua- not to go climb a mountain or swim a river filled with alligators. If that had been the pathway to honor I'm guessing Joshua would have jumped at the chance to do something that seemed heroic. But that's not the pathway to success with God. On this journey God calls Joshua to do something he's known all his life- to do what is right. He wants the same from you.

I don't know how many times I've heard people talk about knowing the will of God for their lives. It's a great question but usually they focus on that question because they don't want to do what they already know- the day in, day out pursuit of integrity. But for us it will be the same as it was for Joshua- our success on the pathway to honor will be completely dependent upon our moral compass and how well we follow what we already know. You want to know what God's will for your life is? Live a life of thankfulness. Live a life of generosity toward others. Live a life of love. Live a life marked by forgiveness. Live a life of passionate patience. Live a life of expectant hope. Live a life of faithfulness. Live a life of reverent wonder. Live a life... I think you get the picture.

The problem isn't that we don't know what God wants from us... it's that we don't want to do what we already know. As Erwin McManus says in his book *Uprising*, "the key to your future is not revelation, but obedience." And so as we finish up for today thinking about courage and how it fits in with integrity on this pathway of honor hear again the words of Jesus:

*You know these things-now do them! That is the path of blessing. John 13:14 (NLT)*

**Prayer:** Father, today I will meditate on Your words so that success can be unleashed in my life. Today I purpose to do the things I already know to do... Knowing that the path of blessing is in that direction. In Jesus' Name, amen.