

GROWING – A Life of Integrity 2nd Aug 2020 Deborah Holman


This Study Guide provides a summarised study with additional discussion questions based on the scriptures mentioned in the sermon.


Connect:

1. Read and discuss [Ephesians 6:5-9](#)
 - Slaves [*doulos*]: servant, involuntary or voluntary, sense of subjection or subservience
 - Rooted in [*deho*]: to bind, to knit, to tie, to bind oneself, a bondman, bondmaid
2. The words “slaves” and “slavery” is used many times in scriptures, either in our relationship to God or to an earthly master.
 - [Exodus 4:10](#) – When Moses is telling God he can’t not speak, he calls himself God’s servant.
 - [Exodus 5:15](#) – When Pharaoh told the Israelites to make bricks with no straw, the word servant is again used.
3. What does the scriptures say about the treatment of servants/slaves?

Engage:

4. Read and discuss [Exodus 21:1-6](#)
 - In this scripture we see that God set this up in such a way that servants (whether hired or bought) could gain their freedom in a Jubilee year.
5. A couple of weeks ago Deborah taught us that Hebrew words are set in concepts rather than abstract terms (and set in function over appearance), so we can paint a picture of what Exodus 21:1-6 means.
 - If you take the word servant or slave (*eved*) in Hebrew pictograph, it is composed of three letters. As well as letters Hebrew uses pictographs to describe a concept and the pictograph for slave/servant is

Ayin  - to see or experience, to watch, to know

Bet  - a house or family in

Dalet  - door, enter

= The word servant means to experience the house door. What does this mean?

Framework:

- It means that on the 7th year, the year of freedom, if the servant doesn't want to leave the master's house the servant, he will need to have an experience at the door of the master's house that will bind him to the master forever.
6. What is it that makes a servant want to stay forever with his master?
 7. What is the relevance of piercing?

“Jesus was also pierced to a wooden post: by His hands, which signifies everything He does. And by His feet, which signifies everywhere He treads. Does that not speak to us of His everlasting commitment? As He came not to be served, but to serve.”

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8. Let's return to our passage in Ephesians 6:5-9. Paul is telling us to serve our master whether he is watching or not. Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people,
9. Here Paul is talking here about integrity. What is integrity?
10. What does it mean to have integrity?

“And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.”

Luke 2:52

11. If we want to grow in favour with God and man our integrity will play an important role in how we are known. So how can we grow in integrity?

12. How to Grow In Integrity (You need to be):

- **Self-aware** (Self-awareness is the ability to focus on yourself and how your actions, thoughts, or emotions do or don't align with your internal standards.)
If you're highly self-aware, you can objectively evaluate yourself, manage your emotions, align your behaviour with your values, and understand correctly how others perceive you.
- **Accountable** (Requirement or expectation to justify actions or decisions)
If you are truly signed up to accountability, it will be a red flag to your actions. Knowing that you have to answer for your actions can often prevent wrong actions occurring.
To be unaccountable means you will always look to blame others, and often people who don't want to be accountable spend their whole lives blaming others for everything that goes wrong. They do this because they can't look at themselves and see the part they are playing in their own catastrophes.
- **Responsible** (the state or fact of having a duty to deal with something)
This is linked with accountability and seeing it as a duty to be accountable when things go right or wrong. It's about holding onto something and seeing it through no matter what. It's about ownership of things whether it is convenient or not. It's about seeing that the right thing is done even when it's costly. It carries with it a sense of duty.
- **Truthful** (telling or expressing the truth; being honest, characterized by accuracy or realism)
It is so easy to mislead or not tell the whole truth at times, but although honesty can be painful, it can also be liberating. Telling the truth might require paying a price, but integrity requires honesty.
The scriptures speak about being slow to anger and slow to speak – often our hastiness to cover things up causes us to react untruthfully.
Truthfulness may at times require us to ask forgiveness of others in order to bring us freedom from guilt.
Jesus said many times in his ministry "I tell you the truth".
Truthfulness is link heavily to walking in freedom – Jesus said if you know the truth, the truth will set you free
- **Internally consistent** (unchanging in nature, standard, or effect over time)
If we are consistent, overtime we will become known for our integrity and we will find favour with both God and man.

“Obey them not only to win their favour when their eye is on you, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart.

Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people-”

Ephesians 6:6-7

13. Metaphorically speaking, have you had your ear pierced to the doorpost of the master's house?
14. Are you committed to an everlasting relationship with Him?
15. Do you serve Him because you love Him?
16. Do you serve others because you love him?
17. How much do you value your integrity?

Prayer:

“Dear Lord, I pray that I will have the courage to live a life that separates me from the world standards. That I won't be afraid to stand up and stand out when my integrity is at stake. In Jesus Name Amen.”

