

Devotions for Those Who Serve



Serving With Integrity



Tom Lemler

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From the Author

There are few things, if any, that are as emotionally exhilarating, and draining, as the task of serving others. Having worked in a variety of ministry settings, including various roles within Christian camp ministry, I understand the excitement that often comes with the beginning of a new ministry or ministry season. I also understand the weariness that can develop when our focus begins to drift away from the ministry of serving and onto ourselves.

This devotional guide is part of a series that came about through some conversations at a Christian Camp Leaders' Conference about the need for camp summer staff devotional material that would be useful without being a burden in an already busy schedule. On my way home from the conference, I began to pray about what would be a useful format and about potential topics for devotions developed specifically for those who serve. Out of that prayer time, this series began to form in my mind and then on paper.

It is my prayer that every Christian recognizes the importance of serving others. With this guide, I pray that you would learn the great value that integrity has in serving others. As you go through this devotional guide, each day will focus on a different aspect of serving with integrity. As you pray, ask God to help you see areas of your life where your words and actions may not match. Pray that the people around you would know you as a person of integrity. Use the note section at the bottom of each page to jot down thoughts, ideas, or action steps that God will bring to your mind.

In prayer,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tom".

Tom Lemler

Day 1

Integrity as a Lifestyle

(Matthew 5:37 & Luke 18:8)

How would you describe a life of integrity? How would you live a life of integrity? What are some things that tempt you to not keep your word? Why? How are integrity and justice related? Can true justice be found without complete integrity? How should God's view of you doing the right thing influence the way you serve? Do you always seek to do right? Why or why not? Would your serving of others change if you were to live with integrity as a lifestyle?

It seems that the longer I live, the more the average person's response to anything is conditional. While it may be good that we're more hesitant to say yes or no, we're also less likely to stay with yes or no once we've said it. God calls us to live a lifestyle of integrity so that everyone knows that our yes means yes and our no means no. Living with such integrity as we serve not only represents a God that has complete integrity, but it helps those we serve learn to trust us.

As you pray, ask God to help you see why you may have difficulty in keeping your word. Pray that you would realize the importance of integrity as it relates to your witness of God. Pray that you would be known as a person of integrity.

Notes: _____

Day 2

Judged by Integrity

(Psalm 7:8)

Would you want to be judged by your current level of integrity? Why? How does judging a person according to their integrity, rather than on hearsay, help you serve them more effectively? How does a reputation of integrity, or lack of it, affect how those you serve judge you? How effective is your serving likely to be if people judge you as having a lack of integrity? How will you make your actions match your words as you serve today?

Years ago I worked on a commercial roofing crew with a group of guys that were not walking in fellowship with God, to say the least. It's not that they were bad guys, they were simply living to please self with no regard for God. Eventually one of them told me that I was the first Christian who actually lived what I said. They said that everyone else they had encountered eventually joined them in activities previously proclaimed as wrong. Instead of judging Christians by their integrity, they had judged all Christians by the lack of integrity they had observed.

As you pray, ask God to help you live in such a way that being judged according to your integrity would be a good thing.

Notes: _____

Day 3

Protected by Integrity

(Psalm 25:21)

Have you ever been falsely accused of something? Did your reputation at the time help protect you from the accusations or make the accusations more believable? What are some things that make some rumors more, or less, believable than others? How important to you is your physical protection as you serve others? Are you as concerned about the protection of your character? How will serving with integrity protect your character, not only from false accusations, but from the temptation to do wrong?

We probably all know someone who could be accused of almost anything and we wouldn't believe it. They have lived a life of integrity that requires a greater burden of proof in regard to wrongdoing than just someone's word. We live in a time where words fly so fast that accusations simply can't be avoided as we serve people. It is through our integrity that we are protected from accusations which have no basis.

As you pray, ask God to fill you with a desire to live a life of integrity. Pray that your pursuit of God would lead you to a life that is lived with a consistency between what you say and what you do.

Notes: _____

Day 4
Upheld by Integrity
(Psalm 41:12)

Do you know people who say one thing and then turn around and do something else? How consistent are you at keeping your word? When the going gets tough, are you more likely to finish things because you said you would or make excuses for why you quit? Where you serve now, how often have you felt like giving up? What has kept you serving? How does the integrity of God hold you up when you are weary?

I think that most people have many times in life when they just feel like giving up. Often, for the person of integrity, we keep going simply because we said we would. We persevere because of our integrity and we are upheld by the integrity of God. As we serve, even if it is just a cup of cold water to one who is thirsty, we can be assured by the integrity of God that He notices.

As you pray, ask God to uphold you in the hard times of life. Pray that your integrity will lead you to follow through with what you say you will do. Pray that your commitment to integrity would be a reflection of the integrity of God. Pray that those you serve would be upheld by you as you serve with integrity.

Notes: _____

Day 5

Leading with Integrity

(Psalm 78:72)

How easy is it to follow someone who doesn't seem to know where they are going? How about serving when your leader can't seem to make up their mind about what needs done? How do you feel when you do something to help others and later find out you had been misled and the help didn't go where it was supposed to? How does integrity help you to lead people in a way that serves others rather than yourself?

Very few, if any, of us like to follow a "wishy-washy" leader. When we begin to have doubts about a leader's commitment to doing what they say, it isn't long before we hesitate to follow. When we lead with integrity, those we are serving are more likely to benefit because they have a confidence they will not be let down by our lack of follow-through. When we lead with integrity, it means we will make every effort to do what we say we will and simply apologize without making excuses when we can't.

As you pray, ask God to help you be a person who leads with integrity as you serve others. Pray that you would be careful with the words you say and with the promises you make so that your integrity is not questioned.

Notes: _____

Day 6
Guided by Integrity
(Proverbs 11:3)

What determines whether you do a particular thing or not? How much influence does peer pressure have on you? Would the people closest to you agree with your answer? How much influence do you have on those around you? Is it a positive or negative influence? Why? How likely are you to finish something difficult just because you said you would? Do you have a tendency to give up on things that you once committed to? How will integrity guide the way you serve today?

What you choose to do when no one appears to be watching says a lot about your integrity. Sometimes when we serve others, it is tempting to take short-cuts when we believe no one would notice. When our serving is guided by integrity, we find ourselves being fully invested with our time, ability, and resources in those we serve. We make decisions based on what is right rather than on what is easy.

As you pray, ask God for the courage to allow integrity to be your guide as you serve others. Pray that you would choose to do the right things even when no one would notice if you didn't. Pray that your decision to be guided by integrity would be contagious to those you serve and those you serve with.

Notes: _____

Day 7
Teach with Integrity
(Titus 2:7-8)

Do you teach others? Are you sure? Do you teach more by what you say or what you do? In serving, is it possible to separate the two parts of teaching? Why? Have you ever been asked to teach something that you didn't believe in? Were you able to do it? How effective do you think it would be? How careful are you in making sure your actions match your words to those you serve?

Whether we like it or not, our service to others teaches something to those who hear and watch what we do. Unfortunately, there are times when what they see is very different from what they hear. When we serve others and tell them things have to be done a certain way and then we don't do it that way ourselves, we plant seeds of doubt in the minds of people regarding everything we attempt to say and teach.

As you pray, ask God to help you be aware of the teaching that takes place through your life. Pray that a life of integrity would help you to have words and actions that match. Pray that the people you serve would learn good lessons from you as you represent One who always does what He says. Pray that people would trust your teaching because of your integrity.

Notes: _____

Devotions for Those Who Serve: Serving with Integrity is a part of a series of devotionals written specifically with those serving in Christian camp ministry in mind. I pray that these devotionals are useful tools in a wide variety of ministry and service settings. While the development of these devotional guides is an ongoing project of Impact Prayer Ministry, the following is a list of the initial topics to be addressed:

Called to Serve

Serving with Contentment

Serving with Strength

Serving with Courage

Serving with Excellence

Serving by Faith

Serving through Friendship

Guard Your Heart in Serving

Serving with Integrity

Serving by Listening

Serving with Patience

Serving in Purity

Serving as you Go!

Please contact Impact Prayer Ministry for information about using these devotionals in your ministry. If you have ideas for other topics related to serving, please feel free to pass them along also.

www.impactprayerministry.com

About the author:

Tom Lemler is the director of Impact Prayer Ministry where his preaching, teaching, and resource development is designed to help individuals have a greater connection to God through prayer.

For more information about Tom's ministry of teaching, preaching, and writing, visit the "Tom's Treasure" blog at impactprayer.com or the Impact Prayer Ministry website at impactprayerministry.com.

