

Habakkuk 2:6-11 – 2 out of 5 woes

Objective: Life a life of integrity

What do they need to know? Your integrity either points people to Christ or leads them away from Him.

Why do they need to know it? People are silently taking notes about you.

What do they need to do? Shine the inside of the cup...not the outside

Why do they need to do it? Because integrity comes from a life sold out to God

How can I help them remember?

One Point: Your integrity points people to Christ

Intro

Reintroduce the whole book up until now – then talk about the woes

V. 6-8

The First Woe- Stealers

In this woe God explains that the Babylonians are going to get what they deserve. This will happen through the people they have completely sucked dry rising up to call their note. The same people who Babylon plundered will be the ones to bring retribution and ultimately destroy the dynasty. God is judging them based on their sinful nature, not the sins of the nation as a whole. He extracts the lack of integrity through the first two woes.

The Babylonians became wealthy through extortion. They were demanding payment for protection, stealing what was not rightfully theirs, and placing their faith in what they piled up.

Verse 7- “Will not your debtors *suddenly* arise, and those awake who will make you tremble? Then you will be spoil for them.”

This is the judgment for these sins: The wronged will suddenly rise up in judgment.

The Second Woe- Cheaters/deceivers

The second woe continues the lack of integrity in Babylon’s tormenting rage throughout the earth. Dishonesty, violence, extortion, cheating, deception.

House - *bah'-yith* (family, dynasty, descendants)

The Hebrew word Bah'-yith explains that God is talking about Babylon building the entire kingdom instead of each person’s house. This is to signify that they are causing their own dynasty to become worthless.

This is the judgment for these sins: You will forfeit your life and your riches will only serve to testify to your guilt.

We see God explaining to Habakkuk that Babylon will “get what they deserve” in the end. God is just and eventually makes people pay for their sins. However, what’s the application for us? I mean great they are extortionists, deceivers, cheaters, etc. but, what does that have to do with us? I don’t boost cars (or bikes) nor do I sell my old tests to freshman in Rahul’s University Experience class.

These two woes are similar in the fact that stealing/deception/cheating all are facets of integrity. Turn to Matthew.

Matthew 23:1-3, 13-33

Here Jesus is calling out the Pharisees with similar language that God called out Babylon...through “woes.” However, these guys are constantly focusing on their appearance to everyone around them...making sure their clothes are pristine. They’ve flossed every day and carry breath mints. They make sure to keep holy water around as well as hit every prayer point possible. These are the guys that say I’ll pray for you all the time and never do it. They have the law perfectly memorized so that if anyone is not doing something according to it perfectly they tell them they are going to hell. The Pharisees are the people who would walk around and ask have you done your quiet time today? No? May God have mercy on your soul. I did mine for 3 hours this morning.

Jesus calls them out and basically says you clean the outside of your cup until it is super shiny but the inside is full of filth “you brood of vipers.” What the Pharisees lacked was integrity. Their focus was on themselves and not on God. They know that every person is taking notes of you...and that is what they focus on. However, it is your integrity that points people to Christ. In fact Christ even mentions that “you created converts who are becoming sons of hell.”

Our integrity is something that determines our value to others. Think about someone you know who lives a life of integrity. Aren’t these people you love to be around? People who just exude the love of God to everyone around them? These are the people who are able to share the love of Christ with others because they have nothing to hide? Someone of integrity will serve at church or the BCM with no complaining because they are truly doing it for God. This person goes to work where they are respected, known to be a Christian, and is dependable. Integrity is a person who will not deceive you, cheat you or lie to you. This person will care for you whenever you need it and help you as soon as you call. You know this person loves God beyond all shadow of a doubt. In fact, their integrity points others to Christ.

What are some ways we can determine our integrity? Ask yourself these four questions:

1. Do you avoid certain people?
 - a. You don’t have a great relationship with this person
 - b. Something happened in the past so you feel awkward around them
2. Do you struggle with insecurity?
 - a. If you struggle to feel good about yourself, it could be an indication of secret sins
 - b. Numbers 32:23 “Be sure your sin will find you out”
3. What do people say about you
 - a. Do you walk the talk?
4. What do you say about people?
 - a. Your mouth is a window to your heart

Your integrity (or lack of it) affects everyone around you. In fact **your integrity points people to Christ...**or it leads them away from Him.