

What We Trade Away (2020)



Week One: Integrity for Image

Overview

Have you ever made a bad trade? All of us have at some point. Maybe we gave away a car that we wish we would have held on to. Maybe when you were a kid, you traded away a baseball card that would have been worth a lot of money now. But what about trading away things of much greater value? Things such as our integrity, or our commitment, perhaps even a life of adventure for one of apathy? We make these trades all the time, though they may be a little more subtle. Over time, if we don't recenter ourselves – we can lose all of the good things, and only be left with the hollow shell of what we traded it for.

This week, we talked about trading away our integrity for an image. This is a trade that each of us has made at one point or another in our life. We want to portray a certain image, or give off a certain aura about ourselves. To do so, we trade away our honesty or our character. We lose our integrity, the part of us that sticks to our values and our beliefs, and give it away for something that fades quickly. While humans do this all the time, we know that God always keeps his word. God is trustworthy, reliable, and completely honest. He is a God of order and truth, not a God of chaos and lies. If we desire to be like him, we will become people of honesty and integrity, as well.

Reading and Discussion

1. Begin this session with prayer. Ask that God would strengthen your group to hold fast to their integrity, honesty, and most of all – God's truth. These are trying times. Pray for the strength and perseverance of those in your group, as well.
2. Read **Acts 5:1-11**. What are your first impressions from this text?
3. What was Ananias and Sapphiras's sin? Why were their actions considered so seriously wrong by Peter?
4. Has there been a time in your life in which you've traded your integrity for an image? What were the consequences of that decision? Share, if you feel comfortable.
5. George closed his sermon by stating that the first level of integrity is being honest with yourself, and honest with God. No lying, no hiding what should be uncovered. Integrity and honesty begin with a posture of humility before the God who already knows you better than you know yourself. As you close – ask each person to share one way in which they can develop a better posture of honesty before God this week, seeking to

develop a closer relationship with him, as well as developing a greater sense of integrity, as well.