

Fourth Quarter Strategies – Saturday, April 23, 2016

It's been over twenty years since I attended my first Promise Keepers event at the Los Angeles Coliseum. One of the most significant memories I have is desiring to become a Man of Integrity. Can't say that I could fully grasp the concept back then, but I understood that I needed to make some major changes to reach my goal. The Urban Dictionary defines integrity as "Doing the right thing when nobody is looking." It requires following moral and ethical principles and doing what we say we are going to do. A person of integrity will not waiver and he'll not vacillate but stand fast for what he believes to be right. That's the way I live my life these days and I'm proud to have been raised by parents who taught me to be a man of my word. I saw that example in my parents and my grandparents. Join me in taking a hard look at our present political climate and how little emphasis seems to be placed on integrity these days.

The word politician leaves a bad taste in my mouth. My conservative upbringing and love for this country and how it was formed over two centuries ago leaves me wanting much more from our representatives in Congress. The days of the proverbial statesman seems to have passed to a large extent. Unfortunately these days I believe most politicians are in the business of garnering support for a career and selling their souls to the highest bidder. What I long for is more men and women of integrity willing to go to Washington for the cause of bringing this nation back to its roots. This great nation was founded on Judeo-Christian principles and was best described in the 1830s by a French nobleman, Alexis de Toqueville, as the great American experiment. There were no politicians in the early years of this country – only men and women who desired to be part of a better way of life in a democratic republic where all people might have access to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

Over the past two years, I've been fortunate to develop a personal friendship with a 24th congressional district candidate who emulates what I believe this country needs. My hope is that there are many more young men and women just like *Justin Fareed* who will take up the banner to bring this country back to what has made it the greatest nation in modern history. Justin is a man of integrity and he's earned my support and my vote. It has really never been about the party for me. It's simply about who's the best person for the task at hand and we need representatives who will clean up the mess that we've gotten ourselves into over the past decades.

In the oldest book in the Bible, God discusses his servant Job with Satan. *And the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man fearing God and turning away from evil. And he still holds fast his integrity, although you incited Me against him, to ruin him without cause."* (Job 2:3 - NASB) This concept of integrity has been around since the beginning and I truly believe we need to be much more careful who we entrust with the well-being of all levels of government.

It's time we take a stand and do our part in the democratic process and send representatives to Congress that will bring this nation back to the greatness we've unfortunately let slip away over the past few decades. We need to stop the erosion and build a strong country through proper implementation of the Constitution once again. Our forefathers knew what they were doing!

We need to not only vote our conscience, but also pray for a resurgence of integrity in America.

Here to serve,

Jim Langley, CLU

Passages to Ponder: Psalm 15:1-3; Psalm 26:1-7; Proverbs 10:9; Proverbs 19:1

© 2015, all rights reserved. Note: Jim Langley has been an agent with New York Life since 1983 and an active member of CBMC of Santa Barbara since 1987. These "Fourth Quarter Strategies" discussions are designed to "light a fire" under Christian business and professional men so we might be more effective in the marketplace for the sake of Christ, our Lord and Savior!

Please visit our website @ <http://www.fourthquarterstrategies.com>.

Passages to Ponder: Psalm 15:1-3; Psalm 26:1-7; Proverbs 10:9; Proverbs 19:1

Psalm 15:1-3 New King James Version (NKJV)

The Character of Those Who May Dwell with the LORD

A Psalm of David.

15 LORD, who may abide in Your tabernacle? Who may dwell in Your holy hill?

2 He who walks uprightly, And works righteousness, And speaks the truth in his heart; **3** He who does not backbite with his tongue, Nor does evil to his neighbor, Nor does he take up a reproach against his friend;

Psalm 26:1-7 New King James Version (NKJV)

A Prayer for Divine Scrutiny and Redemption

A Psalm of David.

26 Vindicate me, O LORD, For I have walked in my integrity. I have also trusted in the LORD; I shall not slip. **2** Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; Try my mind and my heart. **3** For Your lovingkindness is before my eyes, And I have walked in Your truth. **4** I have not sat with idolatrous mortals, Nor will I go in with hypocrites. **5** I have hated the assembly of evildoers, And will not sit with the wicked.

6 I will wash my hands in innocence; So I will go about Your altar, O LORD, **7** That I may proclaim with the voice of thanksgiving, And tell of all Your wondrous works.

Proverbs 10:9 New King James Version (NKJV)

9 He who walks with integrity walks securely, But he who perverts his ways will become known.

Proverbs 19:1 New King James Version (NKJV)

19 Better is the poor who walks in his integrity Than one who is perverse in his lips, and is a fool