



**@Work - Part 3**  
**Sermon Discussion Notes**

**Opening Thought**

*National Public Radio ran this article last year (May 8, 2009) on the morning news show and their website: "A taxi driver in La Plata, Argentina, returned a bag of money to an elderly couple who rode in his cab. The bag contained \$32,000. Word got out and a website was set up in the cabbie's honor. So far, he has received nearly \$15,000. Many people wrote to say, "I wish more people were like you." Ironic isn't it that such a noble and truthful thing done by a taxi cab driver while he was working would receive international acclaim. All of us reading this story have the same thought: What would we have done if we were faced with the same decision to make. Would we keep the money or contact the elderly couple to return the money? There was comparative research done by Money Magazine from 1987 - 1994 and here were the results regarding honesty and integrity: "A 1994 Money Magazine survey indicates that Americans are a greedy lot and will even cheat to 'make money.' Twenty-four percent said they wouldn't correct a waiter who undercharged them, up from 15 percent in 1987; 9 percent said they'd keep money found in a wallet, up from 4 percent in their 1987 survey. Here is the saddest of all: Twenty-three percent said they'd be willing to commit a crime to 'get \$10 million' if they knew they wouldn't get caught." When we are at work how should we live and conduct ourselves as Christ followers?*

**Key Verses (All verses in New International Version unless otherwise noted)**

**Proverbs 11:1**

*The LORD abhors dishonest scales, but accurate weights are his delight.*

(See also Proverbs 16:11, 20:10, 20:23, Leviticus 19:35-36, Deuteronomy 25:13-16, Micah 6:10-11, Amos 8:5-6)

**Philippians 1:27**

*27 Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel*

## Discussion Questions

1. Discuss this principle: External change is a direct result of internal change and when I experience an inside change it will necessarily impact my outside world.
2. When Jacob wrestled with God in Genesis 32:21-32 and God touched Jacob in hip he walked with a limp the rest of his life. What does this Old Testament story illustrate about what happens to us when we are touched by God?
3. What area of integrity at work is illustrated by this scripture?

### ***Ephesians 4:28***

*28 He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need.*

4. What are some ways that people steal from their company, employer or customer?
5. According to a 2005 CBS article by Brian Dakss entitled Addicted to Embezzling nearly 18,000 people in America were arrested for stealing from their companies. Why do you think this is such a problem with so many companies? What do you think are some of the motives that drive this behavior?
6. When we are given a contract for business or are hired by a company there is a measure of trust that we are given. Discuss how Joseph in the Old Testament viewed the trust given him by Potiphar in the verse below.

***Genesis 39:8*** *8 But he refused. "With me in charge," he told her, "my master does not concern himself with anything in the house; everything he owns he has entrusted to my care.*

7. Every company has an atmosphere and the atmosphere of can become polluted with negativity. While it is appropriate to directly discuss concerns with those we work for it is not appropriate to indirectly complain and engage in negative chatter toward the company?

***Philippians 2:14-15*** *14 Do everything without complaining or arguing, 15 so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe*

8. Discuss some areas that with your group where you would like to be more Christ honoring at work?
9. Are there areas in your work or field where it is easy to be untruthful?
10. If you run a company and serve customers what are some common areas in your particular business field where you may be tempted to not serve your customers well.

## Final Thought

Who at your workplace is a great example of an honest and good worker? Why do you admire them and what areas of their excellent work are worth emulating?