

John & Eileen Sala Prison and Teaching Ministry

<http://www.littlelambsinc.org>

Little Lambs Inc.

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INTEGRITY OF THE HEART

There is an ad campaign that says “What’s in your wallet?” But with God, it’s not what’s in your wallet, but what’s in your heart! As a man thinks in his heart so is he (Pro 23:7). So it seems that the heart and the mind work together. It has been said that research is recognizing that the heart has it’s own mini-brain! Jeremiah says that “the heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked: who can know it?” The Lord answers, “I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways and according to the fruit of his doings.”

The word ‘integrity’ is defined by Strong’s as: oneness, uprightness, full, perfect, innocence. It examines the **motives** in our heart behind our actions and words. We like to say in class that integrity is biblical oneness: being the same on the outside as we are on the inside. Even King Abimelech in Genesis 20:4-5 used the integrity or innocence of his heart as his defense when God accused him of taking another man’s (Abraham) wife. And God accepted that he did it innocently and saved him from a greater sin! God demanded ‘integrity of heart’ (purity) as a condition for Solomon’s continued prosperity in 1 Kings 9:4. God even brags on Job’s integrity during his tests in Job 2:3& 9. In fact, Job’s examination of his heart in Chapter 31 is an awesome **Step 4, a fearless and searching moral inventory**, as we say in recovery. Job takes a good look at his heart and his motives seeking a reason for his misfortunes, not knowing he was in a severe test instigated between God and Satan.



In a day of **self-promotion and manipulation** (we call it advertising oneself), it becomes vital to our walk to examine our heart and keep our motives pure before God. Psalm 7:8 says, “The Lord shall judge the people: Judge me, O Lord, according to my righteousness and according to the integrity that is in me.” We can fool men with our self-righteousness, but we can’t fool God! He knows the thoughts and intentions (motives) of our own hearts! James 3:14 gives us another “fearless and searching moral inventory” a heart examination: ***But if you have bitter envying, and strife in your hearts, glory not and lie not against the truth. For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don’t they come from your desires that battle within you? You want something (position, money, a person), but you don’t get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive because you ask with the wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. You adulterous people, don’t you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God.*** James 4:1-3

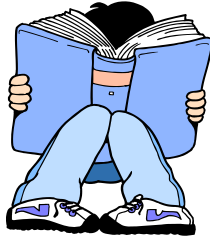
Our battle is in our thinking! Everything we think must pass a **heart test, because as a man thinks in his heart so is he**. Dr. Amen, the brain specialist, says we have so many **Automatic Negative Thoughts – ANTs**. Whenever one of these negative, devious, self-serving thoughts enters our mind, cast it down. Don’t believe it. Speak to it and to yourself and refuse to entertain that thought. Call it out as a negative thought and do not act on it. Seek the truth. There is always safety in the truth. In a world that has accepted manipulation and lies as a way of doing business, we need to teach our children that there is a higher standard! His name is Jesus, the truth, the way and the life.

For the word of God is quick, and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest (hidden) in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.
Hebrews 4:12-13



Dear Mrs. Salas, God bless you and thank you. I am sending in my completed study as well as one from a fellow inmate. I try to help save costs for other inmates. I've done this with other Bible Study courses. The unfortunate part is that your ministry has to mail them to us individually. But our faith in the Lord to provide the funds necessary are already there! Halleluliah!

I enjoy your studies because they have a wonderful theme coupled with a running dialogue. Then once the study is completely filled in, it becomes a reading article on that topic. I love to re-read them after I finish. Then I read again after they are returned. I have a box full of studies I've done and I go over them four times a year, every quarterly shakedown when we are locked down for days. I also share with other inmates and let them choose the Ministry and courses that are right for them. Well thanks again for all that you do for us strangers in prison. I hope and pray that you smile, enjoy and live life! God bless, Bill, AZ



Dear Salas, how are you. I am alright. Stressed out! On Aug. 7, there was a riot at 7 am. They had it under control at 9 am and we got back to the unit at 3:30 pm. They moved us to a new range and told us to leave our property it would be safe. Our lockers were broken into and all our property and bibles taken. Your graduation bible was stolen too. God kept me safe from harm, but I didn't like it. It kind of scared me. We have been locked down since the 7th. I don't know when we'll be able to go back to normal operations. I have to fill out a small claims form for my losses. The Warden said that he will honor them. Please pray that I get more of my property back. Will you be able to replace the certificates? That's all for now. God bless you, Michael TX

Hello, Salas,

Thank you for another good study! I encourage you to remain steadfast in your ministry to prisoners, Praise the Lord! One thing that matters in this life is to praise, honor, and lift up the name of Jesus, all else is so much hay and stubble, amen. I pray the Holy Ghost will keep your cup full to overflowing. I wish I could impress upon you my love for Jesus, how I've come to recognize His voice, Hallelujah! Pray someone would see fit to bless me with a large print NKJV or ESV Bible to use in my ministering to the lost inside and outside these prison walls. Pray for me that someone would invest a Bible in my life. I have so much to thank Jesus for. He has given me a new life. I'm in prison for taking the life of my adulterous wife in a blackout rage. I still love my wife very much, and can't hardly bear the thought of her body being burned and placed in the cold ground of PA, with her mother. I have tried to weep for my sins but for six months I cried for my wife and I have not been able to cry since. I have a letter writing ministry to youth, pastors, cancer patients, recovering addicts and alcoholics. My max out is August 2029 if I last that long. They are my purpose for living, the last, inside and outside these prison walls. Please help me pray I would be given my tears back, I have not cried in so long I hope my tears haven't been taken from me, amen. A bondservant of Jesus, Bobby in SC



I'm 25 years old now and I'm on my way to prison, I've been sentenced to 8 years and 5 years to run concurrently. I've been in jail going on 8 months. I spent my first 6 months in another jail away from home. Now that I have been sentenced I'm back in my home town in the Hughes County jail. I'm around everybody I can say I know. We all do our best to stick together and we have a bible study every night before we lay down our heads. I read this pamphlet I found laying beside my bed and that's why I'm writing. I would like to start receiving anything you have that will help me further or should I say help me and the fella's with our bible study. We are in a bad, well old and run down jail where we have it rough. But I believe the bible I read gets me by every day. Please pray for all of us inmates at Hughes County Jail. I look forward to hearing back from your ministry. Sincerely, Opie

Dear Partners, I want to thank you for a wonderful summer. It has been busy and with an uptick in the number of lessons being sent into prison. We have decided to subsidize more inmates by making return postage more available to them. We realize that the cost of getting the lessons back to us is a burden to many prison and jail inmates. The prisons used to help indigent inmates but with budget cuts growing, we feel that now is the time for us to help them even more and relieve the families' burden. It seems to be helping them. As well as the fact that we have been able to get a very nice simulated leather Open Bible as the Graduation Gift.

I am going to visit my daughter in Idaho next week and I would like to request prayer as we have a number of

our volunteers and their families suffering health problems. Please pray for Sally, Judith, Jan's husband, Dwight, and Delora's husband, Christian as well as Tom and Evangeline.

We are welcoming Linda Colonna as our new volunteer in the office on Tuesdays. She is a great help. And our snow-birds, Calvin and Eloise Miller will be returning very soon, PTL. We have sort of re-arranged our office schedule.

Thank you again for being so generous with your love and your finances. By your liberality, we can help many.

Much love, Eileen

SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER 2013

**Mondays.....Overcomers Addiction Recovery
Little Lambs Inc @ 7:30 pm**

**Tuesdays.....Overcomers Addiction Recovery
Avon Park Prison**

**Tuesdays.....Marriage Family & Parenting
Avon Park Prison**

**Wednes,.....Overcomers Addiction Recovery
Bible Fellowship Church @ 6 pm**

Pastoral counseling by appointment : 471-2626