

From the Handbook for Business, the Bible

22: Your integrity will guide you

I want to share a story about a tragic incident that happened in 2013. As it unfolds, the moral of the story will become evident...then we will link it to the Handbook, for the key takeaway.

It's 1st Oct 2013 on busy Mona Vale Rd Sydney. Graham & Peter were driving along, minding their own business when suddenly, an out-of-control petrol tanker came hurtling down the road towards them. It hit 5 cars, then theirs and within seconds they died in a massive fireball.

If you're wondering how this tragedy relates to business, believe me, it does, in the back-story.

It turns out the tanker was owner by an ASX-listed company called McAleese Group.

I remember searching their website and seeing the normal signs of an ethical company:

1. Their VISION: *To deliver value to our shareholders by developing profitable businesses*
2. Their VALUES included: *To act honestly, with integrity treating people with respect*
3. Another VALUE: *To deliver on customer promises & find better ways to service them*
4. And another: *We are committed to a safe work environment for our staff.*

Sounds like a good corporate citizen, BUT the real situation was much different:

In fact, a disaster! Despite these supposed values, within days, 85% of their massive tanker fleet was put off the road for being unroadworthy! The mind boggles as to how this could happen...

...Their fast growth meant old tankers were taken from truck graveyards & re-commissioned
...To reduce costs, mechanics could only replace parts that were literally falling off the trucks
...And it turns out the brakes on this particular truck were faulty, putting their driver at risk!

The bottom line: It was just another money-grubbing outfit that put profit ahead of people:

...Their vision to make \$ for the owners meant people (staff, customers, community) came 2nd

...Their values were meaningless words, likely provided by consultants in a bonding session.

Is there a theme and a verse that links this tragic event to the Bible?

Yes! There are many but **Proverbs 11:3** declares, *"The integrity and moral courage of the upright will guide them, but the crookedness of the treacherous will destroy them"* Amplified

The New Living *"Honesty guides good people; dishonesty destroys treacherous people"*

It may not surprise you that McAleese eventually went broke because the directors' integrity or rather lack thereof, displayed treachery that destroyed the business...and shareholder wealth!

NB: The primary goal of all ASX listed companies is to make \$\$ to enrich their shareholders. Interestingly, many have been caught & fined in recent times for fraud, money-laundering and underpaying staff; one financial company was actually charging fees to deceased clients! Such crooked & treacherous conduct is so destructive to their long-term survival & prosperity.

It reminds me of the metaphor: Integrity, like trust, arrives on a turtle but leaves on a racehorse!

Counsel: Be vigilant, integrity must guide you in all matters of life and business. After all, you're not running some money-grubbing outfit. You are the trustee of the Master's business, to be managed with integrity, according to His Handbook!