

An Act Greater than Tennis

In 1996, during one of the quarterfinal events at Wimbledon, MaliVai Washington of the United States was competing against a German opponent named Alex Radulescu.



In the final set of their match, Washington made an impressive shot that got past Radulescu, but the linesman called it out.

Washington protested to the chair umpire, but he would not overturn the call. Surprisingly, Radulescu approached the umpire and assured him the ball landed inbounds. The call was reversed, and Washington won the point.

NBC analyst John McEnroe then said, “Radulescu was obviously showing his inexperience on the professional circuit by giving up a point he didn’t have to, one that will most likely cost him the match.” And, indeed, Radulescu lost.

Later, Washington said, “That was probably the biggest show of sportsmanship by any athlete I’ve ever seen. I think only one guy on the tour would have done that, and it was him.”

What a show of integrity Radulescu displayed in a losing cause!

Integrity is defined as the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles.

Here are some quotes about integrity by some famous people:

- “The supreme quality for leadership is unquestionably integrity. Without it, no real success is possible, no matter whether it is on a section gang, a football field, in an army, or in an office.” – Dwight D. Eisenhower
- “The greatness of a man is not in how much wealth he acquires, but in his integrity and his ability to affect those around him positively.” – Bob Marley
- “Live so that when your children think of fairness, caring and integrity, they think of you.” – H. Jackson Brown Jr.
- “Honesty and integrity are by far the most important assets of an entrepreneur.” – Zig Ziglar
- “Real integrity is doing the right thing, knowing that nobody’s going to know whether you did it or not.” – Oprah Winfrey
- “The strength of a nation derives from the integrity of the home.” – Confucius
- “No man knows the value of innocence and integrity but he who has lost them.” – William Godwin

(more)

- “Moral authority comes from following universal and timeless principles like honesty, integrity, treating people with respect.” – Stephen Covey
- “Have the courage to say no. Have the courage to face the truth. Do the right thing. These are the magic keys to living your life with integrity.” – W. Clement Stone

All of these assessments of integrity are worthy considerations as we plot our own journey called life. But what does the Bible say about integrity?

Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but he who makes his ways crooked will be found out (Proverbs 10:9 ESV).

– Beecher Hunter