

WORD

WHAT

What does the Bible say?

He whose walk is upright fears the LORD, but he whose ways are devious despises him.

Proverbs 14:2

Lusot, *lagay*, and *lakad* are some of the common responses of Filipinos when faced with a tough situation or for some, to gain security, favor, and wealth. These three responses often go together or happen in progression.

- **Lusot**

The way of the guilty is devious, but the conduct of the innocent is upright.
Proverbs 21:8

Evelyn Miranda-Feliciano said in her book *Filipino Values and our Christian Faith*, “To make a *lusot* implies cutting corners, side-stepping responsibilities, or wriggling out of a sticky situation with cunning.” It implies getting out of an undesirable situation swiftly and often times deviously. Have you ever made a *lusot* before?

- **Lakad**

Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God.

Psalm 20:7

Lakad otherwise known as “padrino system” is a euphemism for getting out of difficulties through a network of more influential people. It says “it’s not what you know but who you know.” Have you ever been bypassed before by someone who had connections inside an office? How did you feel about it?

- **Lagay**

Extortion turns a wise man into a fool, and a bribe corrupts the heart.
Ecclesiastes 7:7

Lagay or bribery is often the last resort of people when push comes to shove. Filipinos are not the only ones who do this. This has been a human weakness ever since, which is both morally and ethically inexcusable. It puts money as the center of human dealings, which is unmistakably wrong (Proverbs 17:23, 1 Timothy 6:10).

- **Trust God**

⁵*Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;* ⁶*in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.*

Proverbs 3:5,6

To correct these, we must understand that the main issue is an issue of trust. *Lusot* puts trust in self, *lakad* puts trust in others, and *lagay* puts trust in money. What we need to do is trust in God for security, favor and wealth (Romans 8:31,32).

SO WHAT

What is the relevance of the Word to my life?

- In light of what you just learned, what is God pointing out to you with regard to how you handle difficult situations?
- Was there ever a time that you made a *lusot*, *lakad* or *lagay*, in the past? What is God telling you to do about it?
- How does the truth that God is willing to give us all things we need encourage you?

NOW WHAT

How do I apply the Word to my life?

- What practical things can you do in your life, family, or office to avoid making a *lusot*, *lakad*, or *lagay*?
- Are there situations in your life right now that you are being tempted to either make a *lusot*, *lakad* or *lagay*? Pray for God to change your heart about this.