



# Shepherd's Path

## A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

### Raising Your Parents Series, Lesson 8

**Lesson Title:** Showing Responsibility

**Take Home Point:** Show responsibility and earn more privileges.

#### Warm-Up:

In 1844, Alexander Dumas published a book entitled *The Count of Monte Cristo*. It tells the life story of a man unjustly accused and imprisoned. Once free, he devotes his life to getting revenge against the three men who deceived the authorities to harm him. Eventually, he does exact his revenge, and all three pay a full price for their hateful deed. Does the Count find his revenge satisfying? No, but only too late does he understand that a life given to sustained, nurtured bitterness and revenge is a life wasted. He fails in all other aspects of his life, including relationships that could have brought him happiness. He is unable to cope with life because of his focus on his hurt and loss.

**Read:** Genesis 37:12-36; 39:1-41:57; Luke 16:10

#### Observation (What happened?):

List the circumstances in which Joseph acts responsibly in a new situation.

Who did Joseph make sure received the credit for his actions?

#### Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Why do you think Joseph was so severely tested with his series of mistreatments?

What small things might Jesus have had in mind in Luke 16:10?

#### Insight:

The life and lessons of Joseph never cease to amaze and inspire me. He is one of my favorite Bible characters. It is not once recorded that he failed or fell short. His was a life of patient trust in a God he understood better than it seems most of us do. We don't really know much about his growing up except for the strife within the family due to his father's favoritism. But somewhere Joseph learned a lot about the true nature of God, and he held tight to what he learned all his life. Think about the lessons we learn from him: Don't give up, God always has a plan. Don't become bitter, it only hurts the one who allows bitterness to take over. Serve well wherever you are in God's name. Be sure to give the credit to God. Stay true to God, even when circumstances make it appear that he doesn't care or has deserted you. Be alert to Satan's tricks and don't give in to temptation – he will attack you at your weakest point at your weakest time. Know God's word and ways, so you can see when you are being tempted. Accept the responsibilities you have been given, do your best, and learn from your experiences. Don't become proud because of who you are or what position you hold. And because his life account is written in the Bible for us to read, God still uses Joseph to teach us!

#### Application (What does it mean to me?):

With what "small things" have you been entrusted? How are you doing?

Take a few minutes to thank God for his patient, perfect teaching.

**Kingdom Quest Year 1 - Lesson 8**