



Date: _____

Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Character Shapers Series, Lesson 54

Lesson Title: Testing During Temptation

Take Home Point: Pass the test of temptation—do what God wants.

Warm-Up:

When an airplane crash occurs, intense effort is applied to determine the cause so the incident is not repeated for the same reason. On occasion, failure or destruction of a component causes the entire aircraft to disintegrate in flight. When this happens, the phrase used to describe the event is "loss of structural integrity." The entire airplane doesn't necessarily come apart all at once, but the loss of structural integrity may destroy it in time. And when this happens, it is not when the aircraft is sitting on the ground; it is when it is under the stress of flight. How like our lives. If we are not careful to maintain our integrity in every area, we may come apart completely in a time of stress. Do you know someone who has had such an experience?

Read: Genesis 39

Observation (What happened?):

What inappropriate activities did Joseph perform to create the temptation?

Why did Joseph succeed in all he did?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Consider the ramifications of Joseph succumbing to the temptation of Potiphar's wife. What might have occurred? How different might his history (and Israel's) have been?

What kind of attitude do you think Joseph sustained? Why?

Insight:

Joseph is one of the most remarkable people in the Bible, and this account reveals much about his character. There is so much to see and learn from him; here are just a few things: First, Joseph had standards of conduct and integrity that he held to even in times of intense temptation. These standards must have been deeply ingrained at an early age, before he was sold into slavery. That is one of our primary duties as parents – to teach God's way of living to our children as early as possible. Whether they follow God or not as adults is not our responsibility, but teaching them is. Second, notice that Joseph did no wrong to get into the temptation he faced. Sometimes Christians are incorrectly taught that trouble and temptation are due to their own actions, but that is not always true. So be careful you don't take blame for something not of your doing. Third, consider a comparison of Joseph to Samson. (Samson's story is found in Judges 13-16.) On more than one occasion, Samson yielded to persistent pleading to compromise his integrity; Joseph did not. All the good teaching and Bible memorizing and helpful reading in the world does no good if it's not applied at the time of challenge.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

How are you being tempted? How do you respond? Where do you get your strength to resist?

What are your standards of integrity? How familiar are you with God's word as your standard?

Kingdom Quest year 2