

“Integrity Under Fire”

Genesis 39:6-20

There’s a story about a carpenter who was hired to build a house. He was a master craftsman, and this was to be his final job before retiring. But because he was eager to hurry up and move on, he cut corners—he used cheaper materials and rushed the process, and he didn’t give it his best work. When he finished, the man who had hired him handed him the keys and said, “This house is my gift to you.” And the carpenter was stunned. Had he known he was building his own home, he would have done it all differently. That’s how integrity works. Every day, you’re building a legacy—through your choices, your character, and your consistency. Integrity is what we build in private, without the scrutiny of others. The nails no one else sees are the very ones that hold everything together. And integrity isn’t about the show—it’s about doing what’s right, even when no one’s watching.

Turn with me in your Bible this morning to Genesis 39, and in just a minute we will read from verse 6. You and I live in a world of compromise where it is too common and expected for people to say one thing and do another. Integrity is not one of those virtues highly sought after nowadays. One of the best definitions of ‘integrity’ that I have ever heard says that integrity is who you are when no one else is watching. Integrity is who you are in the dark when the lights are off. The word ‘integrity’ comes from the same Latin root word as ‘integer’ which is a whole number. Integrity characterizes the whole person, not just part. To have integrity is to be honest through and through, to be the real deal. One of the greatest needs in the church today is people of integrity. People are more skeptical than ever of Christians and especially Christian leaders. Sadly, the witness of the gospel has been hindered by duplicity in the lives of those who claim to be its greatest champions. Scandals in the news in recent years have involved high profile leaders who have fallen morally. It rarely shocks us anymore.

Billy Graham — *“Integrity is the glue that holds our way of life together. We must constantly strive to keep our integrity intact. When wealth is lost, nothing is lost; when health is lost, something is lost; when character is lost, all is lost.”*

Because it is something so rarely seen, perhaps we are shocked when we come across a rare life of integrity like Joseph's. Here we are given a picture of a life that is free from compromise and devoted to God, even though it was costly for him. This is just one more way that Joseph's life resembles that of Jesus. (Read)

For the last few weeks, we have been examining the life of Joseph, whose story stretches from Genesis 37-50. Some 25% of the book of Genesis is devoted to telling the story of Joseph. His life is a beautiful Old Testament picture of the life of Jesus Christ. We can examine Joseph's life as it is presented to us in three stages. The first stage stretches from his birth to age 17, where we saw how Joseph was a beloved son. He was especially loved by his father Jacob and hated by the rest of his brothers, vividly demonstrated in the way that they betrayed him and sold him into slavery. The second stage of Joseph's life stretches from age 17 to age 30, where he's presented in the Bible as a suffering servant. Though he is blameless, he is falsely accused. Though falsely accused, he is not guilty. Though not guilty, he is condemned. And though he is condemned, he will be shockingly exalted by Pharaoh and put in charge of Egypt. The third stage of Joseph's life stretches from age 30 when he is promoted by Pharaoh and takes us all the way to the end of his life at age 110. Here, he is presented as exalted savior. And so literally at every point, Joseph points us to Jesus.

In chapter 39, Joseph has been taken down to Egypt as a slave and bought by a man named Potiphar who is captain of the guard for the Pharaoh. The first six verses are quick to reveal that the Lord was with Joseph, and he became a successful man in the house of his Egyptian master. God's hand was on his life so that everything he did prospered. It even resulted in God's blessing on Potiphar's household all for Joseph's sake. He is promoted and made chief steward of all that Potiphar had. Now, keep this in mind, because it means he is in a place of vulnerability where he will face a different kind of trial. It will be the greatest test thus far in his life. Temptation always follows on the heels of promotion. Joseph will be tempted, yet his integrity will shine through in this text for us to see. Notice first:

1—The TESTING of Joseph's integrity (39:6-8a)

“Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance. And after a time his master’s wife cast her eyes on Joseph and said, ‘Lie with me.’ But he refused...”

Warren Wiersbe says that Joseph is a good example of a believer who trusted God and made the best of difficult circumstances. A key principle we see that overarches the life story of Joseph is divine providence. Even though man has acted in sin and evil, God’s sovereignty rules over all. We find out that God is carefully orchestrating the events of Joseph’s life and weaving them all together into a tapestry of grace. He’s not able to see it yet, but much later in life, he will. As providence would have it, Joseph is brought down to Egypt and becomes the chief servant of Potiphar, captain of the guard for Pharaoh himself. An important phrase in chapter 39 that is repeated four times is the all important phrase:

“The Lord was with Joseph.”

In spite of all that he had been through already in his young life, the Lord was with him. Such a statement assures the reader of the grace of God in his life. Even though he had been put through the ringer already and had been betrayed by his brothers, Joseph had not been abandoned by the Lord, the covenant keeping God of his great-grandfather, Abraham. Two things must be pointed out:

He is trustworthy

Verse 3 says that Potiphar noticed that something was different about Joseph. His life carried with it the strange aroma from another world. Because the Lord was with him, everything that he did prospered. God caused all that he did to succeed. Think about the witness that Joseph had to a pagan and polytheistic culture like ancient Egypt. His life testified to the one true and living God of Abraham. Potiphar makes Joseph the overseer of his house. And God brings blessing to Potiphar’s household because of Joseph. Quite literally, the covenant promise made to Abraham was beginning to be realized—nations were being blessed through his offspring. This would become true much later through the gift of His Son to the world, but we can begin to see how Abraham’s seed brings blessing through knowledge of the Living God.

He is tempted

Notice verse 6 says that Joseph was handsome in form and appearance. It is interesting that this is basically the same thing that was said about his mother Rachel. I guess some people just have it in their genetics! Joseph was an honest, dependable worker who was different, and he was also handsome. You might say that he was the 'total package.' Ladies, if you're single, here is someone to look for. A man who is honest, who loves the Lord, and happens to be handsome. After some time, the text says Potiphar's wife casts longing eyes upon Joseph. Driven by lust, she tries to seduce Joseph and proposition him to commit adultery. This is the greatest danger that Joseph has had to face thus far in his life, even a greater danger than his brothers posed.

Proverbs 23:27—“An adulterous woman is a deep pit.”

Here in Potiphar's house, Joseph's integrity will be under fire as he faces the onslaught of temptation. Now, I can't help but pause here and emphasize the need for you and I to be vigilant in our own lives. Temptation is a reality that all of us face. Whenever we hear the word 'temptation,' we immediately associate it with a solicitation to evil. It is not a sin to be tempted. The sin is not in the bait, the sin is in the bite. Neither can we say when we're tempted that God is the One doing the tempting. James tells us this much:

James 1:13—“Let no one say when he is tempted, ‘I am being tempted by God,’ for God cannot be tempted with evil, and He Himself tempts no one.”

Satan is the tempter. While God may test us, it is the enemy who tempts us. The difference between tests and temptations is the intention behind it. Satan tempts us to do evil in an effort to destroy us. He designs temptation to trip us up. However, God allows us to be tested to prove our faith and develop our character. The Bible says:

James 1:2—“Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.”

God's leadership in our lives will involve times of testing and seasons of trial. God intends for testing to prove our character, while Satan intends for temptation to destroy our character. That's why Jesus teaches us to pray, "Lead us not into temptation," and it is a plea in a disciple's life that recognizes our weakness. We're prone to fail the test and cave in to the enemy's temptation. Such a request is our 'safeguard' against self-sufficiency and carelessness. We will not be free from temptation and the presence of sin until we are with the Lord. We must be diligent!

When you and I pray, "Lead us not into temptation," we're acknowledging our weakness to God and praying that His direction in our lives will not involve situations whereby we will be faced with the pressure to sin against Him. Tests will come, and of that we can be sure. But I have never met a Christian who looked forward to one and prayed for one to come his way. Why? Because we are well aware of our weakness and of our propensity to sin against God. I have no desire to be in a place where a trial might lead to an opportunity for me to sin. We resist trials and certainly don't desire them, but we are to count it all joy when we faced with them. Trials will strengthen our faith when we respond to them in an appropriate way. When we pray, "Lead us not into temptation," we are praying for God's direction, and when we pray, "Deliver us from evil," we are praying for God's protection. The NIV translates it this way—"Deliver us from the evil one."

One of Satan's titles in Scripture is "the Tempter." Trials can give way to temptation. God tests, but Satan tempts. The difference is the intention behind the test. God tests us to develop our faith, while the devil tempts us to sift us and destroy our faith. We see this illustrated in the life of Joseph. God allowed the circumstances in Joseph's life that led to him being sold into slavery, though it was the decision of his brothers to do so. He allowed Joseph to be in Potiphar's house where Potiphar's wife would tries to seduce him, though it was her decision to do so and then she slanders him when he reused her advances. God then allowed Joseph to be thrown into prison for something that he did not even do. All of this was a test in Joseph's life to prove his righteous character. Joseph acknowledged this when he later confronted his brothers:

Genesis 50:20—“But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good.”

The same truth is illustrated in the life of Job. What Satan intended as a temptation, God intended as a test. Satan’s plan was to reduce Job to a crust of bread so that he would curse God and die. God allowed Satan to have access to Job’s life, and so proved Job’s character. Both Joseph and Job met the trial with success and were delivered from the plans of Satan. But not every story in Scripture is a success story. There were occasions of failure in the lives of God’s servants. For example, Abraham was called by God to uproot his family and go to the promised land. Once there, he faced a famine and fled to Egypt where he lied and nearly lost his wife. Israel was tested by God in the wilderness, and instead of passing the test, they failed and caved in to the temptation of the enemy. They died in unbelief and wandered forty years rather than believing God’s promises. David was tested in a season of his life, and the test became a temptation as Satan solicited him to number the people of Israel. His disobedience brought about a plague that claimed the lives of thousands.

What God intends as a test to build our faith, Satan intends as a temptation to destroy our faith. This is why Jesus told us to pray, “Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.” In essence, we are praying, “Lord, deliver us from a trial that would subject us to the enemy of our soul!” And praying this way is laying claim to the promise of God, for the Bible says:

1 Corinthians 10:13—“God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape, so that you will be able to endure it.”

Not only is there the testing of Joseph’s integrity. I want you to notice a second thing as it involves:

2—The EVIDENCE of Joseph’s integrity (39:8b-12)

“But he refused and said to his master’s wife, ‘Behold, because of me my master has no concern about anything in the house, and he has put everything that he has in my

charge. He is not greater in this house than I am, nor has he kept back anything from me except you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?’ And as she spoke to Joseph day after day, he would not listen to her, to lie beside her or to be with her. But one day, when he went into the house to do his work and none of the men of the house was there in the house, she caught him by his garment, saying, ‘Lie with me.’ But he left his garment in her hand and fled and got out of the house.”

His integrity is put to the test, and notice how it is revealed in his life. In Joseph’s life, we’re given a powerful example of what it means to demonstrate integrity when it is under pressure. It is one thing for a man to say he has integrity, but it really is another thing to prove it when faced with the opportunity to compromise. We note first:

His refusal

Joseph was spiritually discerning enough to not take the bait. Verse 10 says that this happened on a regular basis. Potiphar’s wife tries to seduce Joseph day after day, but he refused to listen to her, to lie beside her, or to even be with her. This simply means that he did not allow himself to be put into a compromising situation. Friend, if you don’t want to be burned, don’t go anywhere near the fire.

Clarence Edward Macartney — *“This was no ordinary temptation. Joseph was not a stone, a mummy, but a red-blooded young man in his late twenties. It was not one temptation on one day, but a repeated temptation...An old story tells how when Joseph began to talk about God to the temptress, she flung her skirt over the bust of the god that stood in the chamber and said, ‘Now, god will not see.’ But Joseph answered, ‘My God always sees!’”*

Temptation often wears us down because it attacks us with persistence. Day after day, Joseph is faced with this same temptation. Which meant that he had to be vigilant and on top of things every day. Let me give you some reasons why temptation has a such a wearying effect on us. First, it targets us in the area of our desires. Temptation appeals

to what we want—whether it’s comfort, pleasure, control, affirmation, or something else. The Bible says:

James 1:14—“But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire.”

D. Bonhoeffer — *“In our members there is a slumbering inclination towards desire which is both sudden and fierce. With irresistible power desire seizes mastery over the flesh. All at once a secret, smoldering fire is kindled. The flesh burns and is in flames. It makes no difference whether it is a sexual desire, or ambition, or vanity, or desire for revenge, our love of fame and power, or greed for money...At this moment God is quite unreal to us. He loses all reality, and only desire for the creature is real. The only reality is the devil. Satan does not here fill us with hatred of God, but with forgetfulness of God...The lust thus aroused envelopes the mind and will of a man in deepest darkness. The powers of clear discrimination and of decision are taken from us. The questions present themselves as, ‘Is what the flesh desires really sin in this case?’ And, ‘Is it really not permitted me, yes, expected of me now, here in my particular situation to appease desire?’ It is here that everything within me rises up against the Word of God....Therefore the Bible teaches us in times of temptation in the flesh, there is one command: Flee! Flee fornication. Flee idolatry. Flee youthful lusts. Flee the lusts of the world. There is no resistance to Satan in lust other than flight. Every struggle against lust in one’s own strength is doomed to failure.”*

Something else is that temptation is relentless. Temptation doesn’t usually come once and leave. Like Potiphar’s wife tempting Joseph ‘day after day,’ it can be persistent. The longer we’re exposed to it, the more it tries to wear down our resistance, especially if we’re tired, stressed out, or in a spiritually dry place. And for that reason, it requires constant vigilance. Fighting temptation means staying alert (1 Pet. 5:8) and putting on the armor of God (Eph. 6:11). And we become all the more vulnerable, especially if we’re relying on our own strength instead of God’s.

And then temptation exploits our weaknesses. Temptation often strikes where we’re most vulnerable. Satan is a strategist—he knows when we’re hungry, angry, lonely, or

tired (H.A.L.T.) That's why Jesus told His disciples, "The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak" (Matt. 26:41). When we entertain temptation instead of fleeing from it, we create a double-minded state that causes inner turmoil and an instability in our lives (James 1:8). That kind of inner battle drains us of peace, joy, and spiritual clarity. And so we can begin to imagine how Joseph is faced with this persistent temptation day after day, yet he refuses.

His rationale

What was it that kept Joseph from sin? Many a man in his position has traveled a different path, having succumbed to the pressures of temptation. Well, the answer to that is the fact that Joseph's mind had been made up before he faced the situation. He refuses her advances and his rationale is seen in verses 8-9 where he acknowledges three important truths. First:

- Joseph understood sin for what it really is

Notice in verse 9 he calls it 'great wickedness.' How could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God? Now, that's a key place to begin because one of the devil's oldest tricks is to call sin something other than what it is. Something not as objectionable, maybe something even desirable. Our modern culture increasingly redefines morality. What was once labeled 'sin' is now seen as personal preference, a lifestyle, or self-expression. The world normalizes what the Bible condemns, and believers are tempted to follow suit to avoid offense or persecution. We face the pressure to go along with the crowd, to say the same thing, believe the same thing, celebrate the same thing.

Isaiah 5:20—"Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness."

If sin doesn't seem so bad, there is less urgency to repent. Satan loves to make sin look small, harmless, or even desirable. That is because minimized sin doesn't lead to confession, nor does it drive us to God's mercy. We deceive ourselves into thinking that things are really okay. However, the Bible says:

1 John 1:8—“If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.”

Renaming sin is ultimately an attempt to dull the voice of conviction, it is to resist the Holy Spirit's work, and it stays comfortable in disobedience. But the gospel invites us to name our sin honestly so that God can cleanse us fully.

Proverbs 28:13—“He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.”

Regardless of the nomenclature that one wants to use, sin is still sin, and simply changing its name does not change its consequences. Sin's wages is always death. Joseph is a man who understands sin for what it is. But then:

- Joseph recognized that sin hurts others

Look at how Joseph's integrity is on display in verses 8-9 in what he says, “Behold, because of me my master has no concern about anything in the house, and he has put everything in my charge. He is not greater in this house than I am, nor has he kept back anything from me except you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?” To commit adultery with another man's wife would be a sin against that man. It would be a breach of everything that he held near and dear. Joseph's reasoning is that it would be a sin against the trust he had been given—it is a sin against Potiphar, but ultimately it is a sin against the God to whom he answered. He doesn't mince words, but calls it what it is—“great wickedness.” What is interesting is that this would not be spelled out in the Law of God for another 400 years in the seventh commandment. Yet people know within themselves that it is a grievous sin to engage in illicit sex with someone else's spouse. Why do non-believers try to keep adultery hush-hush? Why are these internet databases that are out there for those seeking to cheat on their spouse so secretive? It is because people know deep within them that adultery is a moral offense.

Romans 2:15—“They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness.”

- Joseph acknowledged that sin is ultimately against God

He calls sin what it is, he recognizes it is harmful to others, but his most important reasoning is that sin is an offense to God. Joseph reasons, “How could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?” Yes, it would be a sin against Potiphar. Yes, it would be a sin against Potiphar’s wife. But like David in Psalm 51, he acknowledges the fact that all sin is ultimately directed against God. It is a breach of relationship that the creature has with the Creator, a moral offense against His holiness. Sin is ultimately against God because it is a violation of His character, His will, and His authority.

Psalm 51:3-4—“For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against You, You only have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight, so that You may be justified in Your words and blameless in Your judgment.”

All sin is ultimately against God because it rejects His authority, offends His holiness, grieves His heart, robs Him of glory, and is judged by Him. Even when sin hurts other people, it is first and foremost an offense against the One who gave the moral law and whose image we all bear. It is because of this fact that Joseph refuses!

3—The PRICE of Joseph’s integrity (39:13-20)

“And as soon as she saw that he had left his garment in her hand and had fled out of the house, she called to the men of her household and said to them, ‘See, he has brought among us a Hebrew to laugh at us. He came in to me to lie with me, and I cried out with a loud voice. And as soon as he heard that I lifted up my voice and cried out, he left his garment beside me and fled and got out of the house.’ Then she laid up his garment by her until his master came home, and she told him the same story, saying, ‘The Hebrew servant, whom you have brought among us, came in to me to laugh at me. But as soon as I lifted up my voice and cried, he left his garment beside me and fled out of the house.’ As soon as his master heard the words that his wife spoke to him, ‘This is the way your servant treated me,’ his anger was kindled. And Joseph’s master took him and put him into the prison, the place where the king’s prisoners were confined, and he was there in prison.”

Costly obedience

As the repeated advances from Mrs. Potiphar continue, it all comes to a boiling point. One day, as Joseph was going about his routine responsibilities, perhaps he notices that the house is strangely quiet. Like a lioness seeking out her prey, Mrs. Potiphar physically seizes Joseph and catches him by his garment.

Verse 12 says that he left his garment in her hand and fled and got out of the house. Temptation requires that you and I be ‘cowards’ who run from it. We’re told to flee!

1 Corinthians 6:18—“Flee from sexual immorality.”

2 Timothy 2:22—“So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.”

How do we flee? Using the word ‘F.L.E.E.’ as an acronym, consider this simple strategy:

- **F**ill yourself with the beauty of Christ
- **L**ook out for the enemy’s lies
- **E**xchange those lies for God’s truth
- **E**xpose yourself to the light of that truth

In 1 Corinthians 10:12, the Bible warns those who think they stand to take heed lest they fall. Pride goes before a fall! Joseph deals with two things in this passage. The first is slander. When she realizes that Joseph will not be had by her, her lust gives way to rage and she accuses him of attempted rape. She had his garment to use against him as evidence for her trumped up charges. This is the second time in his life that Joseph’s garment is used to condemn him. Every time the poor guy got a good coat, someone takes it from him! But I like how one preacher said it, “Joseph may have lost his coat, but he kept his character.” The second thing he deals with is suffering. If there was any time in Joseph’s life where he deserved a promotion, surely this was it. When I read this text, I can’t help but want to pray, “Lord, please reward Joseph for such a

display of faith and integrity as this!” But instead, Joseph will suffer. Verse 19 says that as soon as Potiphar heard the words his wife spoke to him, he became angry and had him put in prison where he was confined in chains.

Sometimes, doing the right thing is costly. Having integrity may cost you some short term benefits, it may cost you friends, and you might get canceled. Obedience can be a painful thing. In a world that celebrates sexual sin, it is painful to not go along with the culture. It is painful to not cheat on your taxes. It is painful to keep your word. Living with integrity can be a painful thing. But in the end, you can say with the apostle Paul:

2 Timothy 4:7—“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”

God never promised that the life of the believer would be easy. Instead, walking with God means going against the grain. It is countercultural. Jesus said that we ought to count the cost of discipleship before we take up the cross to follow Him. And when stumble and fail, we must always remember that it is solely by God’s grace and in Christ’s righteousness that our position before Him is secure.

Providential opportunity

Even though Joseph is falsely accused and condemned, he doesn’t lose his faith in the Lord God. Just as the Lord was with him in Potiphar’s house and blessed all that he touched, the Lord is also with Joseph in the prison. Verse 21 says that the Lord was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison.

“Steadfast Love” — *means to stretch out lovingkindness*

Psalms 138:6—“Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”

Though man was responsible for evil decisions such as the brothers who betrayed him and the decision of Potiphar’s wife to falsely accuse him, God allowed it all to happen. God had a plan and will in mind for Joseph. He allowed him to be treated unjustly and

cast into prison to build his character and prepare him for the responsibilities that lay ahead. The prison would become a school where Joseph would learn to wait on the Lord until it was time to vindicate him. In the course of time, two key prisoners are going to find themselves locked up next to Joseph. The two men had served in the court of Pharaoh as his chief butler and his chief baker. Both of the men had a dream, and they just so happened to be imprisoned with the only man in the world who could interpret dreams. Coincidence? Not at all—it is providence!

Our integrity is being put to the test on a daily basis. Often in a thousand little ways. We think that integrity is shown in the big things, but more often than not, it is revealed in the little decisions. Only then will it be demonstrated in the big things. And if you're waiting for some monumental decision to prove your integrity while failing the daily test, then you will be totally unprepared when the biggest test comes.

We need a righteousness greater than Joseph, and we have one in Jesus!

Joseph refused the seductive advances of Potiphar's wife, saying, "How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?" The Lord Jesus was also tempted—in the wilderness by Satan (Matt. 4:1–11)—but never sinned. He perfectly resisted temptation not just once, but throughout His entire life (Hebrews 4:15). And in a far greater way than Joseph, the Lord Jesus was fully committed to doing the will of His Father, no matter the cost.

Joseph was falsely accused by Potiphar's wife and thrown into prison, even though he did what was right. Jesus was also falsely accused and sentenced to death, even though He was perfectly innocent (Luke 23:4, 14–15).

Joseph's refusal of temptation led to a season of suffering, but in God's timing, that suffering led to his exaltation—he was raised to a position of power in Egypt to save many lives. Jesus also traveled the way of suffering to glory. His obedience was costly and it took Him to the cross. For the Bible says in Philippians 2:8–9, "He humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted Him..."

Joseph's refusal wasn't just about personal integrity, but it preserved the mission God had for him—to save his family and preserve the covenant line. But Jesus' resistance to temptation was essential for Him to become our perfect Savior. Had He sinned, had He succumbed to the enemy's temptation, He could not have been our sinless substitute. Joseph's victory over sin helped sustain a nation, but Jesus' victory over sin **saves** the sinner who trusts in Him!

Throughout the remainder of his days, Joseph will always remember how God had been with him. He was there to lift him out of the pit. He was there through all he faced in the house of Potiphar. He was there with him in the prison. And the Lord will be with him when the time comes for him to stand before Pharaoh. He will be able to sing the words that John Newton wrote:

*Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home!*

Such is the testimony of all who come to Jesus by faith and become partakers of God's amazing grace. When your integrity is under fire as a Christian, remember your Savior and how His strength is made perfect in your weakness. When we face temptation and even when we fail, it reveals our need for God's mercy. And the gospel tells us how that mercy is found in Christ alone. Friends, Jesus is faithful to forgive, He is full of mercy and grace. And by His wounds we are healed.