

Signs of a Godly Man in the Face of Adversity

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Throughout my life I have heard a statement that goes something like this – “Hard times build character.”

It’s as if to say you get “character points” by going through difficult times, and eventually you can become a man of character simply by the sheer amount of adversity you have endured. But when I was playing college basketball my coach said something that really made me think. The way I saw it, basketball gave you plenty of opportunities to build character, but my coach said, “Basketball doesn’t build character; it simply reveals it.”

Could it be that hard times do a lot more revealing than they do building? Maybe the true test of a man is found in the face of adversity, not because of what adversity produces, but by what it reveals?

The title of today’s message is “Signs of a godly man in the face of adversity.”

Scripture: Thus he left all that he had in Joseph’s hand, and he did not know what he had except for the bread which he ate. Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance. And it came to pass after these things that his master’s wife cast longing eyes on Joseph, and she said, “Lie with me.” But he refused and said to his master’s wife, “Look, my master does not know what *is* with me in the house, and he has committed all that he has to my hand. *There is* no one greater in this house than I, nor has he kept back anything from me but you, because you *are* his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?” **Genesis 39:6-9**

First sign of Godly man...

He lives a life of Integrity

A) v6 Joseph had been given complete administrative responsibility over everything.

1. He had moved from being a servant to an overseer.
 2. Everything was under his command.
- B) v6 Potiphar didn't worry about a thing.
1. Potiphar saw the blessing and integrity that Joseph had so he did not concern himself with anything
 2. It seemed like everything that Joseph touched turned to gold. He was a man of great blessing.
- C) Joseph was even trusted to be around Potiphar's wife, which was a great trust for a slave.
1. An old truck driver once said, "I consider you my friend if I can trust you with my wallet and my wife"
- D) v8 "My master trusts me with everything in this household."
1. After this woman approaches Joseph about having an affair, he says that his master has entrusted everything to him in the house except for her. He could not do such a thing. It would be against everything he stood for.
 2. His character was not built in this moment, it was simply revealed.
 3. It was revealed that Joseph truly was a man of character.

Application:

- A) We as Christian men often think of ourselves as men of integrity.
1. But we must remember that it's very easy to be full of integrity if that integrity is never tested.
 2. What things test your integrity? Are there little areas of weakness that you have allowed into your life?
 - i. Stretching the truth on your taxes
 - ii. Not charged the right amount or given the incorrect change.
 - iii. Obeying traffic laws
 - iv. Flirting with ladies at work
 3. What are the small areas that could one day tempt you to cross the line of integrity?
- B) Many times in our hearts we think we are full of integrity until we come up against a situation

in which we could lie, steal or cheat without getting caught. We see how close to the lie of we can get without going over.

A true man of God lives a life of integrity regardless of the situation.

Scripture: *There is no one greater in this house than I, nor has he kept back anything from me but you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?"*

Genesis 39:9

Second sign of the Godly Man...

He lives his life to please God first

- A) Joseph truly had a heart to please God first. He even expresses that the reason he is not going to do this has more to do with sinning against God than anything else.
1. Joseph could have given numerous good excuses.
 - i. What would Potiphar thought if he found out?
 - ii. What about my reputation or her reputation?
 - iii. This might not turn out well in the end.
 2. This ties closely with Josephs integrity. His was a full out devotion for God as if God were right there with him in the room.
- B) Joseph had a genuine desire to please God and to hate sin. This had little to do with the situation but rather that it was honoring to God.
1. Men of God do not determine what to do based on the situation, rather they look to please God at every opportunity.
 2. We tend to justify our sin when we look at a situation and then determine how we are going to react (situational ethics).
 3. A Godly man lives his life as if God is right there. He doesn't live with a light switch saying this moment I will be a man of God then in the next moment live as if God doesn't exist.

The first sign of a Godly man is: **He lives his life with integrity.**

The second sign of the a Godly man is this: **He lives his life to please God first.**

Scripture: So it was, as she spoke to Joseph day by day, that he did not heed her, to lie with her or to be with her. But it happened about this time, when Joseph went into the house to do his work, and none of the men of the house was inside, that she caught him by his garment, saying, “Lie with me.” But he left his garment in her hand, and fled and ran outside. **Genesis 39:10-12**

Last sign of a Godly Man...

He lives a life of purity.

- A) Joseph lived under constant pressure day after day to give in.
 - 1. This was not just a one-time event.
 - 2. Joseph was put up against this opportunity multiple times.
- B) She caught him alone and made an advance on him, but he literally tore himself away.
 - 1. It’s interesting that Scripture tells us in 2 Tim 2:22 not to fight against lust but instead to flee the temptation of impurity
 - 2. So Joseph does just that; he gets out of there.
- C) Left his cloak behind
 - 1. He even went to the point that when she had taken a hold of his cloak that he left it behind.
 - 2. I’ve heard people say that they do not want to leave a certain kind of lifestyle because of the great investment they had in it. Leave it behind. Joseph simply took off running in the opposite direction.

Application:

One of the greatest battles that even Godly men face is in the area of sexual purity. The area of purity goes way beyond what you look at or what you think about. Many people simply say in order to be pure, just keep your mind out of the gutter. However it has a lot more to do with where your heart is than even where your mind is.

Joseph chose to live a life of purity not just because it was the right thing to do, but because his heart was close to God’s. He knew that God would not be pleased by those actions. He desperately wanted to honor God with the purity of his life, so Joseph took drastic action.

He left his cloak behind.

Maybe this morning you are struggling secretly with purity and staying pure before God, whether it’s

physically or in your thought life. Are you willing to take drastic action? Are you willing today to lay all your secrets at the feet of Jesus? Are you willing to leave your past, your thought life, your inappropriate desires?

God is calling each of us to take drastic measures to see that this area doesn't become our ruin.

Illustration: Imagine if you found a wolf pup in the wild and thought you would bring it home and just keep it locked in the basement. Every other day you go down there and give it some food and water. It's really cool at first, and all your friends want to come check it out. You play with it and you feed it more and more, and it begins to grow larger and larger. Then one rainy, lazy Saturday morning you come to the cool dark basement and look around and don't see the wolf. But as you look into the darkness and see hungry yellow eyes staring at you. The hunter just became the hunted. What was fun and innocent for a while has now become your destruction.

It's the same way with the sin of impurity. The more you entertain it, the longer you allow it to grow, the more you feed it, there will come a day when it will turn on you and it will be your destruction.

(Conclusion)

So what can we take away from this small portion of Joseph's life?

The life of a Godly man isn't always easy. In fact, Joseph paid a great price to maintain his purity before the Lord. He eventually was falsely accused and thrown in jail. But Joseph chose to live a life of integrity rather than using situations to determine right and wrong. Joseph chose to please God first rather than enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season. Joseph chose to live a life of purity despite false accusations and defamation.

The life of a godly man - the burden is great, the company is few, and comfort is not an option. God is calling you today to choose.

- Will you live a life of integrity?
- Will you live a life to please God first?
- Will you live a life of purity?