

MORAL CONTRASTS: JOSEPH AND KING DAVID

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#	Texts	Joseph: <i>Got it Right</i>	King David: <i>Failed</i>	Principles for Today
1	Gen 37-39 2Sam 11	Young (c. 20 yrs old)	Middle Aged (c. 50 yrs old)	Principle of Age: Immorality is not the exclusive sin of youth. In this comparison, the young teach wisdom to the old.
2		Not Married	Married	Principle of Lust: The marriage bed in itself does <i>not deter men</i> from indulging in immorality. Prov 27:20: “Hell and destruction are never full; so the eyes of man are never satisfied.” (e.g. harems of godly kings of Judah)
3		Woman is married	Woman is married	Principle of Happiness: Marriage in itself does <i>not satisfy women</i> . (cf. Gen 3:16)
4		Initiated in the context of doing God’s will	Initiated in the context of relaxing in Jerusalem	Principle of Context: Doing right things <i>will not</i> insulate one from sexual temptation, but living without moral guards <i>will almost ensure</i> moral failure.
5		Experienced temptation in a lonely, forgotten, and loveless place	Experienced temptation in the comforts of home	Principle of Contentment: Personal circumstances (e.g. loneliness, no love, etc.) are not a genuine reason for sin.
6		She pursued him	He pursued her	Principle of Human Fallenness: Immoral temptations and thoughts attach themselves to the fallenness of humanity without regard to one’s gender. James 1:12-16 (important text on understanding temptation)
7		The story line develops with suggestive talk and a woman fully dressed	The story line develops with no suggestive talk but a woman not dressed	Principle of Seduction: Suggestive speech and/or the lack of proper clothing are <i>highways to evil</i> . The 3 words of Solomon re: the immoral woman (Prov 2:16-17): a. She flatters w/ her words (7:21).

				b. She forsakes the companion of her youth. c. She forgets the covenant of her God
8		His response: Immediately turn and run	His response: Watch, pursue and cover up	Principle of Choice: There are only <i>two responses</i> to sexual temptation: <i>Immediately turn and run</i> , or <i>Watch, pursue and cover up</i> . The Bible knows no “middle ground” (1Cor 6:18-20).
9		He saw it as sin against God	He saw it as an opportunity of the moment—no thought of God	Principle of Theology: The ultimate protection against sexual sin is to see it as an act against God (Ps 51:4 with Heb 13:4, esp. v. 4b)
10		Immediate consequence of boss’s displeasure	Delayed consequence of God’s displeasure	Principle of Consequences: Joseph’s “no” led to immediate difficulty and prison. David’s indulgence led to immediate satisfaction and a <i>seeming</i> normal birth/family life.
11	Gen 39:20-23; 41:38; 2Sam 12:14	Misunderstanding... but God’s favor	Murder...and the enemies of God blaspheme	Principle of Impact: The most significant result of a believer’s indulgence in sexual sin is that the enemies of God blaspheme His character.
12	Gen 50:20 2Sam 12:10-12	God and His glory honored	Israel’s future will be marred with more death and more immorality	Principle of Reaping: Be not deceived, sexual sin leads to more sexual sin. The cycle cannot be stopped by human means. There must be radical change... <i>full abandonment</i> . Prov 28:13—“He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.” (Cf. 6:26, 32; 7:24-27)
13	Gen 50:15ff Ps 51 & Ps 32	Ultimate consequence of personal exaltation, and National preservation	Ultimate consequence of the sweetest Psalm of “forgiveness” in the Bible	Principle of Grace: Through the power and grace of God, God offers complete forgiveness and spiritual restoration to those who will genuinely confess and abandon sin (1Kgs 15:4-5).