

DEALING WITH TEMPTATION

PROVERBS 7

THE WRONG WAY

He didn't think!

He went to the wrong place

It was the wrong time

He chose the wrong company

He listened to the wrong words

He fell for the wrong appeal

He was suckered by an old lie

HE FELL!

- 6 For at the window of my house
I looked through my lattice,
7 And saw among the simple,
I perceived among the youths,
A young man ^adevoid² of
understanding,
8 Passing along the street near
her corner;
And he took the path to her
house
9 ^aIn the twilight, in the evening,
In the black and dark night.
10 And there a woman met him,
With the attire of a harlot,
and a crafty heart.
11 ^aShe was loud and rebellious,
^bHer feet would not stay at
home.
12 At times she was outside,
at times in the open square,
Lurking at every corner.
13 So she caught him and kissed
him;
With an ¹impudent face
she said to him:
14 "I have peace offerings with me;
Today I have paid my vows.
15 So I came out to meet you,
Diligently to seek your face,
And I have found you.
16 I have spread my bed with
tapestry,
Colored coverings of ^aEgyptian
linen.
17 I have perfumed my bed
With myrrh, aloes, and
cinnamon.
18 Come, let us take our fill of
love until morning;
Let us delight ourselves with
love.
19 For ¹my husband is not at
home;
He has gone on a long journey;
20 He has taken a bag of money
¹with him,
And will come home ²on the
appointed day."
21 ¹With ^aher enticing speech
she caused him to yield,
^bWith her flattering lips
she ²seduced him.
22 Immediately he went after her,
as an ox goes to the
slaughter,
Or ¹as a fool to the correction
of the ²stocks,
23 Till an arrow struck his liver.
^aAs a bird hastens to the snare,
He did not know it ¹would take
his life.

We are not surprised by his fall.

He was headed in that direction from
the very start.

THE RIGHT WAY

— He was susceptible,
but he kept himself
from sin

> He resisted from the start

— He avoided her presence

— He did not listen to her

> He fled from temptation

— HE DID NOT SIN!

GENESIS 39

6 So he left all that he had in Joseph's ¹hand, and he did not know what he had except for the ²bread which he ate. And Joseph ³was handsome in form and appearance.

7 Now it came to pass after these things that his master's wife ¹cast longing eyes on Joseph, and she said, ²"Lie with me."

8 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.

9 "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. ⁴How then can I do this great wickedness, and ⁵sin against God?"

10 So it was, as she spoke to Joseph day by day, that he ¹did not heed her, to lie with her or to be with her.

11 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, ²that she ³caught him by his garment, saying, "Lie with me." But he left his garment in her hand, and fled and ran outside.

Joseph maintained purity, innocence, and integrity. He did not sin, and he stands as an example for us today. Why? Because he avoided temptation at every step of the way.