



STANDING FIRM

Exploring Integrity

Most of us want to be around people with integrity

Why do we like these kinds of people?

Because they follow through and do what they say they are going to do.

The old way of sealing a business deal with a handshake is an example.



STANDING FIRM IN
BOTH FAIR
WEATHER...

AND FOUL...
(METAPHORICALLY
SPEAKING)

SHOWS INTEGRITY



**WEBSTER'S DICTIONARY SAYS THAT
INTEGRITY IS:**

Firm adherence to a code of
especially moral or artistic value;
incorruptibility;

The quality or state of being complete
or undivided.

WHEN PEOPLE WHO HAVE INTEGRITY ARE FACED WITH TEMPTATION IN ITS MANY FORMS...

They just say -



LET'S LOOK AT SOME WAYS JARL HAD INTEGRITY

AND CHECK OUT HOW TO DEVELOP IT IN YOUR LIFE, TOO.



Ready to dash into the fire of learning?
Grab a pen and paper to take some
notes.

Jarl demonstrated
the characteristics
of integrity in several
ways. We'll look at a
few from Chapters
21-30,



For the Lord God is a sun and a shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor. No good thing does he withhold from those who walk **uprightly** (with integrity). *Psalms 84:11*

CHAPTERS 21-30

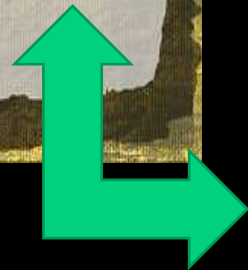
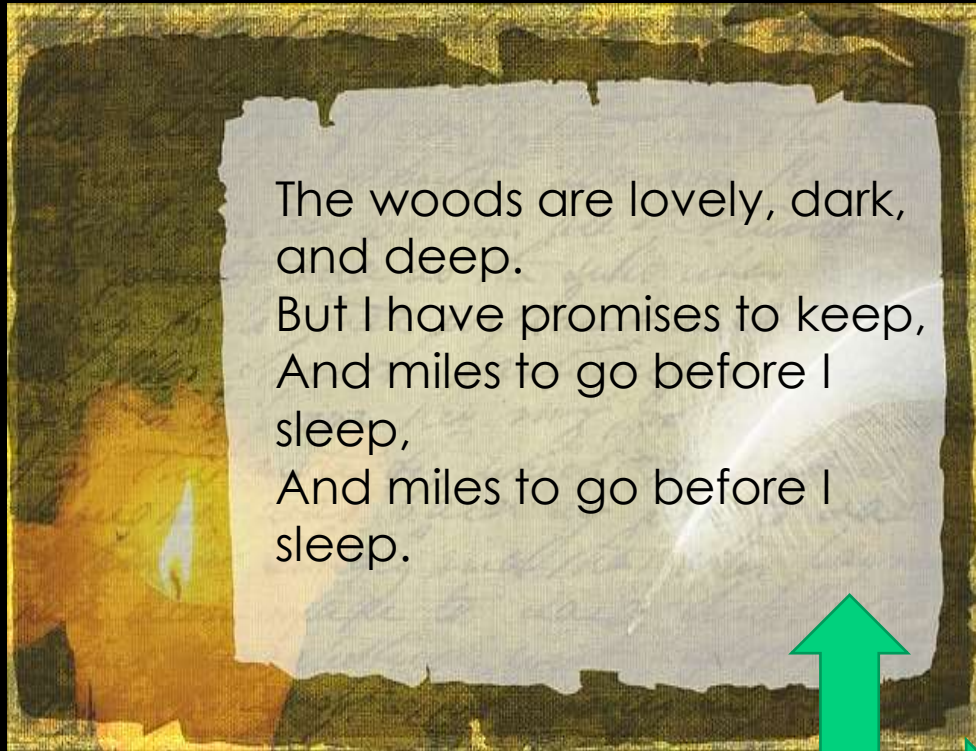
Hearing and Fighting -

- What weapon did Cornelius mention in Chapter 21? (look up Ephesians 6:17)
- How was Jarl to fight with his sword? How does this relate to how you can fight with integrity?
- What are key responses to the Spirit alerting us? How did he alert Jarl in Chapter 25?

First Mission -

- Jarl received his first mission in Chapter 22. What was he to do?
- How is manna described? Why is it important?
- How did Jarl's response to his mission show integrity, considering how he felt about it?

POEMS, PROMISES, AND PROPHETIC DECLARATIONS...



Jarl had to face
his new
assignment in
Chapter 23.

How did Robert
Frost's poem
coming to his
mind show Jarl's
intention to act
with integrity?



After Jarl dealt with
the shapeshifter in
Chapter 25 by
using the prophetic
declaration, how
did his restraint in
NOT using the
declaration any
further on Pranier
show his integrity?

INTEGRITY IN ACTION

While looking for the golden jar of manna in Erndel's cave in Chapter 27, there were long stretches of frustration and searching, but the jar wasn't found.

How did Jarl deal with that frustration? What was the result?



THE KEY

Who answered Jarl's prayer
about the jar of manna? Who
answers us?



Jarl prayed, "Father
God, you're
omniscient. You
know everything..."
(Chapter 27)

Jesus said -

"He who has seen me
has seen the Father...Do
you not believe that I am
in the Father and the
Father is in me?"

John 14: 9-10

**A simultaneous mystery and
truth**

OUBLIETTE – A TRAP WITH NO WAY OUT FROM THE INSIDE

Trapped, with no hope -

Where did the hybrid and demon conspiracy land Jarl in Chapter 28?

What things did he try to do to get out?
How did he respond to the darkness?

As time went on, what was one **major** thing in how he dealt with the manna that showed his integrity?

When you feel trapped, how do you respond? Do you see characteristics of integrity in your life?



REAL-LIFE EXAMPLES OF INTEGRITY

Job

You've probably had extremely rough days. Job, very likely, had it rougher.

He was **over-the-top** wealthy and had a great family. He lost all of it in one day. Wealth gone - *Poof* - and his 10 children killed. His wife was still alive, and she asked him while in her grief, "Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die!" He refused and didn't sin, even in the horrible time of sickness that followed.

Everything was eventually restored to him.

He was a man of Integrity!

You can read his full story in the book of Job in the Bible.

Joseph

Joseph experienced bad stuff. Betrayed by his brothers and sold into slavery, he ended up getting a good job in Egypt.

BUT, his master's wife liked him...a little **too** much.

"Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance...his master's wife looked with desire at him and said "Lie with me." He refused, saying "How could I do this great evil and sin against God?"

He ended up getting falsely accused because of this and thrown into prison. But he didn't stay there – he eventually became ruler of Egypt

He was a man of Integrity!

You can read his story in Genesis 37. 39-50

WHEN YOU ACT WITH INTEGRITY...



Respect for yourself grows in your life.

And others recognize the integrity in you, even if they don't always like it, and their respect for you grows, too



Confidence develops.

As the ability to stand firm and follow through with the decisions you make increases in your life, so does your confidence.



Joy starts to bubble up.

It may seem strange that having Integrity can lead to joy, but growing respect and confidence opens the door wide for joy to begin moving into your life!

WHEN FACED WITH DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES OR SITUATIONS -

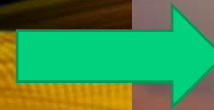


What is your response?



Do you crumble?

Or do you stand firm in what you know is right with integrity?



WRAPPING IT UP



Main Takeaway -

What is your one main takeaway from Jarl's acting with integrity in Chapters 21-30?



Perspective -

What is your perspective of how **integrity** played out in this section?



Application -

How much integrity do you have?

How can you increase your integrity in relation to God? Family? Friends? Employer?