



The Power of a Father!

As men, in a culture under attack, we need an understanding of mature masculinity—a vision and direction we can pursue with our sons! We need tools, methods, and ideas to help us become Godly men and from which to equip our sons. We need to grow up!

Jacob – the patriarch of Israel – the father of a nation—is a troubling character in the Old Testament. He is so much like us -- with very human strengths and weaknesses, but a man with a striving for spiritual things. From this imperfect man we learn important lessons of faith. Especially, we learn about God's grace. Time to engage—enjoy the Adventure!

Highland Colony Men's Roundtable
www.MensTable.com

THE POWER OF A FATHER – Facing the Father Wound!
 We need an understanding of mature masculinity—a vision and direction
 to help us become Godly men

May 25, 2023

Bible Verses: Genesis 30:25-43; Galatians 2:19-21; I Peter 2:18-20; Psalm 68:5, 6; Psalm 51:6; Isaiah 61:1-3; Ephesians 4:26, 27; Matthew 5:4

Music: Rhett Walker - Like Your Father Does <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tNrgi9BpgXI>

Video: October Sky Movie CLIP - He Isn't My Hero <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CzOH54GemVo>

Resources: *JACOB – Following God Without Looking Back* by Gene A. Getz.

Raising A Modern-Day Knight – A Father's Role in Guiding His Son to Authentic Manhood by Robert Lewis.

The Power of a Father – CHANGE POINTS – Genesis 30:25 – 31:13.

1. _____ → “Change points” in our lives—events, situations, or crises that forever alter the way we think and act. This was certainly true of Jacob:
 1. Collusion with his mother to deceive his father, Isaac, and his brother, Esau.
 2. Encounter with God at Bethel.
 3. His uncle Laban's deception.
 4. Going back to home and make peace with his immediate family.
2. Live in Reality (Galatians 2:20):
 1. _____ → When we take matters into our own hands and use methods that are out of harmony with God's will, we will eventually experience negative consequences. This happened to Jacob. He tried to manipulate the situation for his own ends. And it intensified his problems with Laban. It made leaving a much more difficult process. We should choose methods that do best what God wants. I Peter 2:19-20.
 2. _____ → If we are God's children, our loving heavenly Father will discipline us when we make mistakes, then help us return our “Bethel experience.” This happened to Jacob's life. God reminded him of his commitments and made it possible for him to maintain those commitments, even when he was floundering. Jacob teaches us that the significant place to be in the will of God, especially in the midst of a pagan culture.

The Power of a Father – FACING THE FATHER WOUND. – Psalm 68:5.

Resource: *The Sacred Romance—Drawing Closer to the Heart of God* by John Eldredge. Chapter 3 – The Message of the Arrows.

1. **FACING YOUR ARROWS** → To allow our hearts to heal, we must face our Arrows. You must stop and take time to thoughtfully, honestly, and tenderly answer these questions: How have you handled the affliction that has pierce your heart? How did the ARROWS come to you? Where did they land? Are they still there? What have you done as a result?
2. **ARROWS FROM YOUR YOUTH** → What hurt you? Most of the defining Arrows of our lives strike when we are young. For it is then that our hearts are most vulnerable and we are least guarded, least able to deal with the pain. Write down a word or sentence that captures for you the significant Arrows from your youth. Psalm 51:6.
3. **THE MESSAGE** → What was the Message of each Arrow? It's not so much the pain you've experienced, but what you've learned from it. What did the Arrow say about you? About God? About others? About life in general? Can you hear those messages still playing in your life today?
4. **HOW WE RESPOND** → There are two basic ways we handle the Arrows. First, we just deaden our heart. Secondly, we divide life into two parts. On the outside, all is duty and survival. But in secret, we find something to give us a taste of intimacy and adventure we were made for. Where do you go for a taste of intimacy or a taste of adventure these days?
5. **THE VOW** → How do you respond or react? Commitments form never to be in that position again, never to know that sort of pain again. The result is an approach to life that we often call our personality. The commitments are something like vows—“*I will never try that again.*”
6. **A WAY TOWARD HEALING** → The way you handled the Arrows do not have to be the end of the story. You do not have to be ruled by it all. Jesus quoted Isaiah 61:1-3 when he stepped onto the stage.
7. **RENOUCE THE VOW** → The only thing more tragic than the tragedy that happens to us is the way we handle it—the choices we make, the person we become, the life we live (or don't live). See Luke 17:31-33. The things we do to protect and preserve our hearts usually end up hurting us more. We must renounce our vows. Ephesians 4:26, 27. Unresolved emotional wounds create spiritual strongholds in our hearts.
8. **GRIEVE THE WOUND** → It is so important for us to grieve our loses. It is the only honest thing to do. For in grieving we admit the truth: We lost something very dear, and it hurt so much. Tears are healing. They help to open and cleanse the wound. Matthew 5:4.
9. **REJECT THE MESSAGE** → We must reject the lie that has so long defined us. Because of the wound, because the message was delivered by an Arrow, it sinks in deep and feels authoritative. But the fact is, nearly every message of every Arrow is untrue. You are loved. You are not alone. God does care.
10. **IMAGINE A GOOD FATHER** → Imaging what a “good father” would say and do, and then trying to live our life accordingly in all our relationships can help heal. Take the wound to our Heavenly Father by examining how we have projected our earthly father onto our Heavenly Father. We must be willing to forgive. Forgiveness isn't about forgetting about the pain your father has caused, but it's letting go of resentment or frustration that steals your freedom and peace.

ACTION: Journal This! Every son deserves a dad who fills his life with love, affirmation, and blessing. Every son needs from his father vision, direction, and solid answers to questions such as:

1. What is a man?
2. What are a man's greatest responsibilities?
3. What does a man believe?
4. How does a man behave?
5. What should a man try to achieve?

Bible Verses – The Message

<p>Genesis 30:25-43- 25 After Rachel had had Joseph, Jacob spoke to Laban, "Let me go back home.26 Give me my wives and children for whom I've served you. You know how hard I've worked for you."27 Laban said, "If you please, I have learned through divine inquiry that God has blessed me because of you."28 He went on, "So name your wages. I'll pay you."29 Jacob replied, "You know well what my work has meant to you and how your livestock has flourished under my care.30 The little you had when I arrived has increased greatly; everything I did resulted in blessings for you. Isn't it about time that I do something for my own family?"31 "So, what should I pay you?"32 Go through your entire flock today and take out every speckled or spotted sheep, every dark-colored lamb, every spotted or speckled goat. They will be my wages.33 That way you can check on my honesty when you assess my wages. If you find any goat that's not speckled or spotted or a sheep that's not black, you will know that I stole it."34 "Fair enough," said Laban. "It's a deal."35 But that very day Laban removed all the mottled and spotted billy goats and all the speckled and spotted nanny-goats, every animal that had even a touch of white on it plus all the black sheep and placed them under the care of his sons.36 Then he put a three-day journey between himself and Jacob. Meanwhile Jacob went on tending what was left of Laban's flock.37 But Jacob got fresh branches from poplar, almond, and plane trees and peeled the bark, leaving white stripes on them.38 He stuck the peeled branches in front of the watering troughs where the flocks came to drink. When the flocks were in heat, they came to drink39 and mated in front of the streaked branches. Then they gave birth to young that were streaked or spotted or speckled.40 Jacob placed the ewes before the dark-colored animals of Laban. That way he got distinctive flocks for himself which he didn't mix with Laban's flocks.41 And when the sturdier animals were mating, Jacob placed branches at the troughs in view of the animals so that they mated in front of the branches.42 But he wouldn't set up the branches before the feebler animals. That way the feeble animals went to Laban and the sturdy ones to Jacob.43 The man got richer and richer, acquiring huge flocks, lots and lots of servants, not to mention camels and donkeys.</p> <p>Galatians 2:19-21 - 19 What actually took place is this: I tried keeping rules and working my head off to please God, and it didn't work. So I quit being a "law man" so that I could be God's man.20 Christ's life showed me how,</p>	<p>and enabled me to do it. I identified myself completely with him. Indeed, I have been crucified with Christ. My ego is no longer central. It is no longer important that I appear righteous before you or have your good opinion, and I am no longer driven to impress God. Christ lives in me. The life you see me living is not "mine," but it is lived by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.21 I am not going to go back on that. Is it not clear to you that to go back to that old rule-keeping, peer-pleasing religion would be an abandonment of everything personal and free in my relationship with God? I refuse to do that, to repudiate God's grace. If a living relationship with God could come by rule-keeping, then Christ died unnecessarily.</p> <p>1 Peter 2:18-20 - 18 You who are servants, be good servants to your masters - not just to good masters, but also to bad ones. 19 What counts is that you put up with it for God's sake when you're treated badly for no good reason. 20 There's no particular virtue in accepting punishment that you well deserve. But if you're treated badly for good behavior and continue in spite of it to be a good servant, that is what counts with God.</p> <p>Psalm 68:5, 6 – 5 Father of orphans, champion of widows, is God in his holy house. 6 God makes homes for the homeless, leads prisoners to freedom, but leaves rebels to rot in hell.</p> <p>Psalm 51:6 - 6 What you're after is truth from the inside out. Enter me, then; conceive a new, true life.</p> <p>Isaiah 61:1-3 – 1 The Spirit of God, the Master, is on me because God anointed me. He sent me to preach good news to the poor, heal the heartbroken, Announce freedom to all captives, pardon all prisoners. 2 God sent me to announce the year of his grace - a celebration of God's destruction of our enemies - and to comfort all who mourn, 3 To care for the needs of all who mourn in Zion, give them bouquets of roses instead of ashes, Messages of joy instead of news of doom, a praising heart instead of a languid spirit. Rename them "Oaks of Righteousness" planted by God to display his glory.</p> <p>Ephesians 4:26, 27 - 26 Go ahead and be angry. You do well to be angry - but don't use your anger as fuel for revenge. And don't stay angry. Don't go to bed angry.27 Don't give the Devil that kind of foothold in your life.</p> <p>Matthew 5:4 - 4 "You're blessed when you feel you've lost what is most dear to you. Only then can you be embraced by the One most dear to you.</p>
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"Like Your Father Does" By Rhett Walker

<p>I knew God had blessed my life From the sound of your first cry You made us a family And I ain't ever gonna leave Felt it then, I feel it now Through every single up and down So when the world says you're nothing Oh, let me tell you something Ain't nobody gonna Ain't nobody gonna love you Love you like your father does Ain't nobody gonna Ain't nobody gonna love you Love you like your father does Yeah, time won't slow down And I won't always be around To listen to your worries And hold you when you're hurting</p>	<p>So let me point you to the One Who's with you til it's done Take His hand, He won't let go Gave His life to bring you home Ain't nobody gonna Ain't nobody gonna love you Love you like your father does Ain't nobody gonna Ain't nobody gonna love you Love you like your father does Wherever you go, whatever you do I want you to know there's nothing to prove I've always, always loved you And I always, always will Wherever you go, whatever you do I want you to know there's nothing to prove He's always, always loved you, oh And He always, always will</p>	<p>Ain't nobody gonna Ain't nobody gonna love you Like your father does Ain't nobody gonna Ain't nobody gonna love you Love you like your father does Ain't nobody gonna Ain't nobody gonna love you Love you like your father does Wherever you go, whatever you do I want you to know there's nothing to prove I've always, always loved you And I always, always will Wherever you go, whatever you do I want you to know there's nothing to prove He's always, always loved you, oh And He always, always will Ain't nobody gonna love you, hmmm Like your father does</p>
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