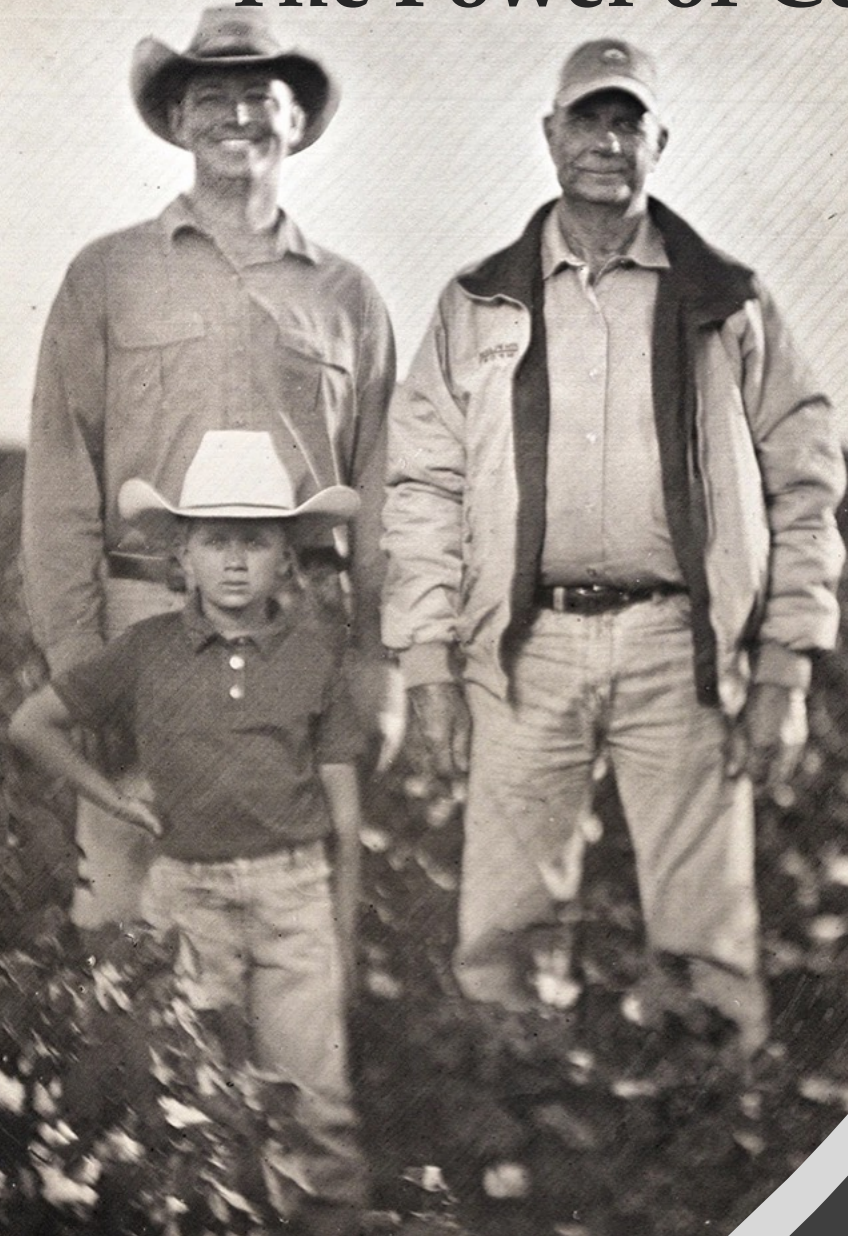


THE POWER OF A FATHER

The Power of a Father: The Power of Ceremony.



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 and our daughters. 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 conniving and he is spiritual too. He has moments of strong faith as well as of fear. His family is sometimes in disarray, and yet at the end he is the one who sets it straight. Jacob, whose very name suggests "deceiver," is renamed by God as "Israel" -- "one who has struggled with God." And an entire nation is named after this patriarch -- the nation of Israel. Jacob is a bit too 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!

The Power of a Father – REAPING WHAT YOU SOW – Genesis 29:1-30

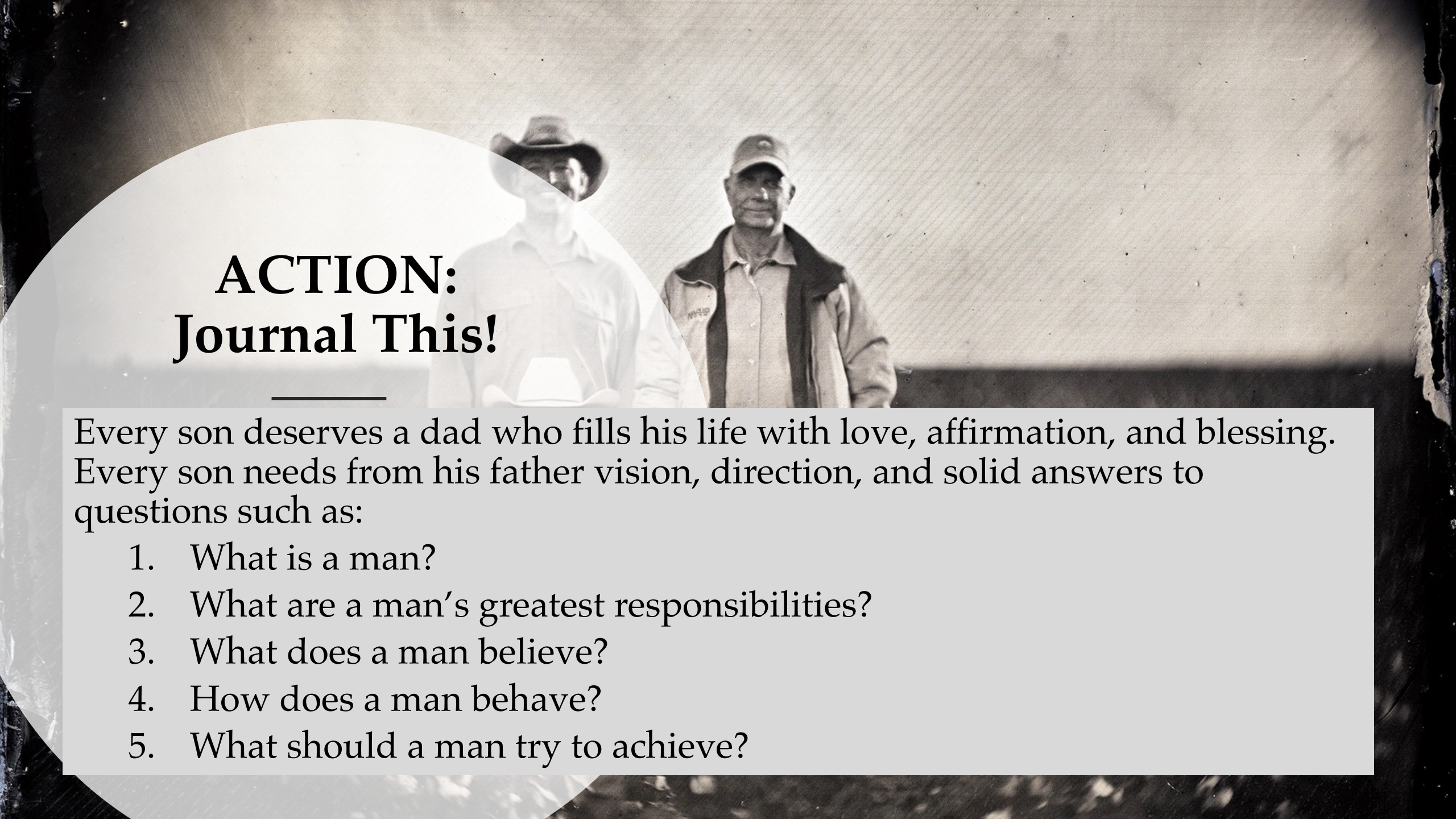
1. **NEW MOTIVATION** → Jacob immediately continued on his journey with a new sense of motivation. Jacob was anxious to see God's purposes carried out in his life.
2. **CONSEQUENCES** → Jacob didn't realize what lay ahead for him when he arrived in the vicinity of Haran. Ironically, he would see a replay of his own deceptive practices. This time, he would be the object of another man's manipulation. He was going to reap what he had sown.
3. Live in Reality:
 1. **EXPERIENCE CONSEQUENCES** → When we violate the will of God in our lives, we always experience the natural consequences of our sins.
 2. **DRAW CLOSER TO GOD & TREAT OTHERS DIFFERENTLY** → God sometimes allows us to suffer the consequences of our sins so that we might understand the pain we've caused in others' lives, and this understanding will create in us the desire to draw closer to God and treat others in a more Christlike manner.
 3. **INCREASE EMPATHY** → No matter who or what caused the consequences of sin in our lives, God wants us to view pain and suffering as a means to be able to connect more effectively to others who are experiencing the same difficulties.
 4. **FORGIVENESS** → No matter the cause of our pain and suffering and regardless of the results in our lives, God forgives the sins of the past. When God forgives us, He sees us as a loving Father to a beloved son—like He saw Jesus.

Quote by Robert Lewis
RAISING A MODERN DAY KNIGHT

Most men in America today lack a rich, masculine memory because there are no manhood ceremonies. Instead of lasting impressions, there are no impressions—no powerful, internal portraits etched in memory that call to mind our passage to manhood, no indelible moments that shaped our masculine identity and now compel us to pursue authentic manhood.

The Power of a Father – THE POWER OF CEREMONY

1. **SEALED BY A CEREMONY** → Ceremonies are those special occasions that weave the fabric of human existence. Weddings. Award banquets. Graduations. The day you became an Eagle Scout or were accepted into a fraternity. *We remember because of ceremony.* QUOTE by Robert Lewis.
2. The journey to manhood needs three components:
 1. **Character** → a vision for manhood. A Real Man **Rejects Passivity**. A Real Man **Accepts Responsibility**. A Real Man **Leads Courageously**. A Real Man **Expects the Greater Reward**.
 2. **Instruction** → a code of conduct. **INTIMACY** (Hosea 6:6). **SERVANT-LEADERSHIP** (Matthew 20:26,27). **KINDNESS** (Proverbs 19:22). **HUMILITY** (Philippians 2:3). **PURITY** (I Timothy 4:12). **HONESTY** (Ephesians 4:25). **SELF-DISCIPLINE** (I Timothy 4:7, 8). **EXCELLENCE** (I Corinthians 9:24). **INTEGRITY** (Proverbs 10:9). **PERSEVERANCE** (Galatians 6:9).
 3. **Ceremony** → a transcendent cause. A transcendent cause is a mission that lifts us beyond ourselves, a passion that stirs us to self-sacrifice and causes us to contribute to the larger community. A transcendent cause is not something we do in addition to everything else; instead, it is the one factor that motivates everything we do. Put in the simplest terms, we want our lives to count for something important.



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?