



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 – Part III
 We need an understanding of mature masculinity—a vision and direction
 to help us become Godly men

June 15, 2023

Bible Verses: Genesis 32:1-21 - James 1:5-8 - Proverbs 3:5,6 - Ephesians 4:7-13 - Philippians 4:6-9

Music: Harry Chapin - Cats in the Cradle <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=un2EfjEJAOA>

Video: My Life Shaving Scene - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=foDlnBb7VfQ>

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 – SOLVING PROBLEMS GOD'S WAY. – Genesis 32:1-21

1. **FACING NO SOLUTION CHALLENGES** → Most of us face challenges in our lives when there doesn't seem to be a positive solution. God doesn't want us to "lean on our own understanding." He wants us to be a unique part of the solution. He desires to provide us with divine wisdom (James 1:5).
2. Live in Reality =
 1. **TRUST GOD** → God wants to "direct our paths (Prov. 3:5-6)." We are not meant to "lean on" our own God-given capabilities. We are to lean on the Lord.
 2. **GROW UP** → God understands each of us and designs a "growth curriculum" that takes into consideration both our strengths and weaknesses. When we "fail" God's tests, we always get another chance. In His scheme of things, "failure" becomes a means for growth (Eph. 4:13).
 3. **CRY OUT TO GOD** → God responds to prayer that comes from a sincere heart, even though we may have created the crisis because of our regression to our old "flesh patterns" that are more self-centered than God-centered (Phil. 4:6,7).

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 answer these questions thoughtfully, honestly, and tenderly: How have you handled the affliction that has pierced 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. **RENOUNCE 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 losses. 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. How does a man behave?
2. What should a man try to achieve?

Bible Verses – The Message

Genesis 32:1-21 - 1 And Jacob went his way. Angels of God met him. **2** When Jacob saw them he said, "Oh! God's Camp!" And he named the place Mahanaim (Campground). **3** Then Jacob sent messengers on ahead to his brother Esau in the land of Seir in Edom. **4** He instructed them: "Tell my master Esau this, 'A message from your servant Jacob: I've been staying with Laban and couldn't get away until now. **5** I've acquired cattle and donkeys and sheep; also men and women servants. I'm telling you all this, my master, hoping for your approval.'" **6** The messengers came back to Jacob and said, "We talked to your brother Esau and he's on his way to meet you. But he has four hundred men with him." **7** Jacob was scared. Very scared. Panicked, he divided his people, sheep, cattle, and camels into two camps. **8** He thought, "If Esau comes on the first camp and attacks it, the other camp has a chance to get away." **9** And then Jacob prayed, "God of my father Abraham, God of my father Isaac, God who told me, 'Go back to your parents' homeland and I'll treat you well.'" **10** I don't deserve all the love and loyalty you've shown me. When I left here and crossed the Jordan I only had the clothes on my back, and now look at me - two camps! **11** Save me, please, from the violence of my brother, my angry brother! I'm afraid he'll come and attack us all, me, the mothers and the children. **12** You yourself said, 'I will treat you well; I'll make your descendants like the sands of the sea, far too many to count.'" **13** He slept the night there. Then he prepared a present for his brother Esau from his possessions: **14** two hundred female goats, twenty male goats, two hundred ewes and twenty rams, **15** thirty camels with their nursing young, forty cows and ten bulls, twenty female donkeys and ten male donkeys. **16** He put a servant in charge of each herd and said, "Go ahead of me and keep a healthy space between each herd." **17** Then he instructed the first one out: "When my brother Esau comes close and asks, 'Who is your master? Where are you going? Who owns these?'" **18** - answer him like this, 'Your servant Jacob. They are a gift to my master Esau. He's on his way.'" **19** He gave the same instructions to the second servant and to the third - to each in turn as they set out with their herds: **20** "Say 'Your servant Jacob is on his way behind us.'" He thought, "I will soften him up with the succession of gifts. Then when he sees me face-to-face, maybe he'll be glad to welcome me." **21** So his gifts went before him while he settled down for the night in the camp.

James 1:5-8 - 5 If you don't know what you're doing, pray to the Father. He loves to help. You'll get his help, and won't be condescended to when you ask for it. **6** Ask boldly, believingly, without a second thought. People who "worry their prayers" are like wind-whipped waves. **7** Don't think you're going to get anything from the Master that way, **8** adrift at sea, keeping all your options open.

Proverbs 3:5,6 - 5 Trust God from the bottom of your heart; don't try to figure out everything on your own. **6** Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; he's the one who will keep you on track.

Ephesians 4:7-13 - 7 But that doesn't mean you should all look and speak and act the same. Out of the generosity of Christ, each of us is given his own gift. **8** The text for this is, He climbed the high mountain, He captured the enemy and seized the booty, He handed it all out in gifts to the people. **9** It's true, is it not, that the One who climbed up also climbed down, down to the valley of earth? **10** And the One who climbed down is the One who climbed back up, up to highest heaven. He handed out gifts above and below, filled heaven with his gifts, **11** filled earth with his gifts. He handed out gifts of apostle, prophet, evangelist, and pastor-teacher **12** to train Christians in skilled servant work, working within Christ's body, the church, **13** until we're all moving rhythmically and easily with each other, efficient and graceful in response to God's Son, fully mature adults, fully developed within and without, fully alive like Christ.

Philippians 4:6-9 - 6 Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. **7** Before you know it, a sense of God's wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down. It's wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life. **8** Summing it all up, friends, I'd say you'll do best by filling your minds and meditating on things true, noble, reputable, authentic, compelling, gracious - the best, not the worst; the beautiful, not the ugly; things to praise, not things to curse. **9** Put into practice what you learned from me, what you heard and saw and realized. Do that, and God, who makes everything work together, will work you into his most excellent harmonies.

"Cats in the Cradle" By Harry Chapin

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| <p>My child arrived just the other day He came to the world in the usual way But there were planes to catch and bills to pay He learned to walk while I was away And he was talkin' 'fore I knew it, and as he grew He'd say "I'm gonna be like you, Dad You know I'm gonna be like you" And the cat's in the cradle and the silver spoon Little boy blue and the man on the moon When you comin' home, Dad I don't know when, but we'll get together then You know we'll have a good time then My son turned ten just the other day He said, "Thanks for the ball, Dad, come on let's play Can you teach me to throw", I said "Not today I got a lot to do", he said, "That's okay" And he walked away but his smile never dimmed And said, "I'm gonna be like him, yeah</p> | <p>You know I'm gonna be like him" And the cat's in the cradle and the silver spoon Little boy blue and the man on the moon When you comin' home, Dad I don't know when, but we'll get together then You know we'll have a good time then Well, he came from college just the other day So much like a man I just had to say "Son, I'm proud of you, can you sit for a while" He shook his head and then said with a smile "What I'd really like, Dad, is to borrow the car keys See you later, can I have them please" And the cat's in the cradle and the silver spoon Little boy blue and the man on the moon When you comin' home son I don't know when, but we'll get together then, Dad</p> | <p>You know we'll have a good time then I've long since retired, my son's moved away I called him up just the other day I said, "I'd like to see you if you don't mind" He said, "I'd love to, Dad, if I can find the time You see my new job's a hassle and the kid's got the flu But it's sure nice talking to you, Dad It's been sure nice talking to you" And as I hung up the phone it occurred to me He'd grown up just like me My boy was just like me And the cat's in the cradle and the silver spoon Little boy blue and the man on the moon When you comin' home son I don't know when, but we'll get together then, Dad We're gonna have a good time then</p> |
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