



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 – Wrestling with the Father

June 22, 2023

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

Bible Verses: Genesis 32:22-32 - Philippians 4:6-9 - Ephesians 1:3-6 - Ephesians 2:7-10 - Titus 1:1-4 - Hebrews 12:4-11

Music: I Can Only Imagine Movie | Song Performance - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ClXaoRyseU>

Video: I Can Only Imagine Film Clips A Lot Of Questions - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vVs9yIM3CXQ>

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

The Power of a Father – WRESTLING WITH THE FATHER – Genesis 32:22-32.

- _____ → Jacob knew he had to face Esau, no matter what the consequences. No doubt, unable to sleep, he awakened his family members and ushered them across the river. Learn to rely on Paul's words to the Philippians (Phil. 4:6,7).
- _____ → It was during the time of weakness, while Jacob was exerting all the human strength he could muster, that God brought him to his knees and changed his name (33:28). Because Jacob had admitted his sins and weaknesses and had yielded his life to God, he and his family would experience God's BLESSING.
- Live in Reality = From Jacob's life, we learn some powerful principles to guide us.
 - _____ → Once we meet God through Jesus Christ, our lives are destined for change. (Eph. 1:4; 2:8-10; Titus 1:1).
 - _____ → God is patient with our growth process. It's a Journey. God understands our human weakness.
 - _____ → Our heavenly Father will discipline us in order to conform us to His holy image. We see God's discipline in Jacob's life. It took 20 years for God to bring Jacob to the place of complete humility and commitment to following God's will. (Heb. 12:8).

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.

- 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?
- 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.
- 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?
- 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?
- 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."
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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:

- What is a man?
- What are a man's greatest responsibilities?
- What does a man believe?
- How does a man behave?
- What should a man try to achieve?

Bible Verses – The Message

Genesis 32:22-32 – 22 But during the night he got up and took his two wives, his two maidservants, and his eleven children and crossed the ford of the Jabbok.**23** He got them safely across the brook along with all his possessions.**24** But Jacob stayed behind by himself, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak.**25** When the man saw that he couldn't get the best of Jacob as they wrestled, he deliberately threw Jacob's hip out of joint.**26** The man said, "Let me go; it's daybreak." Jacob said, "I'm not letting you go 'til you bless me."**27** The man said, "What's your name?" He answered, "Jacob."**28** The man said, "But no longer. Your name is no longer Jacob. From now on it's Israel (God-Wrestler); you've wrestled with God and you've come through."**29** Jacob asked, "And what's your name?" The man said, "Why do you want to know my name?" And then, right then and there, he blessed him.**30** Jacob named the place Peniel (God's Face) because, he said, "I saw God face-to-face and lived to tell the story!"**31** The sun came up as he left Peniel, limping because of his hip.**32** (This is why Israelites to this day don't eat the hip muscle; because Jacob's hip was thrown out of joint.)

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.

Ephesians 1:3-6 – 3 How blessed is God! And what a blessing he is! He's the Father of our Master, Jesus Christ, and takes us to the high places of blessing in him.**4** Long before he laid down earth's foundations, he had us in mind, had settled on us as the focus of his love, to be made whole and holy by his love.**5** Long, long ago he decided to adopt us into his family through Jesus Christ. (What pleasure he took in planning this!)**6** He wanted us to enter into the celebration of his lavish gift-giving by the hand of his beloved Son.

Ephesians 2:7-10 – 7 Now God has us where he wants us, with all the time in this world and the next to shower grace and kindness upon us in Christ Jesus.**8** Saving is all his idea, and all his work. All we do is trust him enough to let him do it. It's God's gift from start to finish!**9** We don't play the major role. If we did, we'd probably go around bragging that we'd done the whole thing!**10** No, we neither make nor save ourselves. God does both the making and saving. He creates each of us by Christ Jesus to join him in the work he does, the good work he has gotten ready for us to do, work we had better be doing.

Titus 1:1-4 - 1 I, Paul, am God's slave and Christ's agent for promoting the faith among God's chosen people, getting out the accurate word on God and how to respond rightly to it.**2** My aim is to raise hopes by pointing the way to life without end. This is the life God promised long ago - and he doesn't break promises!**3** And then when the time was ripe, he went public with his truth. I've been entrusted to proclaim this Message by order of our Savior, God himself.**4** Dear Titus, legitimate son in the faith: Receive everything God our Father and Jesus our Savior give you!

Hebrews 12:4-11 - 4 In this all-out match against sin, others have suffered far worse than you, to say nothing of what Jesus went through - all that bloodshed!**5** So don't feel sorry for yourselves. Or have you forgotten how good parents treat children, and that God regards you as his children? My dear child, don't shrug off God's discipline, but don't be crushed by it either.**6** It's the child he loves that he disciplines; the child he embraces, he also corrects.**7** God is educating you; that's why you must never drop out. He's treating you as dear children. This trouble you're in isn't punishment; it's training,**8** the normal experience of children. Only irresponsible parents leave children to fend for themselves. Would you prefer an irresponsible God?**9** We respect our own parents for training and not spoiling us, so why not embrace God's training so we can truly live?**10** While we were children, our parents did what seemed best to them. But God is doing what is best for us, training us to live God's holy best.**11** At the time, discipline isn't much fun. It always feels like it's going against the grain. Later, of course, it pays off handsomely, for it's the well-trained who find themselves mature in their relationship with God.

"I Can Only Imagine" By MercyMe

<p>I can only imagine what it will be like When I walk by Your side I can only imagine what my eyes will see When Your face is before me I can only imagine, yeah Surrounded by Your glory What will my heart feel? Will I dance for You, Jesus Or in awe of You be still? Will I stand in Your presence Or to my knees will I fall? Will I sing hallelujah? Will I be able to speak at all? I can only imagine I can only imagine I can only imagine when that day comes And I find myself standing in the sun/son</p>	<p>I can only imagine when all I will do Is forever—forever worship You I can only imagine, yeah I can only imagine Surrounded by Your glory What will my heart feel? Will I dance for You, Jesus Or in awe of You be still? Will I stand in Your presence Or to my knees will I fall? Will I sing hallelujah? Will I be able to speak at all? I can only imagine, yeah I can only imagine Surrounded by Your glory What will my heart feel?</p>	<p>Will I dance for You, Jesus Or in awe of You be still? Will I stand in Your presence Or to my knees will I fall? Will I sing hallelujah? Will I be able to speak at all? I can only imagine, yeah I can only imagine I can only imagine I can only imagine I can only imagine I can only imagine I can only imagine When all I will do Is forever—forever worship You I can only imagine</p>
---	--	---

Philip K. Hardin, M.A., M.Div.

Director of Business & Professional Outreach, Intl. - Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist, Licensed Professional Counselor, and Certified Life Coach
563 Johnson Avenue – Fairhope, Alabama 36532
Phone: 601-925-0707

Email: phil@bpointl.org

Webpage: www.bpointl.org