

INTRODUCTION

"They were brave warriors, ready for battle and able to handle the shield and spear. Their faces were the faces of lions, and they were as swift as gazelles in the mountains" (I Chronicles 12:8). God wants some men who will rise up and become "mighty men of God," men like those brave warriors of David's day, powerful men who made a difference.

They were ready for battle, they were brave young warriors who understood the times. They took their stand and risked their lives for the sake of the people Israel.

The New Testament teaches us that we too are in a war, not a war for territory or for political or economic power, but a spiritual war. This is a war for our own souls, for the souls of our families, and for the souls of men and women all over the world. It is a battle much more important and much more intense than any Old Testament conflict.

Our enemy is not an army of flesh and blood; it is the army of the angels of Satan himself. In this conflict we are called to be soldiers, to put on our armor and to fight the good fight of the faith (Ephesians 6:10-20; 1 Timothy 1:18, 6:12; 2 Timothy 4:7). If we, as the church, are to win this war, we must rekindle the warrior spirit in God's people. And most important of all, it must be rekindled in the hearts of men.

The condition of manhood in our world is deplorable. Men are viewed as superficial, shallow idiots. A goofy, foolish object of pity, the masculine gender is the butt of countless jokes and subject to an endless stream of ridicule. When was the last time you saw a man portrayed as a hero, as a person of dignity, honor and grace? Of noble and sacrificial virtue?

No, the picture is one of a lustful, vulgar vagabond who neither wants, nor is capable of, real friendship and commitment. Lacking in love and loyalty, men are represented as without real friendships with one another and without allegiance to women and children. Power hungry, brutish, violent, greedy, sports obsessed, lazy, aloof, cowardly, depressed and the list goes on. And this is the "being" created in the image of God, who was given care and dominion over God's creation, who was told that he was a little lower than the angels! As men, we must admit we have failed to be what we should be; we are guilty of every one of these accusations and worse. We have failed as men even in the kingdom of God to be real men and we must decide if we want to do something about it.

Where Are the Real Men? Where are the men who will marry women and stay with them, faithful until death? Where are the men who will love their wives and stand beside them to raise the children and build a family? Where are the men who will lead our nation and guide our governments with wisdom and dignity?

Where are the men in God's kingdom? Where are the men to lead the way in love, in prayer, in evangelism and in sacrifice? Too often it is the women who set the pace in spirituality, and in hearts devoted to God? Where are the men who could rise up and be leaders in our churches? Are they too wrapped up in their own pursuits, too concerned with making money

and being comfortable? Where are the great heroes of faith to inspire us all?

It is time to Wake Up! I believe the Strong men are out there. I know they are! You may have been sleeping the sleep of selfishness, or chained in the bonds of fear, or locked in the prison of low vision, but I believe you are out there. I believe you are waiting to hear the call of God, the call to be the strong man God created you to be, the call to rise up, the call to run and not grow weary, to soar on eagle's wings.

This is a call for you to ascend to the heights of dignity and nobility that God intended for you when he made you. It is a call to forsake the paths of selfishness and vulgarity. It is a call to become a hero. It is a call to think of yourself last and others first. It is a call to grow and to change. It is a call to step out and step up. It is a call to greatness. It is a call to be free of the chains of pride, fear and sensuality that have too long bound you. It is a call to conquer your weaknesses and fears. It is a call to leave them forever in your past as you forge onward and upward. It is a call to your true destiny. It is a call to become a mighty man of God!

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Spirituality

I. Spirituality

1 Cor 2:15 - The spiritual man makes judgments about all things, but he himself is not subject to any man's judgment:(NIV)

Gal 6:1 - Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. (NIV)

A. One cannot be a mighty man of God without being a spiritual man.

1. It is spirituality that gives us our power.

2. Being a spiritual man is about depending on the power of God.

a. If we reach for the stars but rely on ourselves, we will fall back to earth exhausted, defeated and discouraged.

b. It is spirituality that will take us to the heights, that will enable us to radically and permanently change.

B. A man can be no mightier than his relationship with God allows.

1. If then we want to be mighty men of God, we must seek to know God, to love Him and to be His friends.

a. We cannot come to God for power, strength and transformation and neglect being close to Him.

b. He does not give His gifts for our own use or on our own terms, but for His glory and His way.

2. Many of us are focused on doing, not on being.

a. We want to work, accomplish and achieve for God.

b. We do not think deeply, feel deeply or love deeply.

c. We are lightweights. Others sense that we're just actors putting on a show.

d. We lack depth, and it shows in every aspect of our lives.

1) We lack deep friendships because we are shallow.

- 2) We cannot express ourselves because we are shallow.
- 3) **We do not change or we do not change for long, because we are shallow.**
3. But God did not make us shallow. He made us with hearts that can feel, think and be. He made us like Himself.
4. **The problem is not that we are fundamentally flawed; the problem is that we will not deepen ourselves.**
 - a. We will not let ourselves go beyond the surface.
 - b. **We prefer to keep things on a superficial level because we fear what we, or others, might find, if we went deeper.**
 - c. We seek to avoid pain and instead choose a lifetime of aching emptiness.
 - d. **We seek to avoid embarrassment and instead find the isolation that pride brings.**
 - e. We seek to protect ourselves with shallowness but it becomes the instrument of our destruction.
5. God works from the inside out. God looks at who you really are, not what you appear to be. **1 Samuel 16:7**

C. A spiritual man is a man of God's word.

1. **We need to have a love affair with the word.**
2. David says:

Ps 1:2 - *But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night. (NAS)*

Ps 119:16 - *I shall delight in Thy statutes; I shall not forget Thy word. (NAS)*

Ps 119:18 - *Open my eyes, that I may behold Wonderful things from Thy law.(NAS)*

Ps 119:25 - *My soul cleaves to the dust; revive me according to Thy word. (NAS)*

Ps 119:97 - *O how I love Thy law! It is my meditation all the day. (NAS)*

3. We cannot be close to God without listening to Him.
 - a. **We cannot listen to Him without spending time in the Bible.**

- b. And we cannot love God unless we love spending time in His word.
 - c. For many of us being cut to the heart by the word of God is but a distant memory from the days of our conversion.**
4. How can we make our hearts tender again?
- a. It will take effort, the effort of intense, regular, personal Bible study.
 - b. It will mean getting out our Bible's in begging God to speak to us from them once again.**
 - c. It will mean taking notes, agonizing over passages, and letting them apply to our lives as we did in the past.
 - d. It will mean spending more than a few minutes a day studying.**
 - e. It will mean carving out more time in our schedules and devoting some late nights, early mornings, half days and whole days to digging into the word.

D. A Spiritual man is devoted to prayer.

1. This will require learning to pray constantly, bringing God into the details of your everyday life.
 - a. Most of us bear more sorrow, more anxiety and burdens that we know.**
 - b. We worry about our families, our finances and our futures.
 - c. We go through life nagged constantly by unsettling anxiety.**
 - d. We need to learn to cast all of our burdens, from the most weighty to the most mundane, upon our loving Father in heaven.
2. This will mean getting up early like Jesus did so that you can pray undisturbed before you start your day.

Mark 1:35 - And in the early morning, while it was still dark, He arose and went out and departed to a lonely place, and was praying there. (NAS)

- a. Jesus devoted the first part of His day to communion with His father.
- b. When you think about it, this was the only way He could carry on.**
- c. The pressures of ministering to needy people, the challenge to shape and mold His

disciples, the exhausting ministry of healing, the draining requirements of preaching and teaching and the unrelenting scrutiny of critics were His constant companion's.

d. How could He have done it, were it not for His closeness to God, a closeness that He jealousy guarded throughout His life.

3. Jesus always stayed near to God because He devoted the first part of the day to renewing and enjoying that relationship.

a. We all know the excuses:

1) I am not a morning person.

2) I have to leave for work so early.

3) I have to get the kids off to school.

4) I don't want to be legalistic, I pray throughout the day.

b. But they are just that, excuses.

4. There is no Bible command I'm aware of that lays out morning devotions as an absolute requirement. But we do have the example of Jesus and that of other Bible characters like David.

Ps 5:3 - In the morning, O LORD, Thou wilt hear my voice; in the morning I will order {my prayer} to Thee and {eagerly} watch. (NAS)

Ps 88:13 - But I, O LORD, have cried out to Thee for help, and in the morning my prayer comes before Thee. (NAS)

Ps 119:147 - I rise before dawn and cry for help; I wait for Thy words. (NAS)

Ps 130:6 - My soul {waits} for the Lord more than the watchmen for the morning; {indeed, more than} the watchmen for the morning. (NAS)

E. How does spending the early morning with God help build a closer relationship with Him?

1. In spending our waking hours with God, we show the priority of this relationship over all else in life.

2. Since our waking thoughts determine the tone and course of our day, morning time

with God sets our minds and hearts on what is most important right from the start.

- 3. Early in the morning is one of the quietest times of the day, affording us the chance to concentrate and think without interruption.**
4. We are rested from our nights sleep and our minds and emotions have had time to recover from the strains of the previous day.
- 5. We're able to clear our consciences of the guilt of sin before we begin our day.**
6. We are able to cast our burdens upon the Lord before the day begins.
- 7. We are able to draw upon God's power to strengthen us for what lies ahead.**

Ps 5:1-3 - Give ear to my words, O LORD, consider my groaning. Heed the sound of my cry for help, my King and my God, for to Thee do I pray. In the morning, O LORD, Thou wilt hear my voice; in the morning I will order {my prayer} to Thee and {eagerly} watch. In (NAS)

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

Ps 119:16 - I shall delight in Thy statutes; I shall not forget Thy word. (NAS)

Ps 119:18 - Open my eyes, that I may behold Wonderful things from Thy law.(NAS)

Ps 5:3 - In the morning, O LORD, Thou wilt hear my voice; in the morning I will order {my prayer} to Thee and {eagerly} watch. (NAS)

HUMILITY

- I. Humility - **Matt 11:29** - *"Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and you shall find rest for your souls. (NAS)*
 - A. Pride is the greatest sin of men.
 - 1. It is the root sin behind every other that we commit.**
 2. It is the true culprit behind every masculine weakness.
 - B. Humility can be defined as having a sense of need.**
 1. Not only do we need God, but we need other people as well.
 - a. God, in His wisdom, has placed us in His church, the body of Christ.**
 - b. As members of a body, we are dependent upon the other members of the body.
 - 2. Most men fail miserably in letting other people know their deepest needs.**
 - a. We have the foolish, mistaken idea that to be strong we must pretend that we have no problems.
 - b. A humble man not only admits his need, he admits his sins.**
 3. Humility also admits its weaknesses.
 - a. The strength of the mighty man comes to his open admission of weakness.**
 - b. It is only then, he can draw upon the great power of God.
- C. **1 Corinthians 5:6-8** - The Corinthian Church had leaven in it. Leaven is used in the Bible to symbolize insincerity and Hypocrisy.
 1. Here Paul warned that they were boasting beyond their actual Spiritual condition.
 - 2. Leaven causes something to look bigger than it actually is.**
 3. The Corinthian Church had leaven in it.
 - 4. God will accept a small offering but never an inflated one.**
 - 5. Its easier to produce an image than it is to walk in reality**

6. "Get rid of the old leaven - Purge out"

D. God can't give you something that you are pretending to have already, He can't change you into somebody that your pretending to be already.

1. **2 Timothy 3:13 - If your in a bad place and you pretend to be in a good place you then keep yourself from the help that you need.**

2. You can't put something behind you until you face it.

E. Characteristics of humility.

1. A humble man is approachable.

a. **He does not leave the impression that he is too proud o be questioned or challenged.**

b. This means that the wife and children of a humble man feel that they can talk with him about delicate or difficult matters, even those that involve discussing a mistake that he may have made, without fear of an angry response.

2. **A humble man will apologize when he is wrong.**

a. The humble man does not have to be driven into a corner with irrefutable logic to admit his mistakes.

b. **He is eager to see them and to see them quickly.**

3. The humble man is confident.

a. His confidence is in God and in God's power and not in himself.

b. **He is confident about himself but not in himself.**

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

Matt 11:29 - "Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and you shall find rest for your souls. (NAS)

Courage

1 Corinthians 16:13 - *"Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong."* (NIV)

- I. Is there any virtue more associated with manhood than courage? Courage is universally admired, praised and sought after. No man who is truly a man does not admire those whom he regards as men of courage.

There are many kinds of courage - Lets look at Seven

A. Courage to Do.

- 1. Had we been there and asked David where he got the courage to fight Goliath. David would probably have look at us with surprise. "But this man was insulting God," he would've answered, "what else was there to do?" 1 Samuel 17:17-58**
2. That is what courage is all about: forgetting ourselves and becoming consumed with the glory of God. This courage should flow in our veins as a matter of course.
 - a. We do not think, I must be courageous now.**
 - b. We only think, the name of God, the reputation of his people, the salvation of the soul is at stake and we must act quickly.
- 3. The issue of strength for the task is not of concern. We think this way because we know that God will supply whatever we need, because it is His battle to fight and win.**
 - a. We are courageous because we know that God is with us, that God is for us.
 - b. We're only servants, doing what any servant could and should do in the situation.**
4. This is what will give birth to our courage.
 - a. A courage of true manhood, a courage that inspires those who have been preoccupied with themselves and who have lost sight of God.**
 - b. This kind of courage see's the world and the battles with the eyes of God.
2 Kings 6:14-17

B. Courage to Endure.

1. When David returned to the camp of Saul after his glorious victory over Goliath, he returned with a hero's welcome into the admiration of all the people - 1 Samuel 18:7.
 - a. As a result David earned the hatred and brooding jealousy of Saul for the rest of Saul's life.
 - b. This hatred drove David from his presence, into the desert as an outlaw and refugee.**
2. God wanted David to remain within the borders of Israel, right under the nose of Saul.
 - a. David would have preferred to flee to another country (and did so at one time in a moment of cowardice), but God did not allow it.**
 - b. Day after day, month after month, year after year, David and his small band hid from Saul, eking out a hard existence in the barren wastelands of Judea.
 - c. This is where David wrote so many of his great Psalms, the songs in which he poured out his heart to God, asking Him for deliverance, companionship and comfort.**
3. Circumstances like these demand new courage of a higher order.
 - a. This is the courage of staying on a righteous course when it seems there is no end to your difficulties, when there is no immediate reward, but only long days of loneliness and hardship.**
 - b. It means keeping up your spirits when there is no end in sight.
 - c. It is the courage of continuing to trust in God when those who should be encouraging you and inspiring you have descended into sin.**
 - d. It is the bravery required when your name is dragged down, when your gossiped about and when your motives are questioned.
 - e. It is the nerve necessary when you're not sure what you should do, when their are difficulties in your way that do not easily present themselves as right and wrong.**
 - f. It is the courage demanded by the kinds of difficulties you face as you get older, when you see that sometimes, even in God's kingdom, the best people can let you down.

C. Courage to Come Back.

1. This third type of courage is that of a man who has failed and who must face his failures and try to find his way back to God.
2. **Once again the story is familiar, David has committed adultery with Bathsheba and has lied and murdered to cover it up.**
 - a. He must now face the greatest test of his life.
 - b. Does he have the courage to face God, his family, the nation and himself.
 - c. **Will he still be a man after the heart of God, or will he throw it all away.**
3. We see his response, as he recorded in Psalm 51.
 - a. **He humbled himself, made no excuses, begged God for forgiveness and for a new heart and strove to rebuild his life.**
 - b. None of us is perfect, we will all sin. Will we have the courage to cast ourselves on the mercy of God or will we simply run away.

D. Physical Courage.

1. This is the courage of the soldier, the fireman, the policeman or of any man who is faced with the situation that threatens his physical life.
2. **It is what the early Christians faced when they were thrown into the arena.**
3. To gain this kind of courage, we simply need to remember that if we are saved and going to heaven, we have nothing to fear, even if it means losing our life.

E. Emotional courage.

1. This is the courage required when everything around the seems to be going against us.
2. **It is the courage called for when we are under pressure at work, when we've had financial setbacks, or when we are going through spiritual and emotional upheaval.**
3. Too many of us men are not manly in the way we face adversity.
 - a. **We give into depression, discouragement and despair.**
 - b. It shows on our faces and in our posture.

c. **We are unable to encourage our wives, children and friends.**

d. We become a burden rather than the burden bearer.

F. Social courage.

1. This is the courage to do what is right even when the crowd and popular opinion are against us.
2. **It is the courage to stand-alone with deep conviction and clear vision when all others around us are saying we should compromise.**
3. Social courage is required when we must work with difficult issues and relationships.
 - a. **Many of us have conflicts in our marriage and in other important relationships that we will not solve because we are cowards.**
 - b. We are unwilling to speak the truth in love - Ephesians 4:15.
 - c. **So we remain unreconciled and distant from those to whom we should be closest.**
 - d. We should have the courage to have the uncomfortable talks that will free us from the prison of estranged relationships.

G. Personal Courage.

1. This is the courage that is required when we challenge ourselves to go where we have never gone before and to do what we have never done before.
2. **This is the bravery demanded of us, when we must make a change in our character or in our personality.**
3. This is the boldness that will cause us to take a risk rather than to remain comfortable.
 - a. **Many of us are stagnant, dead and bored because we are unwilling to push ourselves beyond our fears.**
 - b. I would urge you to face your fears specifically and take steps to conquer each one of them.

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

1 Cor 16:13 - "Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong."

Honor

Romans 12:17 - *"Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable."* (NLT)

I. A mighty man is first and foremost a man of honor

He is a good man: a man of the highest principles, of unimpeachable integrity and of unassailable virtue.

An honorable man is one who holds himself to the highest standards of morals, ethics and behavior.

A. A man of honor is a man of truth.

John 1:47 - *"When Jesus saw Nathaniel approaching, he said of him, "Here is a true Israelite, in whom there is nothing false."* (NIV)

1. Honesty and loyalty to the truth are the fundamental building blocks of his character.
2. **When we enter into the presence of Jesus, we sense that we are in the company of a man of pure integrity and honesty.**
 - a. We feel that He is a man of truth, who always keeps His word.
 - b. He arouses in us undying, unwavering, loyalty and confidence because we know He would never deceive us and that He would never lead us astray.**

B. A man of honor will believe and love the truth.

II Th 2:10 - *"They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved."For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness."*

1. We must believe it, no matter what it may cost us or who we may offend.
2. **We must believe the truth about ourselves.**
 - a. Many of us would like to be better, braver and stronger men, but we are unwilling to face who we are.
 - 1) **We blind ourselves to our sins; we rationalize and minimize them.**
 - 2) We think others sins are worse than ours.

- 3) **We may be willing to admit a flaw or weakness, but we do not see our sins in light of the cross, in all of their horror and offensiveness to God.**
 - 4) We do not see the offensive behaviors, the character and personality flaws that alienate us from others, rendering as ineffective.
- b. Many of us have huge weaknesses that we have never acknowledged or that we do not take very seriously.**
- 1) Our friends and family have to repeatedly bring us to conviction about these things, we do not have a conscience about them.
 - 2) **We are blind to them, because we do not love the truth and are unwilling to be men of truth.**
2. If we could see ourselves according to the truth, we would change. But because we will not, we remain defeated, isolated and limited men.

C. A man of honor will hear the truth.

Eph 1:13 - *"You heard the word of truth. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit.*

1. Many times we cannot see the truth on our own; we need to be told it.
 - a. **The first and worse lie is the one we tell to ourselves.**
 - b. When true words are spoken to us we need to hear and accept them.
 - 1) **They may come in a sermon or in a conversation.**
 - 2) The conversation may be with a friend, our wives, our children, with a critic or an enemy, but we need to hear the truth.
2. **It does not matter who is right; it only matters what is right.**

D. A man of honor will tell the truth.

Eph 4:15 - *"but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all {aspects}into Him."*

1. Our yes must be yes and our no must be no. People must never have reason to doubt our word.
 - a. **On matters great and small, we tell the truth.**

- 1) We do not exaggerate; we do not embellish.
 - 2) **We do not make it smaller, larger, bigger, or more dramatic.**
 - 3) We do not adjust the numbers.
 - 4) **We do not take credit that is not ours.**
 - 5) We do not deny talent that we possess or claim that which we do not have.
 - 6) **We do not excuse ourselves by making up stories.**
- b. Have you ever known someone who simply did not ring true?
- 1) **Something about them is artificial.**
 - 2) You always feel that you are getting a revised version of things, not the exact truth.
2. **The issue of truthfulness is critical to a successful marriage.**
- a. Our wives must trust us.
 - b. If we break faith with them, if they feel they cannot absolutely believe our word, we are in for a marriage without intimacy, respect or peace.**

E. A man of honor is a man of principle.

1. **A man of principle is faithful to what is right over and above his concern for his own safety, position or personal benefit.**
 - a. He stands up for what is right, no matter what the cost.
 - b. It matters not to him which path is easier. He chooses what is right.**
 - c. It matters not what is popular: he does what God says.
 - d. It matters not if his stand will transport him into a storm of conflict and disapproval, he does what is honorable.**
2. Somewhere along the way, we will have opportunities to advance ourselves or keep ourselves out of trouble by going along with something wrong or by being silent in the face of injustice.

F. A man of honor is a man of high standards.

1. A man of honor expects the best of himself.
 - a. There is within mighty men, the desire for excellence, a hunger to be the very best version of themselves that they can be.**
 - b. It is the drive of the divine within us, the impulse to leave behind our earth bound limitations for our true destiny, to be godly and God like.
2. The lesser man heeds another call: he only does enough to get by.
 - a. He works until he is tired or bored or until his boss stops looking.**
 - b. He does enough to finish the job to where he can say it is done. But, not enough to be able to say, it is well done.
 - c. He must have supervision & prodding or he quits or does a shoddy, half done job.**

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

Romans 12:17 - *"Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable."* (NLT)

Nobility

2 Timothy 2:21 - *"If a man cleanses himself from the latter, he will be an instrument for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work."* (NIV)

I. The man of nobility is a consummate gentleman.

A. A man of nobility is courteous and well mannered.

1. This is one of the great lessons that men need to learn.
 - a. **We should have learned manners from our parents, but many of us did not.**
 - b. Others of us were taught, but we dismissed them as a waste of time.
2. **One of the great responsibilities we have as men is to be gentlemen and to train our sons to be gentlemen who carry themselves in a kind, courteous and lofty fashion.**
3. We live in a world full of rude, mean people, and if we're not careful, we will become like them.

B. A man of nobility is kind.

1. He avoids embarrassing other people with sarcasm and harsh words.
 - a. **He is not rude or abrupt in his speech or tone of voice.**
 - b. He does not put other people down with words, expressions or deeds.
2. **He does not make others feel like they are an imposition upon his precious time or that he is too important to stop what he's doing to attend their needs.**

C. A man of nobility is courteous.

1. **He opens doors for others.**
 - a. He helps them carry their packages.
 - b. **He greets guests at the door and helps them with their coats.**
 - c. He brings a gift when he comes over for dinner.
 - d. **He picks up the dinner tab.**

D. A man of nobility puts himself last; he is unselfish.

1. He thinks of others before he thinks of himself.
 - a. To be in his presence is to have his mind and attention fixed upon you.**
 - b. He is always looking for ways to serve, to show respect and to make you feel honored and important.
- 2. To be in his home is to be treated as if you were royalty. Your every need is tended to.**

E. A man of nobility is a gracious man.

1. A gracious man gives you the mercy you need rather than the justice you deserve.
- 2. He holds you to high standards but is not petty and legalistic in the way he does so.**

F. A man of nobility is a reasonable and approachable man.

- 1. He is a man who can be talked to.**
2. He is a man who can be reasoned with.
- 3. He is someone with whom you can set down and pour out your heart and mind, knowing that you will be heard.**
 - a. He listens, and listens carefully.
 - b. He does not jump to conclusions or closes down communication.**
 - c. He knows that it is often difficult for people to say what is on their minds, and he asks many questions before he gives a reply.
 - d. He withholds judgment until he has all the facts.**

G. A man of nobility is above pettiness.

- 1. A man whose petty is forever making mountains out of molehills.**
2. He is forever getting worked up over the wrong things.
- 3. The petty man is easily slighted.**

- a. If he feels he is not accorded proper respect, he becomes sullen.
- b. This man is forever in a state of dissatisfaction and unhappiness.**
- c. If he feels in the least slighted or ignored, he angrily withdraws.
- d. He easily becomes critical.**

H. A man of nobility is above arguing.

2 Tim 2:24 - *"And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful."*

- 1. Arguing and bickering are beneath the mighty man of God.
 - a. He simply will not allow himself to be drawn into foolish contentions.**
 - b. Most of what we quarrel about is not worth it.
- 2. He focuses on the heart of the matter and is not distracted by extraneous issues.**

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

2 Timothy 2:21 - *"If a man cleanses himself from the latter, he will be an instrument for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work." (NIV)*

Lovingkindness

Psalm 33:22 - *“Let Thy lovingkindness, O LORD, be upon us, according as we have hoped in Thee.”*

- I. Do you have a tender heart? Is your heart moved by the feelings and sufferings of others? Are you filled with compassion for those who are hurting?

A. The mighty man has a kind and loving heart.

1. He has a soul that feels and cares. He is sensitive to sufferings and pain.
2. **The heart of a mighty man hurts for those in emotional and spiritual distress.**
 - a. He feels what they feel, and because he loves others as he loves himself, he cares and reaches out to help them.
 - b. In his strength the mighty man of God never neglects or takes advantage of the weak, but instead devotes himself to lifting them up.**
 - c. His power and influence with others flows from his heart of lovingkindness.

B. The mighty man has a heart of compassion.

1. The heart of Jesus was a heart that went out in full measure to those in need.
 - a. Whatever the pain and whoever suffered it, the compassion of Jesus went out to them.**
 - b. Isn't this the secret of His greatness? Isn't this why He is the greatest man the world has never known?
2. **It is Jesus' great heart of lovingkindness that wins our devotion.**
3. Isn't this why you follow Him, because He cares about you?

C. The mighty man has respect for women.

1. Observe the way Jesus treated women.
 - a. He came into a world that regarded women as servants or toys and He lifted them up to the heights of respect and reverence.**

- b. He scandalized His name and hastened His crucifixion by doing so, but He gladly paid the price for His chivalry.
- 2. You will not find any example of him speaking unkindly to a woman?**
- a. Even when He had to chide His mother, He did so with gentleness and respect.
 - b. He was kind to widows and rebuked those who neglected them.**
 - c. He commended the poor widow who gave all she had to the temple treasury and brought back to life the son of another grieving widow.
 - d. His heart even when out in sympathy to the women of the street, the prostitutes.**
 - 1) While others looked upon them with disgust and embarrassment, Jesus reached out and touched them.
 - 2) He said that such women would get into the kingdom of God before the religious people of His day.**
 - e. He took the time to speak to an outcast Samaritan woman who had had five husbands and was at that time with a live-in lover, because He saw in her a thirst for what was right and noble.
- 3. Jesus is the greatest defender of womanhood the world has never known.**
4. The mighty man of God imitates Jesus in His respect and consideration of women.
- a. A mighty man never takes advantage of his position of physical strength or leadership to mistreat a woman in anyway.**
 - b. Consideration means that we listen when women talk.

Personal Testimony - *“I learned a long time ago to listen to the women in my life and to seek their advice. The wise, intuitive insight I have received has saved me from many a mistake and guided me to victory countless times. Women often have insight that men lack, and we are fools not to give ear to them. My wife, is my wisest counselor and best critic. No one has helped me more to be the man God would have me to be. She complements me perfectly. We constantly exchange our views with one another. I would not dream of moving forward on matters great or small without seeking her wisdom. She is a gold mine of ideas.”*

D. A mighty man has love for children.

1. The mighty man imitates Jesus in His attitude of lovingkindness toward children.

a. Jesus cared about children and admired their innocence and purity.

b. When His disciples rebuked the crowds for bringing children to him, Jesus became indignant.

2. If you think you're too important or too busy for children, you are not a Christ like man and have disqualified yourself from being a mighty man of God.

3. Take the time to learn how to comfort, play with, and patiently teach a child.

a. You can tell great deal about men by the demeanor of the women and children in their lives.

1) If the women around them are radiantly happy and secure, those men have hearts of lovingkindness.

2) If their children are smiling and assured, if they look you confidently in the eye as they speak to you, then their fathers are loving men.

b. If, on the other hand, the women and children are sullen and walk beneath a cloud of gloom, worry and fear, in all likelihood there's something deeply wrong with the men in their lives.

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

Psalm 33:22 - “Let Thy lovingkindness, O LORD, be upon us, according as we have hoped in Thee.”

Joy

Ecc 8:15 - *"So I commend the enjoyment of life, because nothing is better for a man under the sun than to eat and drink and be glad. Then joy will accompany him in his work all the days of the life God has given him under the sun."*

I. **Joy!!!** I love the sound of the word, even the way it looks on a page.

A. It is the second fruit of the spirit, the overwhelming sentiment of heaven, the watchword of the early church, and the heart and soul of the gospel.

Luke 2:10 - *"But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people."*

B. Christianity ought to be a celebration.

1. When God touches a human life, it should blossom with song and happiness.

a. After the Israelites crossed the red sea, they broke out the tambourines and sang a song of thundering, joyful praise.

b. When David brought the ark into Jerusalem, he danced with all his might.

c. When Ezra and Nehemiah restored the temple, they banned sadness and crying, saying *"do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."* (**Nehemiah 8:10**)

d. When Isaiah looked forward to the coming of the new covenant, he described the life of God's children in these excellent words:

Isaiah 55:12 - *"You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands."*

2. Joy flowed around the life and ministry of Jesus.

a. So great was this joy around Jesus that people ran up to Him begging to join His movement.

b. Jesus was criticized for being too joyful.

1) He was accused of being a glutton and a drunkard.

2) He was not, but one thing we know: He found the joy of life that gluttons and drunkards seek in misguided ways.

3. We have reason to celebrate.

a. Our sins are forgiven.

b. We have the Holy Spirit within us to insure our place in heaven and to comfort and empower us until we get there.

c. We have the church, the glorious bride of Christ, the city set on a hill, as our family and dwelling place while we remain on this earth.

d. We have the Bible to guide us and prayer to sustain us.

e. We, above all people, should be overflowing with joy.

C. Men in God's Kingdom should lead the way in the celebration.

1. We should be mighty men of joy.

2. We should not be following along in the dust behind the women and children, cautioning them to not let things get out of hand.

3. We should be in the front of the procession, leading the way in joyful praises.

4. Let us not imitate the older brother in the parable of the prodigal son.

a. When his penitent brother came home and his jubilant father declared a feast of celebration, he angrily refused to join in.

b. Instead of being sour, sullen men, let's go inside and join the party.

D. We need to accept God's grace and love.

1. We have to trust that He has forgiven and forgotten our sins once and for all, taking them far from us.

Psalms 103:11-12 - "For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His lovingkindness toward those who fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us."

2. We need to rest upon the amazing declarations that God has spoke concerning us:

Psalm 147:11 - "The LORD delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love."

Deut 7:6 - *“For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession.”*

Deut 1:31 - *“There you saw how the LORD your God carried you, as a father carries his son, all the way you went until you reached this place.”*

2. I think that for many men who are not close to their fathers, who never had a father, who are the children of divorce parents, who were abused by their fathers or with some other male authority figure, this can be a very difficult matter.

a. These men may intellectually acknowledge that they are loved by God but find it difficult to enjoy God's love in a relational or emotional sense.

b. They may believe that God loves them, they just don't think He likes them very much.

c. They live under a sense of condemnation, under a cloud of gloom and with a feeling of worthlessness.

d. The only solution is to believe and embrace God's love for them.

E. We need to have this Joy despite the circumstances.

1. The hurts and injustices of life are real joy-stealers.

a. They come at you as young men and intensify as you get older.

b. If life has not yet weighed heavily upon you, it will.

c. Somewhere along the way, you will experience the sting of rejection, injustice, and disappointment.

d. You will confront the bitterness of failure and lost opportunity.

2. These kinds of defeats and frustrations hit men especially hard, and if we are not careful, they can weigh us down with hurt and bitterness.

3. In this area, the book of Ecclesiastes will help.

a. Solomon addresses life's difficulties and the anger, gloom and frustration that they can bring into our hearts.

- b. Studying Solomon's wisdom will help us to see that it is the nature of life in this world to have disappointments and failures and to experience unjust and unloving treatment.
- c. Our friends may let us down, and some of them may desert God's Kingdom.**
- d. Church leaders can fail.
 - 1) They can be harsh, uncaring and unthinking.**
 - 2) They may go about their business oblivious to our needs harming us by their sin and ignorance.
 - 3) If we're not spiritual in our mindset, these episodes can so disappoint and embitter us, that they rob us of the joy of life.**
- 4. Solomon tells us to look these events squarely in the face and rejoice and be glad anyway.
 - a. He teaches us that manhood is not about having life as we wish it, but about being strong and joyful in the face of life as it is.**
 - b. We are not promised that life will be just, but that God will be just.
 - c. Solomon reminds us that we too, are sinners and have inflicted pain on others.**
 - d. He tells us that God is working out a good plan in the midst of bad circumstances, even when we do not see how.
 - e. He declares that in the meantime we should have fun and be happy.**
 - f. Let us have the kind of example that will cause others as they observe us dealing with life's every day problems to have a spirit that sings.
 - g. Let us banish forever from our hearts the dull, sour and sullen spirit of a man who sighs and moans.**
 - h. Let those around us be inspired by our gladness.

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

Ecc1 8:15 - "So I commend the enjoyment of life, because nothing is better for a man under the sun than to eat and drink and be glad. Then joy will accompany him in his work all the days of the life God has given him under the sun."

Purity

1 Timothy 5:22 - "Do not share in the sins of others. Keep yourself pure."

I. Lord, please forgive me again for ...

"... Fantasizing about sexual involvement with that attractive woman."

"... Looking at those porno magazines."

"... Staring at that erotic music video."

"... Slipping repeatedly into masturbation."

A. Isolated cases? Hardly.

1. Yet that is just what the enemy would have us believe.

a. "Give up. You're the only one who has this problem."

b. This study, will expose the lies, surrounding lust.

B. Remaining sexually pure is one of the greatest challenges in a man's life.

1. A mighty man of God respects women and does not regard them as objects of his personal gratification.

a. A true man of God values his marriage and would do nothing to damage it.

b. A godly man values the respect and happiness of his children and desires to never do anything to shame them or to shame their mother.

c. He remembers that there are those who looked up to him, who count on him to be righteous.

2. A man of purity values his mind and will not allowed it to be defiled by thinking lustful thoughts.

a. He values his eyes and will not allow them to gaze upon that which is forbidden or which belongs to another.

b. He values his body and will not degrade it by engaging in sexual immorality.

3. Let us be men of strength and conviction. Let us not define our manhood according to the standards of the world, but by the standards of God's word.

II. Defining lust.

Matt 5:27-28 - *"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery'; but I say to you, that everyone who looks on a woman to lust for her has committed adultery with her already in his heart."*

A. What exactly is lust?

- 1. How do we know when we cross the line from innocent attraction to simple lust?**
2. We must learn to identify exactly what lust is, so that we can pick the right battles to fight.

B. First, let's discuss what lust is not.

1. We have not lusted just because we noticed that a woman is beautiful or attractive.
- 2. To be aware of a woman's appearance is a natural part of manhood and is not wrong.**
 - a. To attempt to avoid seeing women or to fail acknowledged that they are attractive is impossible and unnatural.
 - b. This is what some of the medieval monks tried to do.**

C. What then is lust?

1. Lust is desire.

- a. Lust occurs when innocent attraction escalates to the level of craving and arousal.
- b. It is looking at a woman with the intent to desire her.**
- c. The crucial question in is, then, with what intent are you looking? If you're looking to gratify some desire, you're lusting.
 - 1) This would include looking at sexually provocative printed materials, videos or movies.**
 - 2) It would include reading about sexual activity or talking about it (phone sex, flirtation, etc.).
 - 3) It would include viewing Internet pornography and involvement in sexually oriented chat rooms.**

- 4) It would include using your imagination to fantasize sexual activities or sexual images.
2. **Deception of lust - One of the best ways to conquer sexual in purity is by seeing its futility.**
 - a. No sin promises more and delivers less than sexual immorality.
 - b. It pledges excitement and pleasure, but gives misery and emptiness.**
 - c. It promises to fulfill our manhood, but destroys it instead.
 - d. It appeals to our pride, but covers us with shame.**
 - e. In the end, we hang our heads in defeat and agony.
 - f. After the moment of folly, we have a lifetime of regret.**

D. Avoiding impurity - in a word, "flee it."

1. Be open and accountable

Ephesians 5:13 - "But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light."

- a. One of the great ways to take the allure out of sexual temptation is by exposing it to righteous men.
 - b. Have other men in your life hold you accountable.**
 - c. Temptation flourishes in secret and in the darkness.
 - 1) **In these situations, its allure seems irresistible.**
 - 2) But when we expose it to the light, to the knowledge of righteous friends, its power is broken.
2. **Don't let it start.**
 - a. Quickly turn away when your eyes begin to lead you into sin.
 - b. Do not let yourself remain in a situation that will entice you to become aroused.**
 - c. The quicker you deal with lust, the less of a chance it has to take root.

- 1) **It is amazing how weak and pathetic lust appears when you stay far from it.**
 - 2) The less it is indulged, the more it is exposed for its foolishness and emptiness.
- 3. If you have succumbed to lust, do not hide it or put off confessing it.**
- a. The longer you hold in your sin, the greater the opportunity to repeat it.
 - b. The longer you delay, the more guilt and discouragement you will feel.**
 - c. One of the great tools Satan will use against us when we lust is that of discouragement.

III We need to discover the safeguard of walking in transparency and accountability within the security of God-given committed relationships.

There is an old cliché that says, "God helps those who help themselves."

Actually, just the opposite is true. "God helps those who admit they can't help themselves."

A. The basis of any relationship must be trust.

1. Trusting God with your successes isn't really a challenge.
 - a. The real test of trust is to be able to share your secrets, your failures, and your fears.**
 - b. True intimacy is based on honesty.

1 Cor 5:6-7 - "Your boasting is not good. Don't you know that a little yeast works through the whole batch of dough? Get rid of the old yeast that you may be a new batch without yeast-- as you really are."
2. We have nothing to fear, for our honesty with the Father doesn't reveal anything to Him that He doesn't already know.
- 3. He is the "All-seeing one" and He knows perfectly and completely what we are.**
 - a. Once we know this, than all attempts at silence or secrecy seems juvenile.
 - b. When we pray to Him who "see's all" we must have the kind of confidence and assurance that neither requires nor allows deceit.**

B. Let me make one thing very clear “Our God hates sin but He loves sinners.

- 1. We need to be aware of His holiness, which would condemn us and of His Love, which esteems and redeems us.**
2. His holiness will keep me from being arrogant and His love will keep me from being frightened.
- 3. God’s standards do not change but neither does his compassion.**

We are naked before Him in the same sense that a person sprawls naked on the operating table before a surgeon. The person is neither boastful nor embarrassed for he or she understands that his or her’s exposed condition is a necessity of their relationship. Whether the doctor finds good or evil, what is there, is there, and the person’s comfort lies in the conviction that the surgeon possesses the where-withal to restore order to any area that be in disarray.

C. The purity that attracts the presence of God come from allowing Him to perpetually flush away the corrosion that threatens to block the flow of His grace and mercy towards us.

1. The Greek word “Katheros” translated “Purity” is where we get our English word “catharize” which describes medical processes used to cleanse, flush, or release fluids from the body.
- 2. The “Pure” in heart are those who continually allow God to cleanse and flush their hearts with His grace and mercy.**
3. Our honesty will show Him what is clogging or hindering His flow of Life to us so He can clean us and keep us acceptable before Him in love.
 - a. He can’t purify what we keep in the secret corners of our hearts and minds.**
 - b. We need to seek the Lord who saved us, for the grace to keep us.
 - c. The blood of Christ just doesn’t reach backward into our past sins, but it also has power to reach forward into our on-going struggles.**
 - d. We need to understand that God is able to repair the broken places, but it requires us to expose where those broken places are.

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

1 Timothy 5:22 - "Do not share in the sins of others. Keep yourself pure."

Emotion

2 Corinthians 2:4 - *“For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote to you with many tears.”*

I. Most men are baffled and confused when it comes to their emotions.

“Jesus wept” - **John 11:35**

A. Men either do not feel deeply or will not let themselves to feel deeply.

1. **For men, emotion is the undesirable domain of women, children, and weak or effeminate men.**
2. When men say someone is “emotional” it is an ascription of weakness, shame and failure.
 - a. **Men with this belief pride themselves in being souls of pure, unalloyed logic and reason.**
 - b. They often have little identification with or use for those who live in the realm of feeling.

B. Consider the great men of the Bible.

1. They were emotional and passionate, they believed deeply, and they felt deeply.
 - a. **Moses, the fiery and fervent prophet who led the Hebrews out of slavery.**
 - b. David, Israel’s singer of songs, the one who danced naked with all his heart, who shed tears with his friend Jonathan when they parted company, and who pours out to God his confession of adultery.
 - c. Peter, who, *“**And Peter remembered the word which Jesus had said, ‘before a rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.’ And he went out and wept bitterly.**”* **Matthew 26:75.**
2. These are some of the greatest heroes in the Bible, and to a man, they were men who felt and expressed deep emotion.
 - a. **From their examples we can readily see that passion is not only a good quality but is an essential characteristic of the fully developed mighty man of God.**
 - b. It is a quality that we must both seek and possess.

- 3. As important as it is for us to become men of deeper feeling, we know that emotion and passion have another side that is dangerous and sinister.**
4. Unbridled, unrighteous emotion, has been the downfall of many a man.

C. What should be the role of emotion in the life of a man?

1. Emotion is “a mental condition of feeling, excitement or passion.” It involves the stirring of our sensibilities and can involve physiological changes such as laughter, tears or nervousness.
- 2. Emotion can be heightened by our physical condition (i.e., exhaustion) or by our environment (i.e., music, light/darkness, colors, weather).**
3. Emotion can be influenced by our body chemistry (i.e., drugs, hormones)

D. Is it best to be emotional or logical? Is there a time to heed one and ignore the other? Or is there a balance between the two for which we should always strive?

The best way to answer these questions is to consider the marriage relationship.

- 1. Love is the rational commitment I have made to my wife, to be faithful to her for life, in sickness and in health, for richer or poorer, until death separates us.**
2. It is a decision I honor regardless of my emotional state.
 - a. There have been times when I don't feel like giving, or when I would prefer to be selfish.**
 - b. But, I have made a decision to love my wife and I keep that promise regardless of my mood.
 - c. The man who bases his conduct in marriage solely upon emotion will be a unreliable and undependable spouse.**
 - d. He will be a good or bad husband according to his mood.
- 3. To complete my love for my wife, I must go beyond commitment and loyalty.**
 - a. It must include the emotions of warmth that I feel as we share our life together.
 - b. If my love is a love consisting only of duty, and I have little or no emotion within me, something is then missing from both my heart and my marriage.**
4. Godly love blends commitment with feeling.

- a. **The man who makes a commitment to be faithful to his wife, but does not combine it with a passionate, warm devotion to her, will find her becoming increasingly unhappy and emotionally starved.**
- b. Wives need men to do more than help provide for their physical and financial needs, they need emotional nurturing.
- c. **Wives need to know that we feel passionately about them, that our feelings for them are deep, exciting and romantic.**

II. How can we know when emotion is right or wrong?

A. Example of Moses.

- 1. When we act within God's commands and are motivated by a desire to uphold God's name and honor, then anger can be justified. (We will discuss this in the next lesson)
- 2. If we are acting out of frustration, resentment and personal hurt, we are wrong.**

B. Let's take a closer look at some emotions.

- 1. Fear is one of the most powerful and prevalent emotions that we all experience.**
 - a. It is motivated by a desire to protect ourselves or others from danger.
 - b. Fear of God is good.**
 - 1) Proverbs 1:7 - *"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom."*
 - 2) A healthy reverence for God and fear of His judgement can save our souls.**
 - c. But fear can also harm us.
 - 1) We can fear the opinions of men more than the judgement of God.**
 - 2) Fear of what might go wrong in the future can debilitate us and take away our joy in life.
 - 3) Fear confines a man to a life of small and limited influences.**
- 2. Anger when the rights of the weak are trampled upon by the strong is good. But anger is a dangerous emotion and must be carefully monitored.
 - a. **Ephesians 4:26 - In this scripture we are forbidden to let our anger get out of control and we are not allowed to let our anger go unresolved.**
 - 1) Anger can show itself in sinful sarcasm, ridicule, and cutting remarks.
 - 2) It can reveal itself in withdrawal from others.**

- b. A man who gives into outbursts of anger, destroys his closest relationships.
 - 1) **The man who loses his temper usually does not realize the damage he is doing.**
 - 2) His caustic words and violent behaviors can do physical and emotional damage that can hardly be repaired.
 - c. Other men carry their anger more discreetly. They would never think of blowing up, but they are deeply angry nonetheless.
 - 1) **Theirs is the anger of brooding and bitterness.**
 - 2) Such men hold grudges.
 - 3) **When they are hurt, they do not forgive, when they are offended they do not reconcile.**
 - 4) These men become depressed. It is my observation that perpetually depressed men are usually angry men.
- 3. Guilt is the inner feeling of condemnation by our conscience, the sense of self-judgement, that renders a verdict of disapproval on our actions.**
- a. In spite of the discomfort they bring us, our guilty feelings serve a good purpose.
 - 1) **Without a sensitive conscience, we would not feel a sense of God's disapproval when we sin against Him.**
 - 2) Without a tender conscience that brings conviction to our souls, we cannot be saved.
 - b. **Like anger, guilt is an emotion that needs spiritual discipline.**
 - 1) We can have an over sensitive conscience that unjustly condemns us.
 - 2) **We can feel terrible guilt over legalistic matters that are not very important to God.**
 - 3) We can continue to feel guilty for sins for which God has forgiven us.
 - c. **Our consciences are God given instruments, but they must be educated.**

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

2 Corinthians 2:4 - *“For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote to you with many tears.”*

Being Angry

Mark 3:5 - *“After looking around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart.”*

I. In this lesson I want to look at the “Anger of Jesus.” If we are to become mighty men of God then we need to learn how be angry and yet not sin.

A. The best way to accomplish this is see how our Lord handled and channeled the anger He felt at different times.

1. There are certain moods and feelings which we are reluctant to ascribe to Jesus, anger seems so human.
2. **Anger is associated in our mind with infirmity. Much of our own anger has been worldly.**
 - a. Our anger is frequently a manifestation of our selfishness. We become indignant over trifles.

What makes you mad?

- Driving in the middle of the road - Campers, yielders and mergers.
- **People don't return phone calls.** - **People ignore us.**
- People misunderstand us. - We are overlooked in some function.
- **A person drives too slow.** - **Somebody keeps us waiting.**

How do we respond when:

- **Our comfort has been blasted** - **Our rights have been entrenched upon**
- Our dignity is being affronted - And we are downright mad.

B. But in the presence of gigantic outrages perpetrated on the helpless and the weak, some of us are as calm as a summer morning.

1. Evil men do not make us angry unless they interfere with our own personal affairs.
2. **If we failed to burn in the presence of cruelty and injustice, it is because the higher faculties of the soul have become dulled by sin.**
 - a. If wood does not burn, it is because it is green or rotten.
 - b. **If hearts do not burn with holy fire against wicked men in their wicked deeds, it is because the heart is too undeveloped to feel what hearts were meant to feel.**

- c. Or because the core of the heart has been eaten out by the base practices of a Godless life.

II. Our indignation, then, is quite different from that of Jesus. His anger never had its roots in selfishness.

- **When men abused him, he was unruffled. (Matthew 13 & 14)**
- When they lied about him, his pulse was not quickened.
- **When they nailed his hands to the cross, no trace of anger darkened his face.**
- When the Samaritans didn't receive Him
- **Disciples arguing over who is the greatest**
- Judas betraying with a kiss
- **Beaten and made fun of.**

A. But the new Testament writers did not hesitate to inform us that Jesus sometimes blazed with anger.

1. The blast of his scorn was so hot that it frightened and scorched those on whom it fell. **Matthew 23 & the fig tree.**
- 2 **Romans 11:22 - “Behold then the kindness (gentleness) and severity (roughness) of God.” (NAS)**
3. Here, then, we have in Jesus what seems to some, a contradiction.
 - **He is a lamb, and at the same time He is the lion of the tribe of Judah.**
 - He caresses like the mother, and He also strikes like a thunder bolt.
 - **He is tender, but He is also terrible.**
 - He is loving, but He also smites with a blow that crushes.
 - **Jesus wears a sovereign crown but bears a Father's heart.**

B. What made Jesus Mad? Inhumanity, insincerity, and unforgiveness,

1. **Inhumanity, when He saw men, ordained religious leaders of the people, more interested in their petty regulations than in the welfare of their fellow man.**
 - more concerned about the standard than people
 - **more concerned about preserving their lives than in sowing their lives**
 - using their religion to insulate themselves from the world instead of impacting it.

a. **It was when He saw His creation abused that His great soul rose in wrath.**

b. The more helpless the person who was mistreated, the hotter was the fire of His indignation.

- Against rich people who imposed upon the poor.

- **Against clever people who took advantage of the ignorant.**

- Against strong people who mistreated the weak.

- **Against crafty people who laid traps for the innocent.**

c. God wants us to get the message He has a peculiar passion for the forgotten.

- **What society puts out, God puts in. What the world writes off, God picks up.**

- God is more concerned with the right heart than He is with the right ritual.

- **The right heart with a wrong ritual is better than the wrong heart with the right ritual**

2. Insincerity, He was angered by the desecration of the Temple.

a. **The people who cared nothing for prayers and everything for money.**

b. It is disappointing when you think someone is interested in you, only to find they are interested in your money.

- **When salespeople do it, it's irritating.**

- But when people of faith do it, it can be devastating.

- **It's a sad but true fact of the faith, religion is used for profit and prestige.**

- When it is, there are two results, people are exploited and God is infuriated.

3. Unforgiveness, in the face of forgiveness, made Jesus angry. Matthew 18

C. In Jesus, then, we see what a normal man is and feels.

1. He will not admit that in the garden of the heart there are any plants which the heavenly Father has planted which ought to be rooted up.

- a. All the impulses, desires and passions with which the All-Mighty has endowed us With, have a mission to perform.
 - b. And life's task is not to strangle them, but to train them for there work.**
2. Jesus was angry, but He did not sin. **Ephesians 4:26-27**, satan can use your anger or God can.
 - a. Anger, because of its heat, readily passes beyond its appointed limits.
 - b. Like all kinds of fire, it is dangerous and difficult to control.**
 - c. But Jesus controled it, He said, "thus far, and no further." His wrath was the hottest ever known upon our earth, but the heart in which it burned was sinless.
 - d. By His spirit He will also help us to control it, if we are angry at the right things.**
 3. Indifference to wrongdoing is always a sign of moral deterioration.
 - a. If we do not flame against villainy, it is because there is still much of the villain in ourselves.**
 - b. The healthy soul resents and resists every form of wrong.
 - 4. Nothing is more needed in our day then an enlarged capacity for moral indignation.**
 - a. Nothing so clears the atmosphere as the heat of hearts heated by holy anger.
 - b. Evil will flourish as long as good men do nothing.**
 - c. Society would be cleansed of much of its pollution if we had more men and women capable of becoming genuinely angry.

Let us pray, then, everyday that a new indignation may sweep through the world. It is the devils trick to keep good men from becoming angry. Not only are we permitted as Christians to be angry, but it is our duty. And it is the only way that we will truly become mighty men of God.

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

Mark 3:5 - "After looking around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart."

DEVELOPING POISE

Ecclesiastes 7:16-18 - *“Do not be overrighteous, neither be overwise-- why destroy yourself? Do not be overwicked, and do not be a fool-- why die before your time? It is good to grasp the one and not let go of the other. The man who fears God will avoid all [extremes].”* (NIV)

- I. In order to become a mighty man of God we need to develop poise. By poise, I mean the fine balance of a man's character, the equilibrium of his nature.

Websters dictionary defines poise as “balance; equilibrium; the regulating power of that which balances.”

In order to accomplish this I would like to look at the poise that our Lord demonstrated while He was on earth. For He is our example

A. Jesus poise is best seen in the way He balanced His godly nature with His human nature. John 19:5 - Mark 15:39

1. This equilibrium is due first of all to a certain balance of character. How rarely do we find well balanced men.
 - a. **The average man is one-sided, unsymmetrical, unevenly developed. We are over developed on one side of our nature and underdeveloped on the other.**
 - b. If we are strong in certain characteristics, we're practically certain to be weak in the opposite characteristics.
2. **But when we come to Jesus, we find ourselves in the presence of a man without a flaw.**

- a. He was enthusiastic, but He never became fanatical.

He was emotional, but He never became hysterical.

He was imaginative, but He was never flighty.

He was practical, but He was never dull.

He was courageous, but He was never reckless.

He was prudent, but He was never a coward.

He was unique, but He was not eccentric.

He was sympathetic, but He was never sentimental.

He was pious, but He was not sanctimonious.

- b. **Great streams of sympathy flowed from His tender heart toward those who needed sympathy. But at the same time streams of lava flowed from the same heart to scorch and overwhelm the workers of iniquity.**

c. He had in Him all the virtues, and not one of them was over-grown.

He exhibited all the graces, and everyone of them was in perfect bloom.

He stands in history as the one-man beautiful, symmetrical, absolutely perfect.

3. It also is noteworthy, that not one of the enemies of Jesus was able, by unfairness or falsehood, to push Jesus into a hasty word or unrighteous mood.

a. Most men are so poorly balanced that you can push them with very little pressure into sinful speech or an un-Christian disposition.

b. If something can get your goat all that proves is that you have a goat that be got. (John 14:30 - Jesus didn't have a goat)

4. There is a grace about Him which does not fade.

There is a sanity about Him which compels respect.

There is a charm about Him which woos and wins the heart.

B. Nowhere is this poise tested more than in the emotions of love and anger. Mark 3:1-6

- His holiness demands that sin be punished.
- **His mercy demands that the sinner be loved**
- Ponder the achievement of God
- **He doesn't condone our sin; nor does He compromise His standard**
- He doesn't ignore our rebellion; nor does He relax His demands
- **Rather than dismiss our sin, He assumes our sin and, incredible, sentences Himself**
- God's holiness is honored - Our sin is punished - And we are redeemed

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

Ecclesiastes 7:16-18 - "Do not be overrighteous, neither be overwise-- why destroy yourself? Do not be overwicked, and do not be a fool-- why die before your time? It is good to grasp the one and not let go of the other. The man who fears God will avoid all [extremes]." (NIV)

Friendship

Proverbs 17:17 - *“A friend loves at all times, And a brother is born for adversity.”*

I. Is not life all about relationships? A man’s life can be measured by the quality and numbers of his friends.

A. Men need deep friendships, because God make us that way.

Proverbs 18:24 - *“A man of too many friends comes to ruin, But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.”*

1. Many men want only shallow relationships.
2. **True Friendship means that someone knows us.**
 - a. They know what we think.
 - b. They know what we feel.**
 - c. They know who we really are.

B. Why do we need friends?

1. We need friends to strengthen us.

1 Samuel 23:16 - *“And Saul's son Jonathan went to David at Horesh and helped him find strength in God.”*

Ecc 4:9-10 - *“Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor. For if either of them falls, the one will lift up his companion. But woe to the one who falls when there is not another to lift him up.”*

2. We need friends to comfort us.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 - *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort; who comforts us in all our affliction so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God”*

3. We need friends to advise us.

Proverbs 27:9 - *“Oil and perfume make the heart glad, So a man's counsel is sweet to his friend”*

Proverbs 11:14 - *“Where there is no guidance the people fall, But in abundance of counselors there is victory.”*

Proverbs 15:22 - *“Without consultation, plans are frustrated, but with many counselors they succeed.”*

Proverbs 24:6 - *“For by wise guidance you will wage war, And in abundance of counselors there is victory.”*

4. We need friends to correct and rebuke us.

Proverbs 27:6 - *“Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.”*

Job 5:17-18 - *17 "Behold, how happy is the man whom God reprove, So do not despise the discipline of the Almighty. "For He inflicts pain, and gives relief; He wounds, and His hands also heal.”*

Psalms 141:5 - *“Let the righteous smite me in kindness and reprove me; It is oil upon the head; Do not let my head refuse it, For still my prayer is against their wicked deeds.”*

Proverbs 12:1 - *“Whoso loveth instruction loveth knowledge: but he that hateth reproof is brutish.”*

Psalms 32:9 - *“Do not be as the horse or as the mule which have no understanding, Whose trappings include bit and bridle to hold them in check, otherwise they will not come near to you.”*

Proverbs 27:17 - *“Iron sharpens iron, So one man sharpens another.”*

Ephesians 4:15 - *“but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ.”*

- a. Your best friends must tell you the truth, even when it is hard for you to take it.
- b. It takes a mighty man to tell his friend, he is in sin or that he is in the wrong, even at the risk of losing the friendship, it must be done.

Proverbs 28:23 - *“He who rebukes a man will afterward find more favor Than he who flatters with the tongue.”*

C. The marks of Friendship

1. True Friendship requires honesty.

1 Corinthians 5:6-8 - *“Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump of dough? Clean out the old leaven so that you may be a new lump, just as you are in fact unleavened. For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed. Therefore let us celebrate the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.”*

2 Timothy 3:13 - *“But evil men and impostors will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.”*

1 John 1:7 - *“but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.”*

Ephesians 5:11-13 - *“Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them; for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret. But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light.”*

2. True friendship requires devotion.

a. Devotion means that we stick with someone for the long haul, that we are faithful friends for a lifetime.

b. To have devoted friends, you must be a devoted friend.

c. Even the best of friendships are not perfect.

1) Devotion is the quality of hanging with a friend when you learn the worst about them and when you see them sin, fail or make mistakes.

2) It is the quality that continues to love and to desire closeness even when the other man has hurt you, let you down, or disappointed you.

3) If you withdraw from your friends whenever they hurt you, then you will never have them as friends. You must work through such conflicts with honesty, love, and patience, knowing that the reward of a deeper and truer friendship awaits you.

d. Friendship is a gift another person gives you, treat it accordingly.

3. True friendship requires expression.

a. You need to express your feelings of admiration, respect, and love for your friend.

b. As men we are often leery of telling another man how much we care for him.

Romans 12:10 - *“Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor.”*

4. True Friendship requires Generosity.

a. If you want friends, give. First and foremost, give of yourself, then give gifts.

b. Friends cannot be purchased by gifts or money, but there is no friendship without generosity.

c. Stingy, thoughtless men do not have friends.

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

Proverbs 17:17 - *“A friend loves at all times, And a brother is born for adversity.”*

Evangelism

Hebrews 10:32-34 - *“But remember the former days, when, after being enlightened, you endured a great conflict of sufferings, partly, by being made a public spectacle through reproaches and tribulations, and partly by becoming sharers with those who were so treated. For you showed sympathy to the prisoners, and accepted joyfully the seizure of your property, knowing that you have for yourselves a better possession and an abiding one.”*

I. In order to become a mighty man of God you need to become effective in evangelism. Whether we do or is determined by the burden that God wants to give you.

A. **Verse 32** “*after being enlighten*” (BURDEN)

1. The Greek word translated “*enlighten*” is “*photizo*” which means “to have been given a light which now enables you to see.”

a. **It comes from the root word “*phos*” which is defined as “*a fire or a light*” or the best way to translate it is, “*a light that is produced by a fire.*”**

b. It means to allow the Lord to start a fire in your heart which will then produce some light for your life.

1) **The fire will produce a light that will enable you to see something that you never saw before, it will “*enlighten*” you.**

2) The combination of the fire burning and the light shining will bring a “*burden*” to your soul.

2. **The first time we find this root word “*phos*” is in Matthew 5:14-16.**

a. In verse 16 it says to let “*your light shine*” implying that you were given your own personal light.

b. **The implication is that God has started a fire in your heart which now produces a light that is to shine in some aspect of darkness.**

c. The fire in your heart is the light of your life.

d. **Light was meant to shine in darkness.**

1) Darkness is confining.

2) **Darkness will restrict mobility.**

3) Darkness will blind you.

3. There is some darkness out there that God uniquely created you for.

- a. Genesis 1:2-3 - The Spirit in you will lead you to some aspect of darkness, he will then hover over it and if you are willing He will set your heart on fire and then declare, *“let there be light.”*
- 1) **The word hover or moved upon, means to “draw close.”**
 - 2) The Spirit still hovers or draws close to the darkness, but he does it through us.
 - 3) **You need to allow the Spirit to draw you close to some aspect of darkness, with the hope, that He will then enlighten you, by saying “let there be light.”**
 - 4) It may be the darkness of the mission field, of prison ministry, of counseling the wounded, of visiting the sick, of feeding the hungry, or clothing the poor.
- b. Isaiah 9:2 - *“The people who walk in darkness Will see a great light; Those who live in a dark land (because you went), The light will shine on them.”*
- 1) What dark land will you allow the Spirit to draw you close to.
 - 2) **When you do, this next scripture will happen.**
- c. Isaiah 60:1-3 - *“Arise, shine; for your light has come, And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For behold, darkness will cover the earth, And deep darkness the peoples; But the Lord will rise upon you, And His glory will appear upon you. And nations will come to your light, And kings to the brightness of your rising.”*

4. God enlightens us (burdens us), by setting a torch to our soul.

- He gave Jeremiah a fire for hard hearts.
- **He gave Nehemiah a fire for a forgotten city.**
- He gave Abraham a fire for a land he had never seen.
- **He gave Moses a fire for deliverance of his kinsmen.**
- He gave Paul a fire for the lost state of the gentiles.

5. He gave me (Jim Newsom) a fire for people on drugs and alcohol, prisoners, and Christians. These are my dark lands.

- My light shines in the darkness of addictions.
- **My light shines in the darkness of incarceration.**
- My light shines in the darkness of lukewarmness and ineffectiveness within the church.
- I have no light for counseling, physical sickness, or worship.
- **The reason I have no light is because I have no fire. (WHICH IS OK)**
- Instead of crying about faith you don't have, start using the faith you do have.

6. What is the fire that consumes you, that enlightens you, that burdens you?

- Is it forgotten orphans?
- **Is it the plight of the unborn?**
- Is it untouched nations?
- **Is it the inner city?**
- Is it the sick?
- **Is it the confused?**

If you don't have a fire its because you haven't allowed the Spirit to draw you close to some aspect of darkness

7. Together we light the whole world, but individually we light our world.

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

Hebrews 10:32-34 - *“But remember the former days, when, after being enlightened, you endured a great conflict of sufferings, partly, by being made a public spectacle through reproaches and tribulations, and partly by becoming sharers with those who were so treated. For you showed sympathy to the prisoners, and accepted joyfully the seizure of your property, knowing that you have for yourselves a better possession and an abiding one.”*

Endurance

Hebrews 10:32-34 - *“But remember the former days, when, after being enlightened, you endured a great conflict of sufferings, partly, by being made a public spectacle through reproaches and tribulations, and partly by becoming sharers with those who were so treated. For you showed sympathy to the prisoners, and accepted joyfully the seizure of your property, knowing that you have for yourselves a better possession and an abiding one.”*

I. Ultimately the only way you can become a mighty man of God, is if you learn how to endure.

A. **Verse 32** - *“endured a great conflict of sufferings”* (GOD-GOVERNED BATTLE)

After Being enlightened you will always have to endure a conflict.

1. **One translation says “you weren’t defeated by the struggle.”**

2. The fire will always bring a fight, the burden will always bring a battle.

a. **The light that shines in darkness will also show up darkness.**

b. Sinners and Satan will be drawn to the light. Sinners to be healed by it, Satan to try and put it out.

3. **But, “don’t be defeated by the struggle” for God will use the fight to make you fit and He will use the battle to make you better.**

a. 1 Corinthians 16:9 - *“for a wide door for effective service has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.”*

b. 1 Thess 2:18 - *“Therefore we wanted to come to you--even I, Paul, time and again--but Satan hindered us.”*

4. **Verse 33** tells us the make up of the battle.

a. *“Partly”* half of the battle is comprised of what is happening to us:

1) **Being a spectacle - Battling yourself (fears, inferiority, inadequacies).**

2) **Reproaches - Battling others (misunderstandings, tradition insecurities).**

3) **Tribulations - Battling circumstances (sickness, delays, breakdowns, hardships).**

b. *“Partly”* the other half of the battle is comprised of what is happening to others: *“we share in with those who are being so treated”*

- B. The enemy does everything he can to get us to lose **“our will to war.”**
1. **Exod 13:17-18** - *“God did not lead them through the land of the Philistines, although that was the most direct route from Egypt to the Promised Land. The reason was that God felt The people might become discouraged by having to fight their way through, even though they had left Egypt armed; he thought they might return to Egypt. Instead, God led them along a route through the Red Sea wilderness.”* (TLB)
 2. They were armed and equipped for battle, but they weren’t ready for battle.
(*We armed with songs, prayers, training, scriptures, seminars, conferences, etc*)
 - a. God knew if they actually faced battle they would change their mind and go back.
 - b. They would have preferred bondage over battle.**
 3. **Numbers 13:27-33** - tells us of the time when God did lead them up to battle.
 - a. They came to the edge, saw the giants, and drew back.**
 - b. They had “poor I sight,” the way you see yourself is the way the enemy sees you.
 - c. They made a decision to retreat, they changed their mind.**
 - d. Once they did they began a long, unnecessary trip, to nowhere.
 4. **Numbers 33** details this. If you look at the meaning of the names of the places they traveled to, you may find a few you are familiar with.
 - a. Marah = bitter
 - b. Sinai = thorny**
 - c. Kibroth-hataavah = graves of lust.
 - d. Rissah = ruin**
 - e. Haradah = fear
 - f. Tarah = delay**
 - g. Moseroth = bondage
 - h. Zalmonah = shady**
 - i. Punon = darkness
 5. **Some of the other places that God led them to meant; health, beauty, sweetness, prosperity, pleasantness, and holy.**
 6. Other places mean’t nothing, they were neither good or bad, just a place.
 7. **The wilderness is where you are led into different things, some good and some bad.**

- a. You stay longer in the bad than you want to.
- b. You leave quicker from the good than you care to.**
- c. But mostly you just exist.

8. You know you are in the wilderness, when you don't stay in any one place too long.

- a. You visit instead of reside.
- b. You wander around the promises, but you don't inherit them.**
- c. You are going to battle either way.

- 1) **You either go into the land and battle for a promise.**
- 2) Or you stay in the wilderness and battle to either stay in a good place or battle to get out of a bad place.

9. If God can't lead you into war, He will lead you into the wilderness.

- a. If you are presently in a wilderness and are baking.
- b. It's because you refused to go into a war and battle.**
- c. You need to fight your way through to a:

- consistent prayer life
- **Bible reading life**
- tithing
- **church attendance**
- fruitfulness
- **gifting**

- d. The choice is either to war or to wander.

10. The wilderness is designed to eventually give you the "will to war."

- a. We need to develop a "battle cry" instead of "crying in battle."
- b. Casual Christians will become Christian Casualties.**

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

Hebrews 10:32-34 - "But remember the former days, when, after being enlightened, you endured a great conflict of sufferings, partly, by being made a public spectacle through reproaches and tribulations, and partly by becoming sharers with those who were so treated. For you showed sympathy to the prisoners, and accepted joyfully the seizure of your property, knowing that you have for yourselves a better possession and an abiding one."