

A Vision for Disciplemaking
Key Men's Conference

February 20-23, 2003

Lordship: Warriors at Heart
Doug Monson

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Introduction

Deut 10:12-13: Now Israel, what does the Lord your God require from you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways and love Him, and to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the Lord's commandments and His statutes, which I am commanding you today for your good. In order to honor Jesus as Lord of our life, we need to understand who we are, who God made us to be and the desires He gave us. We also need to understand how we can reconcile those wild desires with how we live in our modern society.

Who am I? Who did God make me to be?

Gen 1:26, 27

Gen 2:7, 8

So here's a question to think about as we proceed: What stirs your heart? What really makes you come alive?

Battle to Fight

Exodus I 5:3

Isaiah 27:1

Judges 6:1 I-12

Judges I 1:1

I Sam 16:18

Adventure to Live

Do not fear ... Do not be afraid: Commanded over 110 times in Scripture.
Be strong ... be courageous ... Take courage: Commanded over 70 times in Scripture.

Gen 15:1

Josh 1:9

Beauty to Rescue

A man wants to be the hero FOR a beauty. It's not enough to be a hero; we need to be the hero to someone's speck. Neh 4:14 Women long to be rescued, too!

The Question That Haunts Every Man (Our Fear)

This is every man's deepest fear. to be exposed, to be found out, and to be discovered as an impostor or poser, and not really a man. He knows he is made to succeed, come through. Yet he wonders ... Can I? Will I? Honestly, how would you describe yourself as a man? Would you use words like **strong, dangerous or passionate?** Gen 3:6

Part of our "original sin" problem is passivity. Gen 3:9-10

We're afraid ... and many of us are wounded.

The Wound

Men today have a wide variety of wounds. They usually are one or more of the following: The absent-father wound

The overly-bonded-with-mother wound

The disconnected-from-other-men-and-mentors wound

The depravity wound

Bible Study: Men's Fraternity - A Quest For Authentic Manhood by Dr. Robert Lewis

www.FellowshipAssociates.com/mensfraternity.htm

Book: The Blessing, by Gar, Smalley and John Trent

These wounds - especially the father wound - indicate that fathers bestow masculinity to their sons and many men don't think or feel that they received it from their dad. Luke 3:21, 22

Masculinity is an essence that is difficult to express but that a boy naturally craves and that is passed from man to man. DEFINITION: A Biblically authentic, masculine man is one who **rejects passivity, accepts responsibility, leads courageously and expects to receive the greater reward!**

We were born into a world war! An unseen battle is going on around us and the wounds we've received are intentional! You have been under attack!

Healing the Wound

Facing the Absent Father Wound - Sac proactive remedies:

Suggestions for healing the Overly Bonded with Mother Wound:

Proactive approaches for handling the Disconnected from Other Men or Mentors Wound:

Dealing with the Depravity Wound

Seek the Father's voice. There comes a time when we have to leave all that is familiar and go into the unknown with God. We need to know our name!

Rev 2: I 7

Gen 17:5

Gen 32:28

Matt 16:17-18

The promise of our name on the white stone means affirmation and commission. We receive our name from him through close fellowship and intimacy with Him.

Jeremiah 29:13

Heb 12:5-6

Sometimes His discipline means facing our fears head on and going through our initiation with Him.

Psalm 139:1- I 2

We must get our masculinity from Him. Only in Him will we find healing of our wound.

II Cor 5:17, Gal 2:20

Therein lies the validation that I seek. I am His beloved son and He is pleased with me! True masculinity is spiritual! Out of our wound comes our glory.

The Battle

"Every man is a warrior inside, but the choice to fight is his own!" - Blaine Eldredge

Ezekiel 22:30

2 Tim 2:1-4

We're at war! Our mission is to train up other men to be warriors and rescue those whom Satan is holding captive. That's what Jesus meant when he gave Peter his name and his commission.

Matt 16:18

We're commissioned by Christ to be releasing the captives and training them to be warriors to fight with us! We're knights sent to fight the dragon! What dragon? Do any dragons still exist?

Rev 12: 1-9, 10-11, 12:17

That's our battle! As fort of Christ's army, you march in the ranks of gallant spirits. Every one of your fellow soldiers is a child of the King.

I John 2:14

Job 1:7

I Peter 5:8-9

2 Cor 10:3-5

Prov 4:23

I Cor 6:18

James 4:7

Jeremiah 20:11

That's how Jesus won His confrontations) with Satan. God was with Him ... and He is with us as well.

So what should we do? What are our orders from our commanding officer?

Matt 28: 19-20

The Weapons of War

Disciplines of our faith

2 Tim 1:7

Heb 12:4-11

God's Word

2 Tim 3: 16- 17

Heb 4:12

Prayer

Mark 1:35

John 15:7

Phil 4:6-7

Armor of God

Eph 6: 10-18

Fellowship with other Warriors

Ecc 4:9-10

God's Word in our Hearts

Ps 119:9-11

Deut 6:6-9

2 Tim 2:15

Obedience

John 14:21

James 1:21-25

"If I do not DO what I KNOW then I do not KNOW what I'm DOING!"

Rescuing the Beauty

She might be a common servant girl or the daughter of a king but we know she is a princess at heart. Only a champion may win her, only the most valiant, daring and brave warrior has a chance of setting her free.

The truth about David and Goliath! I Sam 17:17-32

I Sam 16:11,12

I Sam 16:18

I Sam 17:42

The point is that we men will face danger, overcome incredible odds and charge into battle when we are motivated by the beauty that God gives us. She needs a lover and a warrior!

MESSAGE TO SINGLE MEN:

MESSAGE TO MARRIED MEN:

So, will you fight for and rescue her? How will you fight?

Will you pray for her? What will you pray?

Will you learn what bonds there are that are holding her captive and pray for wisdom to cut them free?

Eph 5:25-30

The Adventure

I want my whole life to be an adventure of reckless abandon to and for God.

Questions:

- ***What makes you come alive? (Don't ask what the world needs. The world needs men who have come alive!)***
- ***If you had permission to do what you really wanted to do, what would you do?***

Get alone with God and know for sure. There are no formulas with God, so there are no formulas for the man who follows him. (Consider the lives of Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, Gideon, Peter, Paul and Jesus.)

Obey God in the thing He shows you, and instantly the next thing is opened up. God will never reveal more truth about Himself until you have obeyed what you know already. This brings out the delight of real friendship with God. - Oswald Chambers

Matt 4:19-20: And He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." Immediately they left their nets and followed Him.

Col 3:1-2: Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.

Josh 24:14-15: Now, therefore, fear the LORD and serve Him in sincerity and truth; and put away the gods which your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. "If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

After praying and asking myself, "What makes me come alive?" I believe God wants me to:

Many of the concepts and ideas of this workshop come from the book "Wild at Heart by - John Eldred". www.ronsomedheart.com Through this masterpiece of teaching; the Lord has helped me realize and understand the passion that was buried in my heart and the freedom to release it. I strongly recommend acquiring this book and working through it on your own ... or with a few other men. The world needs men who are warriors at heart and I will gladly join you in the battle!

DEVOTION JOURNAL

Date: ___/___/___ All I read today: _____
Best verse God spoke to me today: _____
Paraphrase: _____

What is God telling me personally? _____

My response back to God: _____

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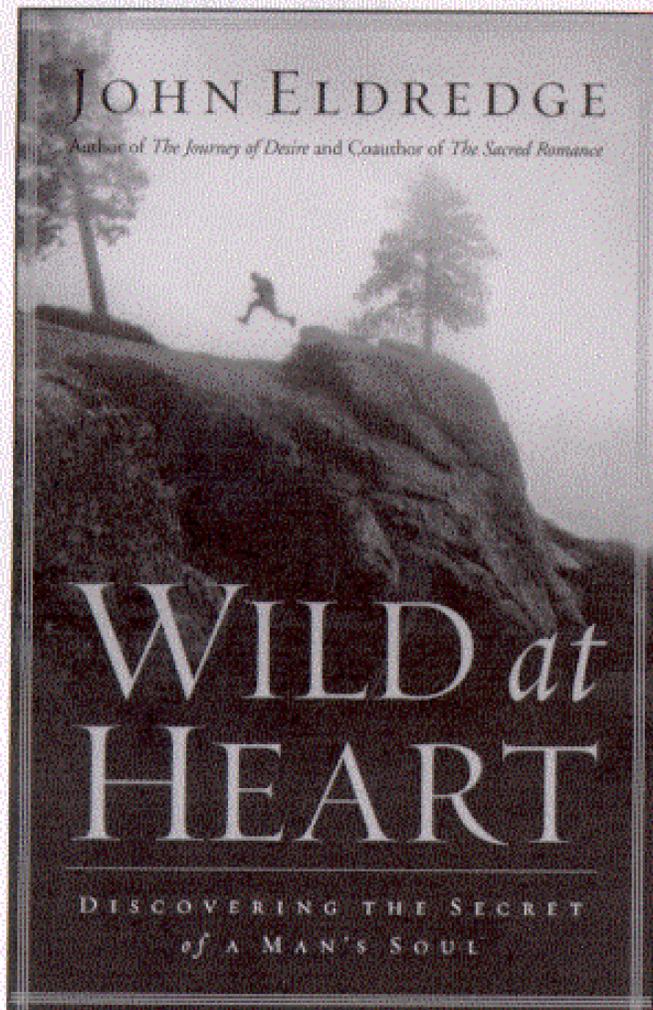
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Sermons Prepared By
Ken Clayton

Healing Wound *John 15:1-11*

THEME: When our wound is brought to the Lord, it is healed.

INTRODUCTION: *Guys are embarrassed by their emptiness and woundedness; it is for most of us a tremendous source of shame. Ours is supposed to be a desperately dependent existence upon the Lord. As Jesus said in John 15, it's like a vine and its branches. We are the branches; He is the vine. It is from Jesus we draw our lives. "For without me you can do nothing." (John 15:5) He is not berating us or saying with a sigh, "I wish they'd pull it together and stop needing me so much." (p.121)*

We are made to depend upon God; we are made for union with Him and nothing about us works right without it.

This is where our sin and our culture keep us in bondage and brokenness, to prevent the healing of our wound. Our sin wants us to be independent; to depend on no one, even God. Culture presents "real men" like John Wayne or James Bond who are "loners," who don't need anyone.

ILLUSTRATION: *Jesus was a man who took on hypocrites, got in their faces; the one who drove out the moneychangers with a whip of chords and overturned their tables. He was the master of wind and sea, of disease and death, yet He lived in dependence upon His heavenly Father, "...the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner." (John 5:19) "Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me..." (John 14:11) "I and my Father are one." (John 10:30) "As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me." (John 6:57)*

TRANSITION: *Why is this so important:*

I. A Man Must Enter His Wound

A. Many men have a deep misunderstanding of Christianity. They look at it as a "second chance" to get their act together. They have been forgiven and now they want to get on with the program. They are trying to finish the marathon with a broken leg. The true essence of our strength is passed to us from God through our union with Him.

David was a man's man, a warrior, but listen how he describes his relationship to God in the Psalm 59:9-10, "O You his Strength, I will wait for you. For God is my defense, my merciful God shall come to meet me..." God feels compassion for our wound.

B. Men often deal with their wound by hiding it. We bury it deep and never take it out again. But we must take it out. One way it often comes out is in anger.

Exploring your anger may lead to fear that is hidden-fears of failure, fear of being alone in the world. God uses events in our lives to reveal the source of our pain. Our false self, our "lifestyle" is an elaborate defense against entering our wounded heart.

But what if we are ignorant of our real wound? A wound unfelt is a wound unhealed. We must go in.

TRANSITION: We must pray a simple prayer: "Jesus, take me into my wound." Jesus said, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock." (Rev. 3:20)

II. Healing The Wound

A. There are no formulas with God. If you think you could have followed Christ around and learned how to heal the blind, you are probably wrong. He never did it the same way. One time He spat on the man, another time Jesus spat on the ground, made mud, and applied it to the man's eyes. Another time He just spoke, another time He touched a man's eyes and another time He expelled a demon. The way God heals our wounds is a deeply personal process. It may come through a revelation from the Lord or His provision of a faithful friend.

B. The first step is surrender. Although God deals with us individually, there are some common themes. It begins with surrender. We yield our lives to the One who is our life.

C. The second step is to invite Christ into the wound. We ask him to come and meet us there, to enter the broken and unhealed places of our heart.

D. The third step is redemption. This means more than forgiveness. It is more than not holding it against you. He will come to heal your fear. When Jesus read the Scripture in His hometown synagogue, He declared it was His mission: "...the Lord has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound." (Isaiah 61:1-2) He will come to heal, release, and unbind you.

E. We must grieve the wound. I was not your fault and it did matter. The honest thing to do is grieve the wound; tears are deeply healing. Grief is a form of validation; it says the wound mattered.

F. We must let God love us. It is difficult for men to let themselves be loved by God. We want to be in control. "Abiding in the love of God is our only hope, the true home for our hearts." (p.130)

G. The last step in the healing process is we must forgive our fathers. Paul warns us that unforgiveness and bitterness can wreck our lives and the lives of others.

(Eph. 4:31, Heb. 12:15) "Forgiveness is setting the prisoner free and then discovering the prisoner is you." (p.132) Forgiveness is a choice. It is an act of your will. Feelings take time to heal after the choice to forgive is made. Forgiveness is saying to our fathers or whoever has wounded you, "It was wrong, it mattered, and I will release you."

TRANSITION: As God did in the Bible, He has a new name for us.

III. God's Name for Us.

A. Is God just God to you? Have you come to the place where you can call God, "Father." Earthly fathers are not the pattern for God. Our Heavenly Father is the pattern for earthly fathers. He is the perfect Father. Masculinity is passed from father to son. Adam, Abraham, Jacob, David, Jesus-they all learned who they were out of intimacy with God, with the Father. God alone can give a man his real name.

B. Our sin has been dealt with. Jesus' death on the cross paid the penalty for our sin. (John 19:30) Your sins were washed away. (I Cor. 6:11) We have now been adopted, we are children of God, joint-heirs with Jesus Christ, and we can call God, "Abba" (Daddy)! (Rom. 8:15-17)

C. A child of the King. God sees you as the real you, the true you, the man he had in mind when He made you. We belong to Him. We are His child. He has prepared a home for us with Him for eternity.

CONCLUSION: John Eldredge's favorite painting is a reprint of Charlie Schreyrogels's "My Bunkie." It is a scene of four Calvary soldiers done in the Western style of Remington. The action is a rescue; one of the riders has apparently been shot off his horse and three men are galloping to pick him up. The stranded soldier is being swept up on the back of the horse of his bunk mate (his "Bunkie"), while the other two are providing rifle cover. He said, "I love this scene because this is what I want to do and be; I want to ride to the rescue of those who have been shot down." (p.137) But we cannot be the man who rescues until we realize we are the man without a horse, who needs to be rescued. It is only after the Lord has rescued us that we are able to help rescue others. When we offer our true selves, we become powerful. We are able to help others, for God sent His own Son, not a facsimile, not a substitute, to redeem us. We who have been set free by the Lord, are able to free others.

In God's Image *Luke 13:10-17*

THEME: We are created in the image of a powerful, fierce God.

INTRODUCTION: *To most men, God is either distant or He is weak. Many think of Jesus as meek and mild. We remember pictures of Jesus with children. Some think of Jesus as Mister Rogers with a beard. David was a caring gentle shepherd, yet he slew the giant Goliath. Remember, "The Lord is my shepherd." Doesn't sound like Mister Rogers to me.*

ILLUSTRATION: *Growing up, John Eldredge spent the summer months on his grandfather's ranch in Oregon. One summer the ranch was overrun by pigeons, so John's grandfather bought him a BB rifle. The storekeeper said, "Isn't he a bit young for that?" Pop said, "This is my grandson, his riding shot gun for me." John wrote, "I walked into that feed store a squirrely little kid, but I walked out as Sheriff Wyatt Earp, the Lone Ranger, Kit Carson." (p.21)*

TRANSITION: *If we are wild at heart and are created in the image of God, that means He is wild at heart too.*

I. A Battle to Fight

A. Jesus and the synagogue leader. In our Scripture passage in Luke 13 is a story of Jesus becoming furious with a Jewish leader who criticized a women seeking healing and Jesus for healing her on the Sabbath. Jesus exposed the enemy for what he was and shamed him in front of everyone. Was Jesus mild? Not to His enemies. God has a battle to fight and the battle is for our freedom. "Virtually every book of the Bible-Old and New Testaments-on almost every page tells us about God's warring activity." (p.25) The Egyptians who kept Israel under the whip would not describe Yahweh as a Really Nice Guy. Plagues, pestilence, the death of the first born-now that doesn't sound nice, does it? What would Miss Manners say about taking the Promised Land? Does wholesale slaughter fit under "calling on your new neighbors"? (p.26)

B. Samson. Another example is Samson who killed a lion with is bare hands, pummeled and stripped thirty Philistines, and when they burned his wife to death, he killed a thousand with the jawbone of a donkey. All those events happened when "the Spirit of the Lord came upon him." (Judges 15:14)

C. God speaks to Job. When Job questioned God's strength God replied. Part of God's answer (Job 39:19-25) concerns the fierce heart of the warhorse who embodies the fierce heart of his Maker. God questioned Job and asked: "Do you give the horse his strength ...He catches the scent of battle from afar, the shout of the commanders and the battle cry."

D. Jesus in Gethsemane. In the dead of night, a mob of thugs "carrying torches, lanterns, and weapons" came to take Christ away. In their cowardice they had not tried to take Him in public in the bright of day. Did Jesus run? No, He went to face them head-on. Jesus started the confrontation by asking, "Whom are you seeking?" After they said, "Jesus of Nazareth," He answered, "I am He." His answer floored them! John said "they drew back and fell to the ground." A few moments later Jesus said, "If you seek Me, let these go their way." (John 18:4-8) Talk about strength. The force of Jesus' bold presence knocked the whole posse over.

E. Jesus and the end. Jesus is no pale-faced altar boy with his hair parted in the middle, speaking softly and avoiding confrontation. He worked with wood, commanded the loyalty of dockworkers, He is the Lord of hosts. When Christ returns, He will be mounted on a white horse, with a double-edged sword, His robe dipped in blood. (Rev. 19)

ILLUSTRATION: When Craig was four months old his dad was killed in the Korean War. His mother remarried a sour old navy captain who criticized Craig a lot and called him a seagull-"all you're good for is sitting, squawking..."(p.21) Craig was crushed until he was grown and learned of his heritage. His dad was a warrior cut down in battle. His dad was planning to go to the mission field if he had lived. Craig's grandfather was William McConnell, the first modern-era missionary to Central America, who risked his life many times to bring Christ to lost people. Craig changed his name to McConnell and took back a more noble and dangerous place in his story. (p. 21)

TRANSITION: The Lord of Hosts (armies) is always ready for battle and for adventure.

II. What about Adventure?

A. God loves wildness. All you need to do is spend a night in the woods alone; or walk in a thunderstorm; or swim with sharks or killer whales; or get a bull moose or grizzly bear mad at you and you will realize that God loves wildness. Would you say habitats with sharks or tigers or rattlesnakes are "nice" places? Most of the earth is not safe.

B. God made it all. God created all this wildness and He pronounced it "good." God apparently prefers adventure, danger, risk, the element of surprise. God likes it wild. But does God have an adventure to live?

C. Risk-taking God. God takes immense risks. The biggest risk of all was when He gave angels and men free will, including the freedom to reject Him-not just once, but every day. God does not cause us to sin. (Gal. 2:17) He is not moving

all the pieces on a chessboard. Fallen angels and men use their powers to commit horrendous evil daily.

Even though God knew what would happen, what heartbreak and suffering and devastation would follow our disobedience, He chose to have children. God is not like a hyper-controlling parent. He gave us a remarkable choice. He took a staggering risk. This is the world He made. He does not make us obey Him.

D. An intervening God. God does not simply walk away from the mess we have made. The idea of the intervention of God in history is perhaps the most reoccurring theme in Scripture. When Israel was at the Red Sea with no way out, God showed up. When the three Hebrew youth were in the fiery furnace, God showed up. When Jesus was put in a tomb, God showed up! God loves to come through for us.

TRANSITION: If there is adventure in the heart of God, what about a beauty to fight for?

III. A Beauty to Fight For

A. A romantic heart. Lovers have chosen places like Hawaii for their honeymoons. But whose idea was Hawaii? Who created a kiss so it would be so delicious. It doesn't step there. Read again the Song of

Solomon, especially chapter four. What kind of God would put the Song of Songs in the Bible? God is romantic at heart.

B. He had His own bride to fight for. He is a jealous lover, and His bride in the Old Testament is Israel and in the New Testament it is the New Israel, the Church. "Rescue is the constant pattern of God's activity." (p.34) Though His bride committed adultery against Him, though she has fallen captive to His enemy, God is willing to move heaven and earth to win her back. In Isaiah 63:1-4 is the picture of God coming in redemption with His robes spattered with blood. This is not Mister Rogers. It is more like "Braveheart." God is fierce, wild and passionate.

CONCLUSION: God is love. God is compassionate. But God is also a God of wrath and judgment. A man needs to be strong, but he needs to be tender at times. If a man is only tender, something is wrong. A woman needs to be strong at times, but if she is only strong, something is wrong. If you'll look at the essence of little boys and little girls, I think you will see this: strength and beauty. As the Psalmist says: "God has spoken once, twice I have heard this: That power belongs to God. Also to You, O Lord, belongs mercy." (Psalm 62:11-12)

Our God is full of power and mercy. He had the power to redeem us and in mercy offers us His salvation through grace by faith in His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Battle For A Man's Heart *II Timothy 4:7-8*

THEME: In John Eldredge's new book *Wild at Heart*, he seeks to clarify the battle for a man's heart.

INTRODUCTION: *When the Eldredge's son Blain made the transition to first grade, he was excited to tell his parents of the new adventures he was having each day at school. One day he came home and would not talk, not even look up. Finally, he told them that a bully had pushed him down on the playground in front of all his friends. He was shamed. His dad told him, the next time you get up and "hit him as hard as you possible can." (p.78)*

Jesus did tell us to turn the other cheek. But we have misused that verse. You cannot teach a boy to use his strength by stripping him of it. If you tell him to stay in a beaten place he will continue to be passive and fearful. You cannot turn a cheek you do not have. Jesus was able to retaliate. When it came to the cross, He chose not to retaliate.

TRANSITION: *A man is not wounded once, but many times in the course of his life.*

1. Finishing Him Off

A. Columbine. Most of us remember the tragic story from April 1999. Two boys walked into the school library and began shooting. When it was over, thirteen victims and their two assailants were dead. William Pollock, director of the Center for Men at McLean Hospital said, "The boys in Littleton are the tip of the iceberg. And the iceberg is all boys." Many believe that the aggressive nature of boys is inherently bad and we have to make them into something more like girls.

B. Public schools. Teachers see as their main obstacle in teaching is getting the boys to be still, keep quiet, and pay attention. Boys are three to four times more likely than girls to be diagnosed with attention deficit disorder. (p.81) Boys enjoy large-muscle movements and assertive actions. Boys prefer boisterous and mobile activities to the sedate restricted behavior that school systems reward. So psycho-managers prescribe tranquilizing drugs like Ritalin, which is scandalous.

C. At home. Often parents want their child to be nice, even in aggressive sports, which translates, be soft. It happens in marriage too. Women are often attracted to the wilder side of men, but once they are married, settle down to the task of domesticating him.

A man is a dangerous thing. Women don't start wars. Violent crimes, for the most part, are not committed by women. Our prisons are not filled with women. But the energy, competitiveness, and corporal daring of normal, decent males is responsible for much of what is right in the world. (p.83)

ILLUSTRATION: During the Columbine massacre, Seth Huey threw his body over a terrified girl to shield her from the bullets; fifteen-yearold David Rohrbough paid with his life when, at mortal risk to himself he held a door open so others could escape. (p. 83) We need heroes. Slavery in America, the Nazis, and Apartheid were all stopped by men. Men gave up their seats in the lifeboats to women and children when the Titanic sunk. It was a Man who let himself be nailed to Calvary's cross. There have been many heroic women, but we must remember God made men the way they are because we desperately need them to be the way they are.

TRANSITION: As Christina Hoff Sommers says in her book *The War Against Boys*, "It's a bad time to be a boy in America." (p.80)

11. Wounded

A. War. We are in the late stages of the long and vicious war against the human heart. Imagine being a soldier among thousands on D-day in 1944. As you jump out of the Higgins boat and wade to the beach, there are bodies of fallen soldiers everywhere, hundreds are wounded, some limping, some crawling. Many are paralyzed with fear, what a brutal war. What about men you know, even at church? Are they full of passionate freedom? Do they fight well? Are their wives deeply grateful for how well they have loved them? Are their children radiant with affirmation? Men are wounded. They are being taken out right and left. You have heard the expression, "He's a shell of a man." Many have lost heart and given up. Many feel abandoned by God. They thought that becoming a Christian would end their troubles or reduce them greatly. No one told them they would be moved to the front lines.

B. The wound is well aimed. The enemy wants to take you out, to cripple or destroy your strength and get you out of the action. The enemy fears you. You are dangerous. If you ever really got your heart back, lived from it with courage, you would be a huge problem to him. God has been effective in history in the battle and you are in His image.

ILLUSTRATION: On June 7, 1944, Brig. Gen. Norman "Dutch" Cota came upon a group of infantry pinned down by Germans in a farmhouse. The Captain explained they had made no effort to dislodge them because they were "shooting at us." No one had ever taught them what to do. The general told the captain to have his men open fire and he took a few men and gave them some grenades and charged the home. Some of his men threw the grenades in the windows while Gen. Cota and another soldier kicked in the front door and threw in some grenades. The surviving Germans ran out the back door. The general asked, "Do you know how to do it now?" Men are being shot at and wounded. They need someone who has gone through the battle and won to show them the way. That someone is Jesus.

TRANSITION: We need to know who we are and if we have what it takes. Where do we go to find the answer?

III. Our Search For An Answer

A. Success. Many try to succeed in the world's eyes. They think the real stud is the one making the money. It is like the old saying, "The one with the most toys wins." Many are trying to succeed in careers in order to win their father's approval.

B. Belonging. Some try to find validation through belonging. Being in the "in" group, the gang, the team, or the fraternity are part of a desperate search for significance.

C. The Golden-haired Woman. Men often seek validation in women. That's why pornography is so addictive for men. It is the mythological hunger for validation as a man. A wounded, famished man pretends in pornography that all those beauties want him. Men believe if they can find the perfect woman they will recover their lost masculinity. It is unbelievable how many movies center around this lie. "Get the beauty, win her, bed her, and you are the man. You're James Bond. You're a stud." (p.92)

That is why many men fear their wives. She sees him as no one else does. If he has given her the power to validate him, he has given her the power to invalidate him also. After you marry if you discover your wife is not perfect, then you are not the heroic man. If she is not Juliet, then you are not Romeo.

ILLUSTRATION: A stallion is hard to tame. If you want a safer, quieter animal, make him a gelding. They are more compliant. He'll do what he's told to do without putting up much fuss. The only problem is, geldings don't give life. A stallion is dangerous all right, but if you want the life he offers, you have to have the danger too.

CONCLUSION: Paul, in writing a farewell to Timothy from prison said, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." (II Tim. 4:7) Paul used athletic terms of competition from boxing and running to illustrate the struggle of life. His life would be validated by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, who would present him a crown one day. (v.8) The search for validation as a man in any other person, place, or thing is fruitless. Only in our Creator, Redeemer, and Lord will we find who we really are, and who we were created to be.

The Father's Voice *Psalm 139:1-24*

THEME: John Eldredge in his new book, *Wild At Heart*, points to our Heavenly Father as the only one who completely validates our manhood.

INTRODUCTION: *An important event happened in John Eldredge's life, when as a thirteen year old boy visiting his grandfather's ranch in Oregon, he was asked to do a great thing. They had both come in tired from a long day, when they noticed a cow had gotten into the alfalfa field. It is dangerous because the alfalfa can expand and rupture a cow's stomach if the cow is allowed to stuff itself. Pop sat down and told John to saddle up Tony and go get that steer. Tony was the biggest horse, but the best cattle horse. Although he was scared of Tony, he went to saddle him by himself and get that cow. He felt fear and honor. He knew he had crossed a threshold as a young man.*

TRANSITION: *What can help men cross that threshold?*

I. Desperate For Initiation

A. A man needs to know his name. He needs to know he has what it takes. It is a knowledge not gained through books, but through experience. In the Bible, the work "know" usually means intimate knowledge. The way "Adam knew his wife" and she gave birth to a child. How does a man come to a deep heart knowledge of his name?

B. Initiation. You have to know where you've come from; you have to have faced a series of trials that test you; you have to have taken a journey; and you have to have faced your enemy. It is not making a moral man or a tame man. A man must come to know who he is and what he's here for.

ILLUSTRATION: At the end of the Civil War, just after Appomattox, after General Robert E. Lee had surrendered to General Ulysses S. Grant, Lee's men begged him to fight on. The Army of Virginia had been through some of the most terrible trials ever known. You would think they would be glad it was over. But Lee's men hung on to the reins of his horse and pleaded for one more chance to "whip those Yankees." (p.102) Lee had become their father, and given those men an identity and a place in a larger story. Every man needs a Robert E. Lee or a grandfather who can teach us to "saddle up."

TRANSITION: But where do we go? To whom can we turn?

II. God Initiates A Man

A. Our Heavenly Father. Despite a man's past and the failure of his own father to initiate him, God can take him on that journey and provide what was missing.

B. Our name. "Who can give a man his own name? God alone. For no one but God sees what the man is."(p.103) Psalm 139 makes it clear that we were personally, uniquely planned and created. God had someone in mind and that someone had a name. The history of a man's relationship with God is the story of how God calls him out, takes him on a journey and gives him his true name.

C. Our new name. God created Adam for adventure, battle and beauty. He created us for a unique place in His story and He is committed to bringing us back to the original design. God called Abram out of his country to go to a strange new land. Out of his obedience through many trials, he received a new name, Abraham. God took Jacob off on a long journey and he finally returns with a limp and a new name, Israel. "Said the Avenger" became Paul, the missionary after an encounter with Christ on the Damascus Road. Jesus of Nazareth, was revealed as Jesus Christ, God's Son through his obedience even to death on a cross.

D. Invitation. This involves a journey and a series of tests, through which we discover our real name and our real place in the story. Most of us have misinterpreted life and what God is doing. We thought being a Christian would make life easier. So we accuse God by asking, "Why did you let this happen to me? Instead of whining about all our problems why not ask: "What are you trying to teach me here? What issues in my heart are you trying to raise here? What is it you want me to see? What are you asking me to let go of?"

ILLUSTRATION: As C.S. Lewis wrote, "A car is made to run on gasoline, and it would not run properly on anything else. Now God designed the human machine to run on himself. He himself is the fuel our spirits were designed to burn, or the food our spirits were designed to feed on. There is no other." (p.121)

TRANSITION: In order for the Lord to bring healing, we must address the wound.

III. The Wound

A. The shame. In our last message "The Battle for a Man's Heart," we discussed the warfare and the wounds a man receives. Men are taught that a wound is shameful. A wound that takes you out is a "girlish" wound. In too many movies we have seen the good guy take an arrow, break it off, and keep on fighting; or maybe he gets shot but is still able to leap across a canyon and get the bad guys. But many today deny they were wounded because they believe they deserved it. They try to go on with their lives. "Suck it up," as the saying goes.

B. God is committed to you. God wants to restore and release your masculine heart. But a wound that goes unacknowledged, unwept, embraced, or deserved cannot heal. Brennan Manning says, "The spiritual life begins with the acceptance of our wounded self." (p.106)

TRANSITION: God will wound us in the very place where we have been wounded.

IV. Stopping the False Self

A. False self. From the place where we have been wounded we construct a false self. We find a few gifts that work for us and we try to go on. Believing no one would like us the way we are or as a defense against pain, becoming an impostor is our plan of salvation.

B. So God must take it all away. This often happens at the start of our initiation journey. He stops our impostor plan of salvation and shatters the false self. This may seem cruel. But Jesus warned us, "Whoever desires to save his life will lose it." (Luke 9:24) Christ does not use the word bios here (physical life), but uses the word psyche-the word for soul or inner self. Our plans to save and protect our lives will actually destroy us. "There is a way that seems right to a man but in the end it leads to death." (Prov. 16:26) The false self is a lie. It is a deadly trap. God loves us too much to leave us there. Whatever else in which we have put our trust for salvation, must be stripped away: whether it is our job, the "golden-haired woman," prestige, power, or our own particular mask. It is all pretense. It is our defense against the wound.

C. Satan. When God seems set against everything that has meant life to us, Satan spies an opportunity and leaps to accuse God in our hearts. He says, "God is angry with you" or "He is disappointed in you," or "If He loved you he would make things smoother." The Enemy tempts us to take back control. But it is out of love that God stops our pretense. As Hebrews reminds us, it is the son whom God disciplines, therefore do not lose heart. (Heb. 12:5-6)

CONCLUSION: Adam was not deceived by the serpent. Did you know that? Paul makes it clear in I Timothy 2:14-Adam did not fall because he was deceived. His sin was more serious. There was a moment in the garden when Eve was fallen and Adam was not, she had eaten, but he yet had a choice. Something like this may have happened in his heart: I have lost my soul mate, the most vital companion I have known. I do not know what life will be like, but I know I cannot live without her. Adam chose Eve over God. (pp.1 15-116) We must reverse Adam's choice; we must choose God over Eve. We must choose God over any other substitute. We must take our ache to Him. For only in the Lord Jesus will we find the healing of our wound.

Wild At Heart *Proverbs 20:5*

THEME: In his book, "Wild At Heart," John Eldredge believes what really is in the heart of a man has been missed. The goal is not to be a "good boy" or a really "nice guy." Men are wild at heart.

INTRODUCTION: *John Eldredge believes that this dedication to being "nice" is the reason that there are so many tired and lonely women, so many fatherless children, and so few men around. As C.S. Lewis said, "We castrate the gelding and bid him be fruitful."*

TRANSITION: *Every man longs for a battle to fight, an adventure to live, and a beauty to rescue. That is how a man bears the image of God.*

I. A Battle To Fight

A. Men of the Wilderness. Eve was created in the garden, but Adam was created outside the garden, in the wilderness. Man was born in the outback, the untamed part of creation. Boys have never been at home indoors, and they have a longing to explore. As John Muir said, "When a man comes to the mountains, he comes home." (p.4) The core of a man's heart is undomesticated and that is good.

B. Adventure. Written deeply in a man's soul is the spiritual longing for adventure with all its requisite danger and wildness. The masculine heart needs a place where nothing is prefabricated, modular, non-fat, zip lock, franchised, on-line or microwavable, where there are no deadlines, cell phones, or committee meetings. Where there is room for the soul. Remember, Moses did not encounter the Living God at the mall. He encountered God in the deserts of Sinai. Jacob had a wrestling match with God, not on the living room sofa but in a wadi somewhere east of the Jabbok, in Mesopotamia. Where did Elijah go to find his strength? To the wild. So did John the Baptist, and Jesus, who was led by the Spirit into the wilderness.

C. Searching for themselves. Deep in a man's heart are some questions that simply cannot be answered at the kitchen table. Who am I? What am I made of? What am I destined for? It is fear that keeps a man at home where things are neat and orderly and under his control. Moses received his life's mission and purpose in the desert. In the wilderness Jacob received a new name, his real name. He was no longer a shrewd business negotiator, but one who wrestles with God. The wilderness trail of Christ is a test of identity. "If you are who you think you are..." If a man is ever to find out who he is and why he is here, he has to take that journey for himself.

ILLUSTRATION: Society has spent the last thirty years redefining masculinity into something more sensitive, soft, manageable and well, feminine, and now

berates men for not being men. Most men in the church believe that God put them on the earth to be a good boy. Most Christian men are bored. (p.7) They do their duty, but are separated from their hearts.

As Robert Bly laments in Iron John, "Some women want a passive man if they want a man at all; the church wants a tame man-they are called priests; the university wants a domesticated man-they are called tenure-track people; the corporation wants a ...sanitized, hairless, shallow man." (p.8)

TRANSITION: Men need an adventure to live.

II. An Adventure to Live

A. Image of God. Men and women are made in the image of God as men and women. (Gen. 1:27) The uniqueness is not physical, it is in the level of the soul. God meant something when he meant man. What makes you come alive? What stirs your heart? Capes and swords, camouflage, bandannas, and six shooters these are the uniforms of boyhood. Little boys yearn to know they are powerful, they are dangerous, they are someone to be reckoned with. We need to remember that "the Lord is a warrior; the Lord is His Name." (Ex. 15:3)

B. Aggression. Hockey and boxing were not feminine creations. Men want to attack some things even if it is a little white ball. Boys grow bored of games that have no element of danger or competition or bloodshed. Cooperative games are nonsense. No one wins! What's the point?

C. Warrior. When boys play at war they are rehearsing for the bigger drama. One day you might need that boy to defend you. The troops that hit the beaches at Normandy or the sands of Iwo Jima-what would they have done without this deep part of their heart? Life needs a man to be fierce-and devoted.

Now this longing may have been rejected for years or turned to the dark side as with criminals. Every man wants to play the hero. Every man needs to know he is powerful.

ILLUSTRATION: Women didn't make "Braveheart" one of the bestselling films of the decade. "Flying Tigers," "The Bridge on the River Kwai," "The Magnificent Seven," "Shane," "High Noon," "Saving Private Ryan," "Top Gun," the "Die Hard" films, "Gladiator"-the movies a man loves reveal what his heart longs for, what is set inside him by his Creator.

TRANSITION: Men need a beauty to rescue.

III. A Beauty to Rescue

A. A woman to fight for. Romeo had his Juliet, King Arthur fights for Guinevere, Robin Hood rescues Maid Marian. There is nothing so inspiring to a man as a

beautiful woman. She'll make you want to charge the castle, slay the giant, leap across the parapets or hit a home run. Men want to be a hero to the beauty. Young men went off to war with a photo of their sweetheart in their wallet. In WWII, the B-17 Bombers had names on them like "Me and My Gal" or the "Memphis Belle."

B. A man wants to be a hero. What would Robin Hood be without Marian or King Arthur without the women he loved? They would be lonely men fighting lonely battles. James Bond and Indiana Jones wouldn't be the same without a beauty they were fighting for.

Remember Nehemiah's words to the few brave souls defending a wall-less Jerusalem? "Don't be afraid ...fight for your brothers, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes." (Nehemiah 4:14) It is not enough to be a hero; it's that he is hero to someone in particular, the woman he loves. (p.15)

CONCLUSION: *God gave us eyes so that we might see. He gave us ears to hear, wills to choose, and hearts that we might live. A man must know he is powerful; he must know he has what it takes. A woman must know she is beautiful; she must know she is worth fighting for.*

This book is about the recovery and release of a man's heart, his passions, his true nature, which he has been given by God. It's an invitation to fight the battle, to go West, to leap from the falls and save the beauty. If you are going to find a life worth living, if you are going to love a woman deeply, you must get your heart back. The key to finding your heart is to search the heart of Jesus. Read what the Bible says about Jesus the Messiah in the Old Testament and Jesus Christ in the New Testament. The secret of your heart is bound up in His heart.