

Good morning. Welcome to Men's Roundtable. Glad you're here.

Glad you here show the hands of those that are new. I'm not going to call on you

or haven't it in a while.

Okay, let me ask this question. Then. On the other hand, since we're starting a new series, how many guys in the room invited somebody to come this morning.

I got a few guys guys. We got to do better than that. I'll do better than that.

We work through the series of true face revealing the mask,

and Phil's want to get a new series.

I don't know enough about it. He doesn't share that information with too well,

but I gathered from it

that it's if you have worked through revealing, removing the mask,

he's going to challenge us for the next couple of months

about being a lion.

What do you do with that? What do you do with your true self, and what you found yourself where you had to go to do that.

What do you do for that? One

making disciples is part of that,

and in doing that

invite somebody

and invite him again,

they invite him again, and then invite him again.

Come on, man, Fry, and i'm glad you're here. We can start now.

Twenty, seven invitations to the first guy before he'll show up.

Twenty-seven,

Ron. I don't think you're far off on that.

It does like a few times

that's deer campus coming up this weekend.

We've heard a lot about it over the last year. The new building is framed as a roof on it is coming along the refrigerator earlier this week. I don't know if the refrigerator was found. Blair, do you know, if something's been done to get a refrigerator to Deer Camp this weekend?

That that's not

not only you're not on your scope of work,

your general contract

instruction, You guys aren't the cleanest people. I'm aware of that. And I know that, and doing a weekly clean up is something that you have to do.

But we do need to clean up a little bit around Deer Camp to accommodate the new guys coming in and looking forward to that this weekend I thought it was going to be great.

Williams were warred.

How many follow me? Thank you so much for this day we thank you for the opportunity gathering here. Lord, I thank you for the men here, the families that are represented, or thank you for my brothers.

Thank you for cease-fire and thank you for the breakfast has been provided,

or thank you for the work that you did on the cross,

reconciling us to God the Father, you're gonna be in your name. We brought you

morning, gentlemen,

excited to start a new series, and in a sense to start our fourteenth year at the men's roundtable. Fourteen years we've been doing this, and so grateful for ceasefire and all those involved,

allowing us to come in chick-fil-a God has met us here for fourteen years and

expect him to breathe on us today in the coming year. I want to mention one thing before we get started. George Copeland is soon to be a friend of many of us,

and Ricky Come up here and help me introduce George. We do a monthly men's gathering, of course, two gun tactical guys not out in a week from Tuesday, which would be the twenty seventh. I think we'll have our September two gun tactical event,

and George Copeland and I will kind of do an interview. I'll be interviewing George I. Haven't met George yet, but I've heard great things about him, and he was born in one thousand nine hundred and thirty, six. So he's been around a while, and

we can tell us a little bit about George.

He has a microphone,

but he joined the army when he was seventeen years old,

served twenty three years. He obtained the rank of command. Chief,

have a officer of We're in charge, and to his left to right his

a difficult job, because you may have.

You know, there were two hundred to one thousand and listed people that you're responsible for. So their phone rings a lot so. But he is just a very humble

gentlemen. He had a story to tell, but when I first asked him about it he didn't. You know he's like I don't know what i'm talking about Now should I get that? And so

and so and just while I'm here, you know we've been doing this too. Good thing for a couple of years Now Phil's been so gracious.

Ah, so no, I mean, he said, it should be really good. It's a week from this coming to you, and we'll have food. Please contact me or feel so. We don't. We'll have enough food, and

I mean come on, because, you know, Jeff.

Thank you. Thank you.

So put that in your calendar on Tuesday night, September the twenty seventh.

This morning, as we begin our series Lion Maker, I want to offer you a song that answers the question, Why, in many ways, you know why questions can be really tricky.

Um, I don't often invite people to ask Why? Questions? Because to me a why question is like hooking yourself up to the pony. Ride at the fair, and a why question will put you in a circular motion

a lot of times. It just creates a lot of mud. You're moving, but you're not really going, anyone

but wait. Why, I don't know why,

but I do believe in what what is happening Now, what is God doing? What does God want to do in me? What does he want to do through me?

But going back to the why question, if we are going to work with the why question?

But I think this song is as good a answer as any

B cause

because he lives.

Why Is it like that? Because he is?

But you hear the voice of God, and may you open our hearts to what He has this morning because he lives by Celtic worship,

because he

because he

because of

Al Anderson: because He

God, sent His Son,

They called in Jesus.

He came to love,

and for

he lived and died

to, by my part,

an empty grave is there to my Savior,

because he

I can face tomorrow

because he

all series,

because I know

of you

i'm going to,

and life is

just because he

you

i'll cross the

I'll fight like

war with me,

and then us there

gives way to

I'll see the

because he

I can face tomorrow

because he,

because I know,

has become

was he there?

I can face my

because you

all fear is

because I know

we all

in terms of

life as well.

Can you just be

how he holds the few

to

is worth the living just because he

you

come in.

Why?

Because he lives because he lives.

Be on the alert.

Stand firm in your faith.

Act like men. Be strong. Turn the lights on

the words from first Corinthians, one thousand six hundred and thirteen.

So, gentlemen, I'm excited to begin this series: Lion Maker, a call to personal growth, maturity, wholeness, and impact.

I was inspired

by this book that I read this summer. I would recommend it to you. I love Mark Patterson, a gifted pastor in Washington, Dc. The name of the book is Chase the Lion. If your dream doesn't scare you, it's too small.

And, as I've said to you before, my spiritual gift is plagiarism and personalization, and I'm very proud of that.

My sweet wife, who loves me dearly, calls me a curator, so she's more grace oriented than some I collect stuff and share it.

Um.

So as we begin, I want you to look on your notes

and look at Colossians chapter, one verse twenty, eight, and twenty nine.

This has been um the watchword passage of our Ministry business and professional outreach. International um Since we um began working with the vaultes, um Colossians one hundred and twenty-eight and twenty-nine, you know. Again, if I had to say, this is my life, or this is

my passion, and the apostle Paul expresses my heart

as best I can express it better than I can express it myself.

The message reads:

That is the substance of our message. We preach Christ

warning people not to add to the message

we teach in a spirit of profound common sense, said that we can bring each person to maturity.

To be mature is to be basic Christ no more, no less.

That's what i'm working so hard at day after day, year after year, doing my best with the energy God so generously gives me.

It's my heart, Gentlemen,

Apostle Paul expresses it well,

the word there, if you want to underline there on your notes, maturity is the word. Tell us

Greek, and it means to be whole

to be complete,

fully grown up,

and all too often my experience in working with men

that we're not about growing up. We're about, you know, getting financially secure, taking care of our babies, trying to negotiate this marriage thing, living with a woman. Wow! You know.

How did that work out? You know.

There, I was mining my own business. And then there was this girl.

You know It's It's a crazy, you know, but you know I love those kind of crazies because it pays my mortgage as a council.

But truly, what I want this series to be is an invitation for you to grow up. It's about dog on time.

It's about time

to grow up

that what we have used is kind of a metaphor for years. Is this idea of the lion be the lion. There's two books for sell back there through this series. So through this series I plan to sell a lot of books.

I got watches. I got rings, you know. I got books, and if you read it i'll sign it.

Um!

But this idea of of of the lion is a is a metaphor. Um, that's really a scriptural mandate to become more like Jesus. That's what we're talking about.

So in Mark Patterson's book. When you get it and you read it, you'll find in the beginning of the book

that he has a manifesto, and I love what he wrote. Here again. He's a much better communicator and writer than I am, and so I took his lead, and I wrote my own personal lion maker declaration that i'd like to read

again. This is adapted from Mark Patterson's book, my personalization,

this idea of being a line maker. So so on the back of your notes. Follow with me, as I read

the idea of being a lion. The idea of growing up becoming all that God would have you be,

would sound something like this. Certainly for me it sounds this way.

I will quit living as if the purpose of life is to arrive safely at death

be the one

I'll set God-sized goals. I will pursue god-given passions.

I will go after a dream that is destined to fail without divine intervention be the lion.

I'll stop pointing out problems.

I will become part of the solution.

I will stop repeating the past. I will start creating my future. Be the lion.

I'll face my fears.

I will fight for my dreams. I will grab opportunity by the main and not let go.

Be the wild.

I will live like today.

It is the first day and last day of my life.

I will burn sinful bridges,

I will blaze new trails.

I will pursue the next adventure

Be the while

I will live for the applause of nail, scarred hands.

I will not let what's wrong with me.

Keep me from whispering what's right with God

be the lie!

I will dare to fail.

I will dare to be different. I will quit holding out. I will quit holding back. I will quit running away.

I will use my gifts

and brokenness to impact others. I will seek to be a brother and father to other men. I will live in community. I will fight. I will be the lion. I will seek to be like Jesus.

Gentlemen,

I challenge you

in the coming weeks to embrace that

maybe even Sit down and take my words and make them your words. Personalize that.

Um, Mark Patterson inspired me. Maybe I can inspire you a little bit this morning.

I've had a just a heart for discipleship.

Uh-huh!

Since I came to Christ at the University of Tennessee

and um,

you know i'm in a season in my life.

I want to end well. I don't plan any anytime soon,

but I want to end well,

and one of my greatest fears is that somehow

I would stumble and fail across the finish line.

I don't want to do that.

I want to end. Well, don't you

don't you

um.

And so what I've done in my own application of what I'm going to share with you.

I've cut my counseling practice back

to four days a week I see clients, or have been seeing clients for five days a week down in fair Hope, and here,

and as a as a way to be more of lion maker focused.

I'm going to stop seeing clients five days a week and go to four, and what you're going to hear about over the next few weeks is i'm going to start a Monday night group. Ah, call be the lion. It'll be a zoom group, so anybody can jump into that. It's limited to twenty five.

Ah, so if you want to be in that group, it'll be from five, thirty to six, forty, five on Monday nights, and I hope you'll jump in, and it won't be a lot of content in terms of me preparing, and all that. But I will give you a little piece to work with, and it'll be group.

And then on Tuesday morning, starting another group. That'll just be limited to six. That'll be much more of a focused coaching group

Six um thirty to seven, forty, five on Tuesday morning for six guys or six guys that sign up, and that'll be a year long commitment, and um! I'll do my best to coach you up. Um, use my experience. Use my failures and my gifts

um to uh

guide you through a process of being the lion, and that group would be called lion makers, because it'll be focused on you giving out

what we're working with, gentlemen through this series is this idea of being,

and that's the Biblical mandate.

Be the lion B,

a disciple,

and then the idea is, the mandate is to go

make lions or make the cycles.

This series is about

you and I, being freshly committed to both,

be all that God intended you to be.

Start with the inside,

and then the second part is to go,

and that's working on the outside

the ripple effect of your life.

B. Then go.

I want you to pick up your pen if you haven't already, and let's begin with some questions.

Journal this and again as I, as I've said, through the years, there's two books that you need to have this ah new journey. I would hope that you've got your two books. The one is the one that God wrote,

and the other, and it's the one that you write,

and I would hope that you would recommit to wearing your Bible out, reading it, having it,

and then beginning to write your own story.

I don't believe that you can grow as God intended us to be complete to be whole, to be mature. If you're not putting pen to paper.

There is nothing that you do. That's important that you don't write it down a to-do list

uh a business plan,

um whatever. And yet we approach our relationship with God as if it's some sort of random walk in the park. It's boring

it's like. Now

get a pen in a book and start writing.

So let's do some journaling. Let's do some writing.

The first question I want to ask you to respond to is, what is your intentional and deliberate plan for growth?

What are you doing to grow right now?

It's.

What are you doing to grow right now?

And I would even invite you as we begin this, I mean, I'm i'm committed to the next ninety days. I believe that life has lived well in ninety-day increments

ninety days. What do you want to be? What would you like to be telling me On January the first we start the New Year, and you look back over the last ninety days

What you like to be telling me where you are

intentional deliberate growth.

What's your plan?

And again, as we go through this series. I'm. Going to help you develop a plan.

So it may be a kind of a conviction right now. It's like, wow, I don't have a plan. I'm just trying to pay the bills and save my marriage from going into

question. Number two:

Who is your Who

and what I mean by that? Who are you praying for committed to help focused on as someone you want to see, grow and mature?

Who are you imparting your life to?

Certainly I would.

Those of us who are privileged to be fathers,

that I want my son

and daughter

to be in a better place; that they hear my voice of encouragement, not criticism. Any idiot can criticize.

I love it, you know I love this. In the third stanza there of the Declaration it says, I will stop pointing out problems.

It's like that. That's easy. But as fathers gentlemen, do they hear our encouragement? I believe in you. I believe in you. I believe in you.

You're gonna get through this.

But even beyond our families,

guys that you work with

guys that you're committed to,

You will never grow. You will never grow until you start taking responsibility for another person.

We're just too self-centered. It's like you. Well, you know I got I got to clean up my act. Why I get that But, Dude, if I would have waited to clean up my act before i'd have started helping somebody, i'd still be in the closet sucking my thumb?

No didn't work that way.

Third Question:

How do you need help in your own growth? How do you need help?

Every one of us needs help. The

So that's part of identifying a problem that is not defined is a problem that goes unresolved.

Where do you need help?

Hello! My name is Phil, and I am broken as a left-handed soup sandwich and all the soup sandwiches, said,

Welcome, Phil glad you're here at soup sandwiched, meeting

Rookie

Brooklyn

I need help we all do.

But if we never acknowledge how and where we need help, it'll never get resolved.

So with that being said, let's dig in

be and go

as we start. I want to show you the best clip

in Olive movie. Clipped them.

This is it right here, gentlemen, Fourteen years of showing movie clips.

I've shown you this before,

but to me this is the best clip, because it defines the Gospel in such a beautiful way. Victor Hugo wrote like Miser, all

some five hundred years ago, and it's just the story of the Gospel. It's his version of Pilgrim's Progress,

The Jean Valjean.

It's an incredible story. I had the privilege of seeing the for the first time, and when I first heard of Lame as I saw it on Broadway in New York. I didn't even know what it was. It's like. Okay, You know my friends were taking me to

killed Billy from Tennessee. I didn't know what lady is was. I was on Broadway, and it's like Oh, my goodness, this is the gospel!

This is the gospel.

I want you to watch this every little part of this clip, and this is the one thousand nine hundred and ninety four version of lay Miss. There's been several versions with Liam neeson, as Jean Valjean,

and you know he's been thrown in prison unjustly. It's kind of like Shawshank. Redemption is very much parallel in many ways, to

and you know he's in prison unjustly, and he stays in prison for so long that he's so beaten down that all he knows as his identity.

He's a prisoner.

I've been treated as a prisoner.

I am a prisoner,

so i'm going to act like a prisoner.

So he gets out, and the bishop takes him into his home,

and he's still acting like a prisoner.

He still thinks he's as a prisoner.

So watch this scene, and then we'll work with this. But watch this every little part is poignant. Gentlemen, this is the gospel. Watch this

clowned up sound.

Is anybody there,

so we'll use wooden spoons. I don't want to hear anything more about you.

I'm sorry to disturb you,

but I had my eye on this man.

I'm very angry with you, Jean Valjean.

What happened to your eye. My senor,

didn't he tell you he was our guests last night? Oh, yes!

After we searched his knapsack

and found all this silver

he blamed

that you gave it to him.

Yes,

course I gave him this overware. But why didn't you take the candlesticks? That was very foolish, Madam Gilo, fetch the silver candle six and worth at least two thousand francs. Why did you leave them?

Monsieur Valjean has to get going.

We've lost a lot of time.

Um!

Because you forget to take them.

Are you saying he told us the truth? Of course. Thank you for bringing him back? I'm very relieved. Release him.

You're really letting me go. Didn't you understand? The Bishop,

Madam's, you know, offer to these men's of wine.

They must be thirsty,

and don't forget

Don't ever forget

you've promised to become a new man.

Why are you doing this,

my brother?

You no longer belong to evil

with this silver

I brought you so

ransomed you from fear and hatred.

And now I give you back to God,

gentlemen, in my mind, if we showed that in church every Sunday morning, and closed in prayer. That would be it.

That's the gospel

you to turn to your partner here for just a minute, and I want you to talk about that clip. What did you see in that clip that was so significant to you

that every part of that is so powerful,

the eye contact

what the Bishop says? Obviously he symbolizes Jesus,

Jean Valjean, you and me,

in our misery and sin.

Turn to your partner and talk about that for a minute. What did you see. What did you see?

I'll change the

so you

on my

you

for us.

It's like

all right, gentlemen. Let's continue.

Let's continue.

Jesus

told stories.

The gospel is like a man named Sean Valjean, who is in prison. He is enslaved. He sees himself as a prisoner,

and somehow he winds up

in the home of the Bishop,

the Bishop,

beaten, slapped by Jean Valjean the

isn't that what you and I do,

that what you and I do,

and I've done

because there is not a man in this room that doesn't have more than he deserves, and some of you, I know, are going through the hardest time of your life,

but it's like a while,

and I am so blessed.

Yet i'm going to take that which I have and act like I am responsible.

It's a gift,

and not to minimize the hard time. You may be going through. Some of you truly, are going through the hardest time of your life.

But, my goodness, you know

why.

Why?

Because he lives

I can face tomorrow.

Well,

it's so

somehow. Jean Valjean comes face to face

with Jesus,

seen through the eyes of the Bishop,

and he looks at Jean Valjean,

and he says,

you've promised to become a new man, The

you belong to God.

Now, guys, you think about that for a minute. Just let that sink it, Marinade, in that

you and I belong to God,

and you mean you have the arrogance,

the stupid. The foolishness is what Proverbs calls it. Just foolish to think

that what you have is because of you.

No, the because is because he lives

in spite of our stealing, robbing, and destroying, and being an instrument in the hands of the enemy. God,
the

the hound of heaven pursues us, and He grabs us.

Go

be

and go be and go

look over at Luke. Chapter two verse fifty, two

loop, fifty, two, fifty, two, there they're on your nodes,

and this is where I want to direct you toward the B

again. It's the model of Jesus. Be a disciple, and it says this:

the message in Luke, two hundred and fifty, one and fifty two. So he went back to Masters with them with
his mom and dad, and lived obediently with them. And His mother held these things dearly deep within
ourselves, and Jesus matured,

and Jesus matured,

growing up in both body and spirit, blessed by both God and people.

There in your study Bible, that that verse reads something like this, and Jesus increased, kept increasing
in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man,

the gentleman.

I would suggest to you that what's being talked about there is that Jesus grew in four areas.

First of all,

he grew in stature,

which means that he grew physically

physical growth.

What are you doing

right now to grow physically,

though most of us have gone through puberty, most of us,

you know,

still waiting on some of you to get there.

Um! But I mean guys, we need to be taking care of ourselves,

you know I've through this series. I'm a little bit ahead of you, because I've been thinking this through a few weeks before we get here today, and I've made some fresh new commitments

physically. To take better care of myself.

Who

my body is. The Bible says, is is a temple. It's where Jesus dwells. I don't want to treat it like a worn down shack,

and some of us, if not all of us, need to start getting in better shape.

What you eat,

exercise, taking care of yourself physically. Where are you

to be a disciple? It means taking care of yourself physically.

And then

Jesus grew in wisdom, and I would suggest to you that that's emotional growth, because wisdom, as we all know, is not just gaining knowledge. Some of the the men with the highest Iqs I've ever met are fools.

It's not about your Iq. It's about your Eq. And wisdom is the combination of knowing some things and experiencing some things. You don't get wisdom By reading books you get wisdom by engaging

what you know with life experiences. That's a wise man.

And so emotional growth. Jesus grew in wisdom. He grew emotionally.

What are you doing about your emotional growth,

guys? That anger has got to stop

It's

that holding bitterness and resentment toward others as we talked about last week.

It is taken care of by forgiveness. Who do you need to forgive? That's an emotional journey.

And so once again, really addressing our emotional life.

I see it all the time

Men who are immature emotionally,

you know they're fifty and fifty, five and sixty, and sixty, five, and on up

there are about fourteen. Emotionally,

sir.

How do you grow emotionally? You grow emotionally by focusing on two things: number one is self-control. You don't get to do anything you want to. So you got to self-control?

Then you need feedback from others.

How does a baby gain self-control that does a baby gain emotional control? They look into the eyes of mama and Mama signals them. That is, that is appropriate. That's not appropriate. You cannot grow emotionally in isolation.

Emotional growth is a relational exercise, receiving feedback. And we're going to do a lot of that, This weekend

Ah, at Deer Camp.

Thirdly,

relate a social

or relational growth,

and that is that I need to be on the team

with three other guys. I need to be growing relationally. I I need to be practicing hospitality. I I need other men in my life. I don't need to ask my sweet, dear wife to meet all of my relational needs,

and that's where sex gets overvalued in marriage because it's like, you know. We think, if we have sex, that we're all buttoned up relationally.

No, it's not the way it works.

So you got to have a team. And then finally

this idea that Jesus grew spiritually,

spiritually,

He grew in intimacy with God. Yes, what does God want from you? And what for me?

Think about that for a minute.

What does God want from you and me?

He does not sure you want

our compulsive energy working for him.

I read, I read about a pastor

who told he had. He had five kids, and he spent the world, his his lifetime giving to the world, and he told God he said, God, if you'll take care of my children, i'll take care of the children in the world.

Now I don't think God was involved in that

because his daughter has written a book and his daughter. That book is hard to read. She loved her daddy,

but she never saw her, Daddy.

Yes, it's not the way it works.

What God wants from you and me is an intimate relationship,

a broken heart, a contrite heart

to love his ways,

but to take care

our connection with him,

those that he's given us before we start going.

So this idea, then,

a meeting is where I want you to focus. I anchor that in as we start this series I want you to be deliberate about daily, just

interacting in your journal. Where am I physically? Where am I Emotionally you?

Where am I? Relationally and socially, and where am I spiritually, and to develop a plan on that ninety days. If we set together on January first, ninety days from now, you could be in a different place Personally,

your wife would love that. I guarantee you

your sons and your daughters would love that,

and then you might be ready

to go.

Go, make disciples. Look at Matthew.

Um.

Chapter twenty, eight,

Matthew. Chapter twenty, eight, eighteen, through twenty.

Jesus captured my heart with this passage early on.

I I have been incredibly blessed to have mentors in my life.

Um, and the first mentors that I had in my life when I became a Christian work, two guys named De White Hunt and Jim Gordon. They were Jesus. They were the Bishop to me, and I was meeting a friend of mine

in the Student Union Smokies was the name of the Student Union. Wonder where that comes from, you know.

I'm meeting my friend and I walk up to the table, and

a friend of mine had just led me to the Lord. I walk up to the table, and my friend is sitting there with two strange guys

and um.

I sit down and and my friend said, uh, Phil, these these guys are with some group called Campus Crusade for Christ, and they're talking about Jesus. And my friend was completely turned off. And it's just like

really, I mean,

think about that randomly. I've never even heard of Campus Crusade,

and I've often said, if these guys that have been moonies with timberines and an orange Road dude. I'd be a mooney today

because I was so hungry. I would have followed you home if you gave me attention. I was hurting in a big way, and God

I mean

God brought the white hunt into my life,

and very quickly He shared this verse with me. Listen to this

Jesus verse eighteen, Jesus undertered, went right ahead and gave his charge. God authorized and commanded me to commission you to commission. You.

Go out and train everyone you meet far and near in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the three-old name of father, Son, and holy Spirit,

then instruct them in the practice in the practice.

In the practice of all I've commanded you. I'll be with you as you do this day after day, right up to the end of the age.

The white hunt shared that verse with me,

Dave. My heart was captured

really,

and then

he exposed me to some guy named Howard Hendricks.

Now some of you have no idea who Howard Hendrix is.

That's right,

Jimmy Hendricks his brother. That's right,

Howard Hendrix.

I listened to his tapes. He was my teaching Mentor,

and he shared

what I've got there on the page that that those notes that you see there under go make disciples.

It's right off of a presentation that Howard Hendricks made years ago. Hendricks was a professor at Dallas Seminary For years

godly, godly man, trained hundreds of men,

and this idea of engaging in a process of walking with another man. Not a program. Find faithful men find somebody that you want to see.

Come to the Lord, participate in a group and individual work, not just an individual. Again, Work with a team, get them connected to others.

Serve another, not have power over others, you know it's not about building your kingdom.

It's about serving helping Number Four develop hearts, not minds, that's this idea of intimacy,

not feeding them full of information, but

and then finally, trust God, not gifts. Walk by faith or my faith, walk by faith,

because i'm excited about being a lion maker.

The call to be a line maker starts with being a lion,

being a disciple

and then beginning to go.

It's going to be fun.

You want to walk with me. Let's do it,

father. I thank you so much for our time this morning, and thank you for my brothers. Thank you for the time you've given us. Help us to understand the plan that you have for us

plans for our future to give us hope that,

thank you.

We love you in Jesus name.

Amen.

Have a great week.