



The Power of a Father!

As men, in a culture under attack, we need an understanding of mature masculinity—a vision and direction we can pursue with our sons! We need tools, methods, and ideas to help us become Godly men and from which to equip our sons. We need to grow up!

Jacob – the patriarch of Israel – the father of a nation—is a troubling character in the Old Testament. He is so much like us -- with very human strengths and weaknesses, but a man with a striving for spiritual things. From this imperfect man we learn important lessons of faith. Especially, we learn about God's grace. Time to engage—enjoy the Adventure!

Highland Colony Men's Roundtable
www.MensTable.com

THE POWER OF A FATHER – A Vision for Manhood!

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

April 5, 2023

Bible Verses: Genesis 25:19-34; Proverbs 29:18; Genesis 3:1-7; Philippians 2:5-8; John 4:34, 35; Matthew 4:8-11; Deuteronomy 6:13; Hebrews 12:1,2; Hebrews 11:24-26.

Music: Passion - How He Loves (Live) ft. Crowder - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A5t7Uoanryg>

Video: Show me the Father - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bnlo4KpNe_8

Resources: JACOB – Following God Without Looking Back by Gene A. Getz.

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

The Power of a Father – BECOMING GOD'S MAN – Genesis 25:19, 20.

- _____ → As Rebekah grew older something happened to this beautiful, sensitive, unselfish, and submissive woman. Why did she become deceitful and manipulative? What did she encourage Jacob to lie to her husband, Isaac? Why did she take matters into her own hands?
- Live in REALITY:
 - _____ → A good home background that provides us with a sense of security, good role models, and an environment for spiritual and emotional growth does not guarantee that we will never depart from doing the will of God.
 - _____ → No matter how commendable our home environment and its positive impact on our lives, a new and different environment can cause us to change our values into the opposite of what we've seen modeled and taught.
 - _____ → All Christians must be aware of and on guard against bad examples and false teaching.

The Power of a Father – A Vision for Manhood – Proverbs 29:18.

- _____ → Men are suffering because fathers have failed to give their sons what they need. Sons of even good, emotionally involved fathers drift in adulthood because we have forgotten to give them *the best things!* A father's presence is not all that's required to cure a son's drift. Something more is needed than a father's "interest" and "involvement."
- A healthy, masculine identity—a Vision for Manhood involves 3 resources:
 - _____ → Communities of men provide ceremonies to mark a boy's passage from adolescence to manhood. With no community vision for manhood, boys are left to grapple with a nebulous identity.
 - _____ → Sons need a father that offers a deep sense of validation. He fills the son's heart with affirmation and vision, not destruction of his soul by distance and aloofness.
 - _____ → Fathers need a church that offer images and concepts of authentic manhood. Sadly, under the assault of modern culture and feminist ideology, bold images of manhood—of masculine responsibilities and manly roles—have been silenced or reinterpreted.
- What is a man? The answer can be found in the contrast between Adam and Jesus—the second Adam. By comparing and contrasting these two Bible characters, we can arrive at a rock-solid definition.
 - A Real Man _____ → God gave Adam, the first man, a *will* to obey ("don't eat the fruit"), a *work* to do ("cultivate the garden"), and a *woman* to love (Eve). But confronted with social and spiritual responsibilities, Adam becomes, of all things, *passive* (Gen. 3:6). Jesus is a man of action (Phil. 2:5-8).
 - A Real Man _____ → Adam rejected God's will, said NO to God's work, and refused to love God's woman. Jesus accepted His responsibilities, and He did so with JOY (John 4:34)! Quote by Stephen Clark.
 - A Real Man _____ → Adam passively yielded to the feelings and emotions of the moment instead of aggressively leading with God's truth. Men were created to lead (I Cor. 11:3). Leadership demands that men have the courage to master their passions and bridle themselves with the principle of truth. Jesus demonstrated leadership during His temptation in the wilderness (Matt. 4:9, 10). "Begone" is a commanding cry of manly leadership (Deut. 6:13).
 - A Real Man _____ → Adam interpreted his responsibilities as work only: another burden to carry, devoid of joy and satisfaction. Biblical manhood was never designed by God to be burdensome. Instead, real manhood was designed by God to be liberating and a means of great reward (Hebrews 12:1, 2). Jesus was motivated and carried to the Jesus by the anticipation of JOY! Great Reward! Moses was energized by the same (Hebrews 11:24-26).

ACTION: Journal This!

Every son deserves a dad who fills his life with love, affirmation, and blessing. Every son needs from his father vision, and solid answers to questions such as:

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

"How He Loves" By David Crowder Band

<p>And He is jealous for me. Love's like a hurricane. I am a tree, Bending beneath the weight of His wind and mercy.</p> <p>When all of a sudden, I am unaware of these afflictions eclipsed by glory.</p> <p>And I realize just how beautiful You are, And how great Your affections are for me.</p> <p>And, oh, how He loves us, oh. Oh, how He loves us. How He loves us, oh.</p> <p>And He is jealous for me. Love's like a hurricane. I am a tree, Bending beneath the weight of His wind and mercy.</p>	<p>When all of a sudden, I am unaware of these afflictions eclipsed by glory.</p> <p>And I realize just how beautiful You are, And how great Your affections are for me.</p> <p>And, oh, how He loves us, oh. Oh, how He loves us. How He loves us, oh. Yeah, He loves us. Oh, how He loves us. Oh, how He loves us. Oh, how He loves.</p> <p>And we are His portion and He is our prize, Drawn to redemption by the grace in His eyes. If His grace is an ocean, we're all sinking.</p>	<p>And Heaven meets earth like an unforeseen kiss. And my heart turns violently inside of my chest. I don't have time to maintain these regrets, When I think about the way... That He loves us. Oh, how He loves us. Oh, how He loves us. Oh, how He loves. Yeah, He loves us. Oh, how He loves us. Oh, how He loves us. Oh, how He loves. Yeah, He loves us. Oh, how He loves us. Oh, how He loves us. Oh, how He loves.</p>
---	--	--

Bible Verses – The Message

<p>Genesis 25:19-34 – 19 This is the family tree of Isaac son of Abraham: Abraham had Isaac. 20 Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan Aram. She was the sister of Laban the Aramean. 21 Isaac prayed hard to God for his wife because she was barren. God answered his prayer and Rebekah became pregnant. 22 But the children tumbled and kicked inside her so much that she said, "If this is the way it's going to be, why go on living?" She went to God to find out what was going on. 23 God told her, Two nations are in your womb, two peoples butting heads while still in your body. One people will overpower the other, and the older will serve the younger. 24 When her time to give birth came, sure enough, there were twins in her womb. 25 The first came out reddish, as if snugly wrapped in a hairy blanket; they named him Esau (Hairy). 26 His brother followed, his fist clutched tight to Esau's heel; they named him Jacob (Heel). Isaac was sixty years old when they were born. 27 The boys grew up. Esau became an expert hunter, an outdoorsman. Jacob was a quiet man preferring life indoors among the tents. 28 Isaac loved Esau because he loved his game, but Rebekah loved Jacob. 29 One day Jacob was cooking a stew. Esau came in from the field, starved. 30 Esau said to Jacob, "Give me some of that red stew - I'm starved!" That's how he came to be called Edom (Red). 31 Jacob said, "Make me a trade: my stew for your rights as the firstborn." 32 Esau said, "I'm starving! What good is a birthright if I'm dead?" 33 Jacob said, "First, swear to me." And he did it. On oath Esau traded away his rights as the firstborn. 34 Jacob gave him bread and the stew of lentils. He ate and drank, got up and left. That's how Esau shrugged off his rights as the firstborn.</p> <p>Proverbs 29:18 - 18 If people can't see what God is doing, they stumble all over themselves; But when they attend to what he reveals, they are most blessed.</p> <p>Genesis 3:1-7 - 1 The serpent was clever, more clever than any wild animal God had made. He spoke to the Woman: "Do I understand that God told you not to eat from any tree in the garden?" 2 The Woman said to the serpent, "Not at all. We can eat from the trees in the garden. 3 It's only about the tree in the middle of the garden that God said, 'Don't eat from it; don't even touch it or you'll die.'" 4 The serpent told the Woman, "You won't die. 5 God knows that the moment you eat from that tree, you'll see what's really going on. You'll be just like God, knowing everything, ranging all the way from good to evil." 6 When the Woman saw that the tree looked like good eating and realized what she would get out of it - she'd know everything! - she took and ate the fruit and then gave some to her husband, and he ate. 7 Immediately the two of them did</p>	<p>"see what's really going on" - saw themselves naked! They sewed fig leaves together as makeshift clothes for themselves.</p> <p>Philippians 2:5-8 - 5 Think of yourselves the way Christ Jesus thought of himself. 6 He had equal status with God but didn't think so much of himself that he had to cling to the advantages of that status no matter what. 7 Not at all. When the time came, he set aside the privileges of deity and took on the status of a slave, became human! 8 Having become human, he stayed human. It was an incredibly humbling process. He didn't claim special privileges. Instead, he lived a selfless, obedient life and then died a selfless, obedient death - and the worst kind of death at that: a crucifixion.</p> <p>John 4:34, 35 - 34 Jesus said, "The food that keeps me going is that I do the will of the One who sent me, finishing the work he started. 35 As you look around right now, wouldn't you say that in about four months it will be time to harvest? Well, I'm telling you to open your eyes and take a good look at what's right in front of you. These Samaritan fields are ripe. It's harvest time!</p> <p>Matthew 4:8-11 - 8 For the third test, the Devil took him on the peak of a huge mountain. He gestured expansively, pointing out all the earth's kingdoms, how glorious they all were. 9 Then he said, "They're yours - lock, stock, and barrel. Just go down on your knees and worship me, and they're yours." 10 Jesus' refusal was curt: "Beat it, Satan!" He backed his rebuke with a third quotation from Deuteronomy: "Worship the Lord your God, and only him. Serve him with absolute single-heartedness." 11 The Test was over. The Devil left. And in his place, angels! Angels came and took care of Jesus' needs. Teaching and Healing</p> <p>Deuteronomy 6:13 - 13 Deeply respect God, your God. Serve and worship him exclusively. Back up your promises with his name only.</p> <p>Hebrews 12:1,2 - 1 Do you see what this means - all these pioneers who blazed the way, all these veterans cheering us on? It means we'd better get on with it. Strip down, start running - and never quit! No extra spiritual fat, no parasitic sins. 2 Keep your eyes on Jesus, who both began and finished this race we're in. Study how he did it. Because he never lost sight of where he was headed - that exhilarating finish in and with God - he could put up with anything along the way: cross, shame, whatever. And now he's there, in the place of honor, right alongside God.</p> <p>Hebrews 11:24-26 - 24 By faith, Moses, when grown, refused the privileges of the Egyptian royal house. 25 He chose a hard life with God's people rather than an opportunistic soft life of sin with the oppressors. 26 He valued suffering in the Messiah's camp far greater than Egyptian wealth because he was looking ahead, anticipating the payoff.</p>
--	--

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

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

Email: phil@bpointl.org

Webpage: www.bpointl.org