



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
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THE POWER OF A FATHER – FACING THE FATHER WOUND of SEX, GOD, &
 CHAOS!

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

Bible Verses: Genesis 30:25-43; Galatians 2:19-21; I Peter 2:18-20; Psalm 68:5, 6; Psalm 51:6; Isaiah 61:1-3; Ephesians 4:26, 27; Matthew 5:4

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 Sins (neglect, silence, not just actions) of the Fathers = Dysfunction Junction – Genesis 30:25 – 31:13

1. _____ → “Dysfunctional Behaviors” are what's passed on generationally and forever alter the way we think and act - until we decide to change it! This was certainly true of Jacob:
 1. Jacob was a momma's boy - creates sexual issues down the road!
 2. His father (grandfather) Abraham had poor boundaries around the created design:
Abraham's sexual relations with his wife Sarah's maid, Hagar, while a case of adultery rather than polygamy, also led to serious trouble. Although Hagar became pregnant with Ishmael at Sarah's behest, Sarah grew jealous and mistreated her, causing her to flee (Gen 16). Hagar eventually returned and gave birth to Ishmael. Later, when Sarah finally bore a child (Isaac), she decided that Ishmael was a threat and had Abraham drive him and Hagar away (Gen 21).
 3. He could have been a sex & love addict - working for Rachel for 7 years plus 7 more!
 4. **Multiple women and half-siblings - CHAOS not the created design:**
 Jacob had four wives whom he clearly loved unequally: Leah (whom he considered unattractive and felt himself “stuck with”), Rachel (his first love), Bilnah (Rachel's maid), and Zilpah (Leah's maid). Leah bore him six sons and a daughter: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulan, and Dinah. Rachel was infertile for many years, but finally gave birth to Joseph and later Benjamin. Bilnah bore him Naphtali and Dan, while Zilpah bore him Gad and Asher. All these sons by different mothers created tension, the greatest of which surrounded Joseph, whose brothers grew jealous and began to hate him, for their father, Jacob, favored Joseph as Rachel's son. The brothers hatched a plot to kill Joseph, but due to a combination of their desire for monetary gain and the intervention of Reuben, he was instead sold into slavery. At the root of this sad story of this bitter conflict was a polygamous mess. The clear teaching (among others) is this: Don't do polygamy.
2. Live in Reality (Galatians 2:20):
 1. _____ → When we take matters into our own hands and use methods that are out of harmony with God's will, we will eventually experience negative consequences. This happened to Jacob in his pursuits around women! It made leaving a much more difficult process. We should choose methods that do best what God wants. I Peter 2:19-20.
 2. _____ → If we are God's children, our loving heavenly Father will discipline us when we make mistakes, then help us return our “Bethel experience.” This happened to Jacob's life. God reminded him of his commitments and made it possible for him to maintain those commitments, even when he was floundering. Jacob teaches us that the significant place to be in the will of God, especially amid a pagan culture.

Polygamy was common among the Old Testament patriarchs. Here is a “brief” list:

1. Lamech (a descendant of Cain) had two wives (Genesis 4:19).
2. Abraham had more than one wife (Genesis 16:3-4, 25:6 (some were called concubines)).
3. Nahor (Abraham's brother) had both a wife and a concubine (Genesis 11:29, 22:20-24).
4. Jacob was tricked into polygamy (Genesis 29:20-30) and later received two additional wives bringing the grand total of four wives (Genesis 30:4, 9).
5. Esau took a third wife to please his father Isaac (Genesis 28:6-9).
6. Ashur had two wives (1 Chronicles 4:5).
7. Obadiah, Joel, Isshiah, and those with them had multiple wives (1 Chronicles 7:3-4).
8. Shaharaim had at least four wives, two of whom he “sent away” (1 Chronicles 8:8-11).
9. Caleb had two wives (1 Chronicles 2:18) and two concubines (1 Chronicles 2:46, 48).
10. Gideon had many wives (Judges 8:30).
11. Elkanah is recorded as having two wives, one of whom was the godly woman Hannah (1 Samuel 1:1-2, 8-2:10).
12. David had at least 8 wives and 10 concubines (1 Chronicles 1:1-9; 2 Samuel 6:23, 20:3).
13. Solomon had 700 wives and 300 concubines (1 Kings 11:1-6).
14. Rehoboam had eighteen wives and sixty concubines (2 Chronicles 11:21) and sought many wives for his sons (1 Chronicles 11:23).
15. Abijah had fourteen wives (2 Chronicles 13:21).
16. Ahab had more than one wife (1 Kings 20:7).
17. Jehoram had multiple wives (2 Chronicles 21:17).
18. Jehoiada the priest gave king Joash two wives (2 Chronicles 24:1-3).
19. Jehoiachin had more than one wife (2 Kings 24:15).

So, the Bible does teach on polygamy. Through stories, we learn of its problematic nature. We ought not to be overly simplistic and conclude that polygamy was the only problem or that such tragedies never occur in other settings, but it clearly played a strong role. It would seem that in the Old Testament God tolerates polygamy, as he does divorce, but nowhere does He approve of it.

In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus signals a return to God's original plan and excludes divorce. Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning. I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, unless the marriage is unlawful, and marries another woman commits adultery (Matt 19:8-9). Have you not read that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore, what God has joined together, let man not separate (Matt 19:4-6).

Whatever one may argue regarding the Old Testament's approach to marriage, Jesus makes it clear that we are going back to plan A: One man and one woman in a stable, lasting, fruitful relationship of mutual support.

The Power of a Father – FACING THE FATHER WOUND AROUND SEXUALITY– Psalm 68:5.

Resource: The Sacred Romance—Drawing Closer to the Heart of God by John Eldredge. Chapter 3 – The Message of the Arrows.

1. **FACING YOUR ARROWS**
2. **ARROWS FROM YOUR YOUTH**
3. **THE MESSAGE**
4. **HOW WE RESPOND**
5. **THE VOW**
6. **A WAY TOWARD HEALING**
7. **RENOUNCE THE VOW**
8. **GRIEVE THE WOUND**
9. **REJECT THE MESSAGE**
10. **IMAGINE A GOOD FATHER & FIND ONE!**

Bible Verses – The Message

Genesis 30:25-43 - 25 After Rachel had had Joseph, Jacob spoke to Laban, "Let me go back home. **26** Give me my wives and children for whom I've served you. You know how hard I've worked for you." **27** Laban said, "If you please, I have learned through divine inquiry that God has blessed me because of you." **28** He went on, "So name your wages. I'll pay you." **29** Jacob replied, "You know well what my work has meant to you and how your livestock has flourished under my care. **30** The little you had when I arrived has increased greatly; everything I did resulted in blessings for you. Isn't it about time that I do something for my own family?" **31** "So, what should I pay you?" **32** Go through your entire flock today and take out every speckled or spotted sheep, every dark-colored lamb, every spotted or speckled goat. They will be my wages. **33** That way you can check on my honesty when you assess my wages. If you find any goat that's not speckled or spotted or a sheep that's not black, you will know that I stole it." **34** "Fair enough," said Laban. "It's a deal." **35** But that very day Laban removed all the mottled and spotted billy goats and all the speckled and spotted nanny-goats, every animal that had even a touch of white on it plus all the black sheep and placed them under the care of his sons. **36** Then he put a three-day journey between himself and Jacob. Meanwhile Jacob went on tending what was left of Laban's flock. **37** But Jacob got fresh branches from poplar, almond, and plane trees and peeled the bark, leaving white stripes on them. **38** He stuck the peeled branches in front of the watering troughs where the flocks came to drink. When the flocks were in heat, they came to drink **39** and mated in front of the streaked branches. Then they gave birth to young that were streaked or spotted or speckled. **40** Jacob placed the ewes before the dark-colored animals of Laban. That way he got distinctive flocks for himself which he didn't mix with Laban's flocks. **41** And when the sturdier animals were mating, Jacob placed branches at the troughs in view of the animals so that they mated in front of the branches. **42** But he wouldn't set up the branches before the feeble animals. That way the feeble animals went to Laban and the sturdy ones to Jacob. **43** The man got richer and richer, acquiring huge flocks, lots and lots of servants, not to mention camels and donkeys.

Galatians 2:19-21 - 19 What actually took place is this: I tried keeping rules and working my head off to please God, and it didn't work. So I quit being a "law man" so that I could be God's man. **20** Christ's life showed me how,

and enabled me to do it. I identified myself completely with him. Indeed, I have been crucified with Christ. My ego is no longer central. It is no longer important that I appear righteous before you or have your good opinion, and I am no longer driven to impress God. Christ lives in me. The life you see me living is not "mine," but it is lived by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. **21** I am not going to go back on that. Is it not clear to you that to go back to that old rule-keeping, peer-pleasing religion would be an abandonment of everything personal and free in my relationship with God? I refuse to do that, to repudiate God's grace. If a living relationship with God could come by rule-keeping, then Christ died unnecessarily.

I Peter 2:18-20 - 18 You who are servants, be good servants to your masters - not just to good masters, but also to bad ones. **19** What counts is that you put up with it for God's sake when you're treated badly for no good reason. **20** There's no particular virtue in accepting punishment that you well deserve. But if you're treated badly for good behavior and continue in spite of it to be a good servant, that is what counts with God.

Psalm 68:5, 6 – 5 Father of orphans, champion of widows, is God in his holy house. **6** God makes homes for the homeless, leads prisoners to freedom, but leaves rebels to rot in hell.

Psalm 51:6 - 6 What you're after is truth from the inside out. Enter me, then; conceive a new, true life.

Isaiah 61:1-3 – 1 The Spirit of God, the Master, is on me because God anointed me. He sent me to preach good news to the poor, heal the heartbroken, Announce freedom to all captives, pardon all prisoners. **2** God sent me to announce the year of his grace - a celebration of God's destruction of our enemies - and to comfort all who mourn, **3** To care for the needs of all who mourn in Zion, give them bouquets of roses instead of ashes, Messages of joy instead of news of doom, a praising heart instead of a languid spirit. Rename them "Oaks of Righteousness" planted by God to display his glory.

Ephesians 4:26, 27 - 26 Go ahead and be angry. You do well to be angry - but don't use your anger as fuel for revenge. And don't stay angry. Don't go to bed angry. **27** Don't give the Devil that kind of foothold in your life.

Matthew 5:4 - 4 "You're blessed when you feel you've lost what is most dear to you. Only then can you be embraced by the One most dear to you.