



# 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](http://www.MensTable.com)

THE POWER OF A FATHER – WELCOME HOME – RECONCILIATION & FORGIVENESS!

June 29, 2023

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

**Bible Verses:** Genesis 33:1-20 - Genesis 35:1-15 - Galatians 6:1,2 - Romans 12:1,2

**Music:** WHEN GOD RAN - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1AkV2V5fNdk>

**Video:** I Can Only Imagine - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9IQACFrSR5g>

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

## The Power of a Father – RECONCILIATION & FORGIVENESS – Genesis 33:1-20.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ → Jacob was scared. Unknown to him, Esau was coming in peace. The 400 men accompanying him were simply attendants, not an army bent on wiping out Jacob and his family.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ → The moment Esau recognized Jacob, he ran to meet him (33:4). For Jacob to meet Esau face-to-face and experience his forgiveness was “like seeing the face of God” (33:10).
3. Live in Reality = From Jacob's life, we learn some powerful principles to guide us.
  1. \_\_\_\_\_ → We need to seek forgiveness from those we've sinned against.
  2. \_\_\_\_\_ → We should seek to be reconciled with those who have sinned against us.
  3. \_\_\_\_\_ → We should seek to restore people who are trapped in sin (Gal. 6:1, 2).

## The Power of a Father – WELCOME HOME – Genesis 35:1-15.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ → When Jacob and his household arrived in Bethel, in many respects he had come full circle. It was here he first met God personally, and now he was back to fulfill his vow. He immediately “built an altar, and he called the place El Bethel” – which means God of Bethel.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ → Jacob was reunited with his father, Isaac who was now 180. Shortly after Jacob had returned home, Isaac “breathed his last and died.” Two brothers who were at each other's throats now joined together to lay their ancient father to rest.
3. Live in Reality = From Jacob's life, we learn some powerful principles to guide us.
  1. \_\_\_\_\_ → Fortunately, most of our decisions that are not based on complete surrender to God's will do not result in disaster. However, “partial obedience” of any kind will eventually lead to some very difficult experiences and heartbreaking situations. There will be consequences. There is only one safe and secure place: in the center of God's “good, pleasing, and perfect will” (Romans 12:1,2).

## The Power of a Father – FACING THE FATHER WOUND. – 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** → To allow our hearts to heal, we must face our Arrows. You must stop and take time to thoughtfully, honestly, and tenderly answer these questions: How have you handled the affliction that has pierced your heart? How did the ARROWS come to you? Where did they land? Are they still there? What have you done as a result?
2. **ARROWS FROM YOUR YOUTH** → What hurt you? Most of the defining Arrows of our lives strike when we are young. For it is then that our hearts are most vulnerable and we are least guarded, least able to deal with the pain. Write down a word or sentence that captures for you the significant Arrows from your youth. Psalm 51:6.
3. **THE MESSAGE** → What was the Message of each Arrow? It's not so much the pain you've experienced, but what you've learned from it. What did the Arrow say about you? About God? About others? About life in general? Can you hear those messages still playing in your life today?
4. **HOW WE RESPOND** → There are two basic ways we handle the Arrows. First, we just deaden our heart. Secondly, we divide life into two parts. On the outside, all is duty and survival. But in secret, we find something to give us a taste of intimacy and adventure we were made for. Where do you go for a taste of intimacy or a taste of adventure these days?
5. **THE VOW** → How do you respond or react? Commitments form never to be in that position again, never to know that sort of pain again. The result is an approach to life that we often call our personality. The commitments are something like vows—“I will never try that again.”
6. **A WAY TOWARD HEALING** → The way you handled the Arrows do not have to be the end of the story. You do not have to be ruled by it all. Jesus quoted Isaiah 61:1-3 when he stepped onto the stage.
7. **RENOUNCE THE VOW** → The only thing more tragic than the tragedy that happens to us is the way we handle it—the choices we make, the person we become, the life we live (or don't live). See Luke 17:31-33. The things we do to protect and preserve our hearts usually end up hurting us more. We must renounce our vows. Ephesians 4:26, 27. Unresolved emotional wounds create spiritual strongholds in our hearts.
8. **GRIEVE THE WOUND** → It is so important for us to grieve our losses. It is the only honest thing to do. For in grieving we admit the truth: We lost something very dear, and it hurt so much. Tears are healing. They help to open and cleanse the wound. Matthew 5:4.
9. **REJECT THE MESSAGE** → We must reject the lie that has so long defined us. Because of the wound, because the message was delivered by an Arrow, it sinks in deep and feels authoritative. But the fact is, nearly every message of every Arrow is untrue. You are loved. You are not alone. God does care.
10. **IMAGINE A GOOD FATHER** → Imaging what a “good father” would say and do, and then trying to live our life accordingly in all our relationships can help heal. Take the wound to our Heavenly Father by examining how we have projected our earthly father onto our Heavenly Father. We must be willing to forgive. Forgiveness isn't about forgetting about the pain your father has caused, but it's letting go of resentment or frustration that steals your freedom and peace.

**ACTION: Journal This!**

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

- 1. What is a man?
- 2. What are a man's greatest responsibilities?
- 3. What does a man believe?
- 4. How does a man behave?
- 5. What should a man try to achieve?

**Bible Verses – The Message**

**Genesis 33:1-20 - 1** Jacob looked up and saw Esau coming with his four hundred men. He divided the children between Leah and Rachel and the two maidservants.**2** He put the maidservants out in front, Leah and her children next, and Rachel and Joseph last.**3** He led the way and, as he approached his brother, bowed seven times, honoring his brother.**4** But Esau ran up and embraced him, held him tight and kissed him. And they both wept.**5** Then Esau looked around and saw the women and children: "And who are these with you?" Jacob said, "The children that God saw fit to bless me with."**6** Then the maidservants came up with their children and bowed;**7** then Leah and her children, also bowing; and finally, Joseph and Rachel came up and bowed to Esau.**8** Esau then asked, "And what was the meaning of all those herds that I met?" "I was hoping that they would pave the way for my master to welcome me."**9** Esau said, "Oh, brother. I have plenty of everything - keep what is yours for yourself."**10** Jacob said, "Please. If you can find it in your heart to welcome me, accept these gifts. When I saw your face, it was as the face of God smiling on me."**11** Accept the gifts I have brought for you. God has been good to me and I have more than enough." Jacob urged the gifts on him and Esau accepted.**12** Then Esau said, "Let's start out on our way; I'll take the lead."**13** But Jacob said, "My master can see that the children are frail. And the flocks and herds are nursing, making for slow going. If I push them too hard, even for a day, I'd lose them all."**14** So, master, you go on ahead of your servant, while I take it easy at the pace of my flocks and children. I'll catch up with you in Seir."**15** Esau said, "Let me at least lend you some of my men." "There's no need," said Jacob. "Your generous welcome is all I need or want."**16** So Esau set out that day and made his way back to Seir.**17** And Jacob left for Succoth. He built a shelter for himself and sheds for his livestock. That's how the place came to be called Succoth (Sheds).**18** And that's how it happened that Jacob arrived all in one piece in Shechem in the land of Canaan - all the way from Paddan Aram. He camped near the city.**19** He bought the land where he pitched his tent from the sons of Hamor, the father of Shechem. He paid a hundred silver coins for it.**20** Then he built an altar there and named it El-Elohe-Israel (Mighty Is the God of Israel).

**Genesis 35:1-15 - 1** Then God said to Jacob, "Go up to Bethel and settle there, and build an altar there to God, who appeared to you when you were fleeing from your brother Esau."**2** So Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, "Get rid of the foreign gods you have with you, and purify yourselves and change your clothes."**3** Then come, let us go up to Bethel, where I will build an altar to God, who answered me in the day of my distress and who has been with me wherever I have gone."**4** So they gave Jacob all the foreign gods they had and the rings in their ears, and Jacob buried them under the oak at Shechem.**5** Then they set out, and the terror of God fell on the towns all around them so that no one pursued them.**6** Jacob and all the people with him came to Luz (that is, Bethel) in the land of Canaan.**7** There he built an altar, and he called the place El Bethel, because it was there that God revealed himself to him when he was fleeing from his brother.**8** Now Deborah, Rebekah's nurse, died and was buried under the oak outside Bethel. So it was named Allon Bakuth.**9** After Jacob returned from Paddan Aram, God appeared to him again and blessed him.**10** God said to him, "Your name is Jacob, but you will no longer be called Jacob; your name will be Israel." So he named him Israel.**11** And God said to him, "I am God Almighty; be fruitful and increase in number. A nation and a community of nations will come from you, and kings will be among your descendants."**12** The land I gave to Abraham and Isaac I also give to you, and I will give this land to your descendants after you."**13** Then God went up from him at the place where he had talked with him.**14** Jacob set up a stone pillar at the place where God had talked with him, and he poured out a drink offering on it; he also poured oil on it.**15** Jacob called the place where God had talked with him Bethel.

**Galatians 6:1,2 - 1** Live creatively, friends. If someone falls into sin, forgivingly restore him, saving your critical comments for yourself. You might be needing forgiveness before the day's out.**2** Stoop down and reach out to those who are oppressed. Share their burdens, and so complete Christ's law.

**Romans 12:1,2 - 1** So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life - your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life - and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him.**2** Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.

**"When God Ran" By Phillips, Craig and Dean**

<p>Almighty God, The Great I Am, Immovable Rock, Omnipotent, Powerful, Awesome Lord. Victorious Warrior, Commanding King of Kings, Mighty Conqueror and the only time, The only time I ever saw him run, Was when... <i>[Chorus:]</i> He ran to me, He took me in His arms, Held my head to His chest, Said "My son's come home again!" Lifted my face, Wiped the tears from my eyes, With forgiveness in His voice He said "Son, do you know I still love You?" He caught me By surprise, When God ran... The day I left home, I knew I'd broken His heart.</p>	<p>And I wondered then, if things could ever be the same. Then one night, I remembered His love for me. And down that dusty road, ahead I could see, It was the only time, It was the only time I ever saw Him run. And then... <i>[Repeat Chorus]</i> He caught me by surprise. And He brought me to my knees. When God ran... I saw Him run to me. I was so ashamed, all alone, and so far away. But now I know, that He's been waiting for this day... I saw Him run to me, He took me in His arms, Held my head to his chest,</p>	<p>Said "My son's come home again!" Lifted my face, Wiped the tears from my eyes, With forgiveness in His voice I felt his love for me again. He ran to me, He took me in His arms, Held my head to his chest, Said "My son's come home again!" Lifted my face, Wiped the tears from my eyes, With forgiveness in His voice He said "Son" He called me Son. He said "Son, do you know I still love You?" He ran to me (When God Ran) (I saw Him run to me) And then I ran to Him (When God ran) When God ran</p>
--	---	--