

THE MAKING OF A REAL MAN

1 Kings 2:1-4; Psalm 144:1-2; 12

DOES IT MATTER WHETHER FATHERS ARE INTENTIONAL ABOUT “MANHOOD”?

- Ezek. 22:29-30 The people of the land have practiced extortion and committed robbery. They have oppressed the poor and needy, and have extorted from the sojourner [foreigner] without justice. 30 And I sought for a man among them who should build up the wall and stand in the breach before me for the land, that I should not destroy it, but I found none." (ESV)

1. I MUST DEFINE WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A REAL MAN.

- 1 Kings 2:1 When David's time to die drew near, he commanded Solomon his son, saying, 2 "I am about to go the way of all the earth. Be strong, and show yourself a man, 3 and keep the charge of the LORD your God, walking in his ways and keeping his statutes, his commandments, his rules, and his testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn, ...

- (1 Kings 2 cont) 4 that the LORD may establish his word that he spoke concerning me, saying, 'If your sons pay close attention to their way, to walk before me in faithfulness with all their heart and with all their soul, you shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.'

SOME REASONS TO LIVE BY THE SCRIPTURE:

Real men:

- A. Honor their mothers: it is the seed of their respect of their wives. Ex 20:12
- B. Cherish their wives and love them the way Christ loved the church. Eph 5:25, 28
 - And place them in priority over their mother. Gen 2:24
- C. Are not prejudiced towards others for “there is neither Jew nor Gentile... we are all one in Christ.” Gal 3:28
- D. Believer there is a Truth; He is Jesus; and those who have a different truth deserve to be heard and respected. John 14:6

2. REAL MEN SEE A “CAUSE AND AFFECT” RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN KNOWING GOD AND EXPERIENCING THE BEST IN LIFE – GOOD AND BAD!

- 1 Kings 2:1-3 “... Be strong and show yourself to be a man³ and keep the charge of the LORD your God, walking in his ways ..., that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn,

- 1 Ki. 3:6-10 And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. ⁷ And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. ...

3. REAL FATHERS PREPARE THEIR SONS FOR “BATTLE.”

- Ps 144:1 – “...he prepares my hands for war and my fingers for battle... 14 may our sons in their youth be like plants full grown, our daughters like corner pillars cut for the structure of a house.”
- Ps. 18:34-35

REAL FATHERS KNOW THE VALUE OF "SPINACH" IN EMPOWERING THEIR SONS.

- **God, the father, to Jesus:**
- **At baptism:** Matt. 3:17 and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."
- **At Mt of Transfiguration:** Matt. 17:5 He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." 2 Peter 1:17

OUR WORDS ARE POWER. WE MUST SPEAK
“MANHOOD” INTO THE LIVES OF OUR SONS.

- David spoke truth into Solomon's life.
 - 1 Ki. 2:1-3 When David's time to die drew near, he commanded Solomon his son, saying, 2 "I am about to go the way of all the earth. Be strong, and show yourself a man, 3 and keep the charge of the LORD your God, walking in his ways ..., that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn, (ESV)

EVERY SON NEEDS TO HEAR THESE WORDS SPOKEN TO THEM.

1. You are a hard worker.
2. You have what it takes.
3. I believe in you.
4. I am proud of you.
5. You will make a valued imprint on the world.
6. You are unique and God has a purpose and a plan for your life.

- Prov. 18:21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.
- Jas. 3:4-5 Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. 5 So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire!

ENEMY #1 – THE OPINIONS/WORDS/HUMILIATIONS OF OTHERS.

- Galatians 1:10 For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.

ENEMY #2 – SETTLING FOR MEDIOCRITY AND/OR LOW EXPECTATIONS.

- Hard work is a gift. Adam in the Garden.

Col. 3:23-24 Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. (ESV)

- Eph. 6:5-8 Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, 6 not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, 7 rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, 8 knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a bondservant or is free. (ESV)

FROM “DO HARD THINGS” BY ALEX & BRETT HARRIS

1. Lead them to attempt things outside their “comfort zone.”
2. Encourage them to beyond the expectations or requirements.
3. Teach them to work with others are by doing things that are too big to accomplish alone.
4. Find things for them that don’t provide an immediate payback; can’t be great on the first attempt.
 - David and Goliath. Daniel and the lion’s den.
5. Take stands on things that challenge the cultural norm.

ENEMY #3 – THEIR OWN THINKING AND HOW IT IMPACTS THEIR BEHAVIOR.

- Thoughts = feelings = actions.
 - “What are you feeling right now?”
- 1 Cor. 14:20 Brothers, do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature.
- 2 Cor. 10:4-5 For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. 5 We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ,

NEXT STEP #1

How can we elevate the Word of God?

1. Read it yourself, daily. Talk about it with your family. What did God say to you?
2. Read it with your sons, daughters, at least once a week;
 1. Set a specific day and time to do so.
 2. “Prove it” with your children.
3. Create “fun memories” in Christ!

NEXT STEP #2

“Spinach” your son in some way today:

1. Write him a letter and tell him:
 1. Why you are proud of him
 2. Why you believe in him
 3. That you love him with an everlasting, steadfast love.