

Courage Courage To Lead

From "Courageous" series by Wayne Murray

Statistics Tell Us Time And Time Again That Fathers Make A Huge Difference

Children Whose Fathers Were Highly Involved In Their Schools Were More Likely To

- Do Well Academically
- To Participate In Extracurricular Activities
- Enjoy School
- Were Less Likely To Have Ever Repeated A Grade
- Been Expelled

Compared To Children Whose Fathers Were Less Involved In Their Schools.

This Effect Held For Both Two-Parent And Single-Parent Households

And Was Distinct And Independent From The Effect Of Mother Involvement.

Book: Students Do Better When Their Fathers Are Involved At School

We Know Statistically That Father's Involvement Has An Effect On

- ❖ Poverty
- ❖ Physical And Mental Health
- ❖ Crime

Tony Dungy Said, "We Have A Whole Generation Of Men Who Don't Understand How Important They Are To Their Kids."

A Statistic Provided By Promise Keepers A Few Years Ago Showed That When A Man Determines To Follow Christ, **90% Of The Time** His Wife And Children Follow Suit.

So, Consider This A Call To The Bat Cave From The Commissioner At Gotham City. . .

There Is A Message Going Out For The Justice League

Consider This A Call From The President To Captain America (We Need You Son)

**Consider This A Summons By Master Splinter To The Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle
This Is Shield Calling Out To The Avengers**

Our Nation, Our Communities, Our Homes Are In Trouble And Men You Are The Answer

- Men, You Are **The Hope** Of This Community
- Men, You Are **The Solution** To Our Nation's Problems
- Men, You Are **The Secret Weapon** God Has In His Arsenal To Destroy The Enemy's Plans
- Men, God Has **Chosen You** To Be In His Army – To Fight And To Win
- Men, God **Needs You**, He **Wants You**, His Voice Is **Calling To You**

If You Are Sacred Not Knowing What You Are Getting In To, I've Got Some Good News For You

God Is Not Looking For

- Perfect Men
- Flawless Men

God Is Looking For **Willing** Men Who Will Say Yes To God

We Have Been Using The Movie Courageous As An Illustration For The Sermon Series
Courageous Families

This Series Has Been Such Simple Stuff

All You Have To Do Is Obey Them And You Will See Change In Your Life And Relationships

It Doesn't Matter How Deep You Go In The Bible

You Have To Obey What You Know You Are Suppose To Do

This Scene Is About A Father Who Lost His Daughter In A Tragic Accident And Becomes
Determined To Find Out What God Says About Being A Godly Father To His Son

Video Clip From Courageous Chapter 15 – How's Your Research

Begin At 55:15 (Fade In Just After It Says "Six Months Later") End At 56:18 (Last Line Is "I Never
Took Time To Look It Up")

Text: 1 Corinthians 16:13 "Be On The Alert, Stand Firm In The Faith, Act Like Men, Be Strong."

I've Heard It All My Life "Act Like A Man"

To Me That Meant

- ❖ Suck It Up
- ❖ Put Your Big Boy Pants On
- ❖ Let's Go And Get It Done

What Does It Mean To Be A Godly Man?

That Is Why I Love Our Men's Ministry Because We Learn What It Means To Be A Godly Man

The Dictionary Doesn't Help Us Much

Someone Has Noticed That The Word "Father" Appears In The Dictionary Just Before The Word

- "Fatigued"
- "Fathead"

One Of The Most Difficult Challenges Of Being A Godly Man Is To **Define It**.

The Bible Has A Lot To Say About It – About Being A Godly Father, A Godly Man.

The People Who Created The Movie Courageous Have Done A Great Service To The Body Of Christ By Helping Define Godly Manhood From The Bible.

1. **Resolve To Be A Man Of Responsibility**

1 Corinthians 13:11 “When I Was A Child, I Used To Speak Like A Child, Think Like A Child, Reason Like A Child; When I Became A Man, I Did Away With Childish Things.”

When Does A Boy Become A Man?

“In The Jewish Community Today, When A Boy Reaches Puberty (Around The Age Of Thirteen), The Bar Mitzvah Ceremony Signals His Exodus From Childhood And The Beginning Of His Manhood.

The Hebrew Word Bar Means “Son Of” And Mitzvah Means “The Law.”

During A Bar Mitzvah Ceremony, The Boy’s Father And Other Trusted Men Call Him Into Manhood, Embrace Him, And Allow Him To Read Aloud From The Old Testament Scriptures.

He Is Now To Learn And Read The Commandments Of God On His Own As A “Son Of The Law.”

His Parents Now Consider Him Accountable For His Own Sins.

After This Event He Is Considered Mature Enough To Own Property And Must Be Married In The Future When He Is Ready.

He Understands That He Must Embrace Responsibility For His Own Life, Start Stepping Into Manhood And Becoming Like A Man.” – Resolution For Men P. 56

When Does A Boy Become A Man?

Not When He

- ❖ Gets Facial Hair
- ❖ Voice Deepens
- ❖ Is 18 Or 21

A Boy Becomes A Man When He Begins To Accept Responsibility

There Are Men Who Have Hair Growing Off Their Face But Have Not Accepted Responsibility

Whether You Are Currently Married Or Not, Have Children Or Not, You Are A Man.

And As A Man God Has Called You To An Appropriate And Excellent Standard – **His**

To Be A Man Is To Fully Accept Responsibility For Your Role As

- ❖ An Adult
- ❖ A Husband
- ❖ A Father
- ❖ Employee
- ❖ Neighbor
- ❖ Any Other Role You Choose To Undertake.

Men Are Happiest And At Their Best When They Are **Responsible**.

The First Thing That God Did When He Created Adam Was To Give Him Responsibilities.

He Placed Adam In The Garden "To Cultivate It And Keep It." **Genesis 2:15**

As A Result Of His Responsibility Adam Was Able To Reap The Fruit Of The Ground And Enjoy The Fruit Of His Labor.

Men We Are Wired And Expected By God To Take Responsibility For Our Own Lives And Those God Has Entrusted To Us.

The First Adam Blamed His Wife For His Sin Rather Than Taking Responsibility.

The Second Adam Jesus Took Responsibility For Everybody's Sin

Resolve To Be Like The Second Adam – Jesus & **Take Full Responsibility For**

- ❖ **Myself**
- ❖ **My Wife**
- ❖ **My Children**

2. Resolve To Lead Your Family

Joshua 24:15 "As For Me And My House, We Will Serve The Lord."

The **Ultimate Responsibility** For Your Home Is You Sir.

The Greater Responsibility For The Success Of Your Marriage Is On You.

Guys – You Are Driving.

The Greater Responsibility For Your Children Is On You Dad.

God Has Put Something In The Heart Of A Man That **Longs** To Be Courageous And Longs To Lead.

When A Man Leads With Courage And Humility His Family **Prosper**s.

In This World, The Strong

- ❖ **Take Advantage** Of The Weak.
- ❖ **Dominate** The Weak.

But In God's Kingdom The Strong **Die** For The Weak.

Those Who Are Ultimately Responsible Lay Down Their Lives For The Ones Under Their Care.

The Leader Serves And Protects.

The More Powerful And Influential You Are The More Humble, Servant Hearted And Sacrificial You Are.

That Is God's Way Of Thinking.

And That Should Be Our Way Of Thinking As Well.

Whatever The Current Circumstances Are Happening In Your Family Right Now – Remember They Are Happening Under Your Watch.

Don't Be Passive – Don't Do Nothing. Be Courageous . . . Do Something. . . .

Be The Spiritual Leader

I Didn't Say Be The

- **Best Prayer**
 - By Observation Did You Know That Women Are Better Prayers
 - It Might Have Something To Do With The Fact That They Have Twice As Many Words To Use In The Day Time
- **Best Singer**
- **Best Crier**

A Godly Man Will Simply Determine That You And Your Family Will Follow Christ, **Together**.

A Godly Man Resolves To

- ❖ **Love His Family**
- ❖ **Protect Them**
- ❖ **Serve Them**
- ❖ **Teach Them The Word Of God**

As The Spiritual Leader Of The Home

3. Resolve To Love Your Wife

Napoleon Bonaparte Said, "Alexander The Great, Ceasar, Charlemagne, And I Have All Founded Empires. But On What Did We Rest The Creations Of Our Own Genius Depend? **Upon Force**."

Jesus Alone Founded His Empire On Love. And To This Day Millions Of People Would Lay Down Their Lives For Him..."

God's Calling Your Life As A Man, If You Are A Husband, Is **Not To Marry The Woman You Love, But To Love The Woman You Married**.

Ephesians 5:25 "Husbands, Love Your Wives, As Christ Loved The Church And Gave Himself Up For Her."

Love Is Not A Feeling Or An Emotion – **It's A Choice**

Men Let's Put Our Big Boy Pants On Today – Can You Handle This?

Men, You Love Your Wife By

- ❖ Choosing To Being Faithful To Her Both Physically And Emotionally
- ❖ Telling Her You Love Her
- ❖ Showing Her You Love Her

4. Resolve To Bless Your Children

Listen To The Blessing That Isaac Gives To Jacob Before He Dies . . .

Genesis 28:3-4 “May God Almighty Bless You And Make You Fruitful And Multiply You, That You May Become A Company Of Peoples. May He Also Give You The Blessing Of Abraham, To You And To Your Descendants With You.”

We Talked About This Before In *Courage To Love* – But You Need To Give Your Children A Spoken Blessing.

Use Your Words To Build Them Up And Prophecy Life An Hope Over Their Lives.

A Study Was Done Recently To Determine The Amount Of Interaction Between Fathers And Their Small Children.

First, The Fathers Were Asked To Estimate The Amount Of Time They Spent Each Day Communicating With Their Child.

The Average Answer Was About 15 To 20 Minutes.

Next, Microphones Were Attached To The Father So That Each Interaction Could Be Recorded.

The Results Of This Study Were Shocking: The Average Amount Of Time Spent By These Middle-Class Fathers With Their Small Children Was 37 Seconds Per Day.

Their Direct Interaction Was Limited To 2.7 Encounters Daily, Lasting 10 To 15 Seconds Each!

How Many Of You Know It Is Difficult To Bless Your Child When You Are Spending A Whopping 37 Seconds A Day With Them?

We Bless Our Children When We Give Them

- Affirmation
- Attention
- Affection

Friend, That Takes More Than A Few Seconds A Day

We Need To Teach Our Kids That Real Life Success Is Not

- ❖ Making A Lot Of Money
- ❖ Having Fame
- ❖ Being A Great Athlete

The Greatest Success Of All Is To Love God With All Your Heart And All Your Soul And All Your Mind.

Men It Is Not The Church's Job To Teach Your Children To Love God And Be A Disciple Of Christ – It's Ours.

Wednesday Night Classes, Junior Bible Quiz, Other Methods Do It

A Godly Man Resolves To **Bless His Children And Teach Them To Love God With All Of Their Hearts, All Of Their Minds, And All Of Their Strength.**

5. Resolve To Live With Honor

Ecclesiastes 12:1,13 “Remember Also Your Creator In The Days Of Your Youth...Fear God And Keep His Commandments, For This Is The Whole Duty Of Man.”

Living With Honor Means

- ❖ Honoring Authority
- ❖ Rejecting Rebellion
- ❖ Fearing God

We Fear God By Honoring People He Has Put In Authority Over Us.

You Can Raise Your Hands All Day Long But If You Don't Honor The Authority God Places In Your Life The Bible Says You Don't Fear God

Our

- ❖ Employers
- ❖ Spiritual Leaders
- ❖ Government Leaders.

Hebrews 13:17-18 “Obey Your Leaders And Submit To Their Authority. They Keep Watch Over You As Men Who Must Give Account. Obey Them So That Their Work Will Be A Joy, Not A Burden, For That Would Be Of No Advantage To You.”

It Is A Lie From The Enemy To Believe That Rebelling And Dishonoring Authority Brings More Freedom And Peace.

The Opposite Is True – It Brings Destruction And Pain.

Resolve To Be A Man Of Honor **By Determining To Honor Authority And Live Responsibly.**

6. Resolve To Fight For Justice.

Micah 6:8 “He Has Showed You, O Man, What Is Good. And What Does The Lord Require Of You? To Act Justly And To Love Mercy And To Walk Humbly With Your God.”

We Love A God Who Loves Justice

Every Generation Encounters Evils That Need To Be Confronted And Addressed.

That Means That Every Generation Needs Strong Men To Rise Up Courageously Against Them.

Men Of This Generation Have To Fight The Tendency To

- ❖ Passivity
 - We Learned It From Our Father Adam Who Just Stood By
- ❖ Just Let Things Happen
- ❖ Be A Bystander Or An Onlooker As The World Goes On.

God Did Not Create You To Be A Bystander Men To Just Sit On The Sidelines And Worry About

- ❖ Your Life
- ❖ Your Bank Account
- ❖ Your Career

He Created You To

- ❖ Fight For Justice
- ❖ Love Mercy

- May We Be Like Nathan Who Was Not Afraid To Confront King David In His Sin
- May We Be Like Nehemiah Who Spoke Out About People Being Forced Into Slavery
- May We Be Like John The Baptist Who Stood Up To Herod And Pointed Out His Adultery
- May We Be Like Jesus Who Say The Temple Of God Being Compromised Through Corrupt Profiteering And Be Willing To Turn Things Upside Down
- May We Be Like William Wilberforce, Who Was Instrumental In The Battle Against Slavery In The 19th Century
- May We Be Like Dietrich Boenhoeffer, A German Pastor Who While Many Germans Were Acquiescing To Hitler’s Rise To Power – Took To The Radio To Announce Christ Is The Only King And Renounced The Furor.
- May We Be Like Martin Luther King Jr – Who With Uncommon Courage Lead The Charge Against Racial Discrimination

What Injustices Do You See Around You?

Whatever You See Is What God Has Called You To Confront

May God Give Us A Heart For

- ❖ The Fatherless
- ❖ The Weak
- ❖ Those Who Are Mistreated And Unprotected

May Each Of Us As Godly Men Resolve To

- ❖ **Confront Evil**
- ❖ **Pursue Justice**
- ❖ **Love Mercy**

7. Resolve To Demonstrate Love

Colossians 3:12 “As Those Who Have Been Chosen Of God, Holy And Beloved, Put On A Heart Of Compassion, Kindness, Humility, Gentleness And Faithfulness.”

Real Men

- ❖ Show Compassion
- ❖ Treat Others With Kindness And Respect And Compassion.

Too Many Men Think Of Love And Kindness As Sissy Stuff

Compassion Is The Kind Of Things For Women And Children

Come On We've Got To Be A Man – Dry Up Those Tears Boy

We Have Better Things To Worry About That Your Feelings

But God Commands Us As Men To

- ❖ Be Kind
- ❖ Be Loving
- ❖ Show Compassion.

You Do That By

- ❖ Praying For Your Family
- ❖ Praying For Others
- ❖ Communicating Love To Those Around You

Perhaps Today You Write A Letter Of Appreciation To Your Dad On Fathers Day

Resolve To Demonstrate Love By **Praying For Others And Treat Them With Kindness, Respect And Compassion.**

8. Resolve To Provide For Your Family

Proverbs 13:4, 14:23 NLT “Lazy People Want Much But Get Little, But Those Who Work Hard Will Prosper...Work Brings Profit But Mere Talk Leads To Poverty.”

One Of The Meaning Of The Word Father Is “Source”

Think About That

- God Our Heavenly Father Is Our Source
- God Has Made Fathers On This Earth As The Primary Source Of Provision

As Men We Should Embrace Our Role Providers.

We Could Significantly Reduce The Poverty Level In Our Country If Every Father Who Had Checked Out On His Wife And Kids Would Go Home And Start Taking His Role As Provider Seriously.

Many Wives Sacrificially Help Their Families Financially And No Man Should Ever Feel Less Of A Man If His Wife Makes More Money Than Him.

We Can't Always Give Our Families Every Toy Or Luxury They Want Or Everything We Wish We Could.

But We Can Do Our Best To Make Sure They Have Provision For Shelter, Clothing And Food.

If You Find Yourself Without A Job Right Now As A Man – That Is Not A Failure.

The Failure Is In The Giving Up, The Not Trying, The Lack Of Diligence.

Perhaps God Is Teaching You How To Trust Him More And To Have More Faith

Men, God Is Your Source So You Can Be A Source For Your Family.

Someone Put It This Way, We Work And God Provides

And Remember That Provision Is More Than Just Money And Physical Needs, It Means Providing Spiritual Support And Emotional Support.

You Can't Do That If You Are Working 80 Hours A Week.

A Godly Man Says **“I Will Work Diligently To Provide For The Needs Of My Family.”**

9. Resolve To Reconcile With Your Past

Matthew 5:23-24 “If You Are Presenting Your Offering At The Altar, And There Remember That Your Brother Has Something Against You, Leave Your Offering There Before The Altar And Go; First Be Reconciled To Your Brother, And Then Come And Present Your Offering.”

Your Life Is Pretty Much On Hold Until You Make It Right With People Who Have Hurt You

You Will

- ❖ Be Spinning Your Wheels
- ❖ Not Be Going Forward At All
- ❖ Not Even Be Able To Have A Quality Relationship With God

Until You Go Make It Right With People Who Have Hurt You

There Is A Liberation That You Feel When You

- ❖ Release Someone
- ❖ Forgive Someone

Who Has Deeply Hurt You.

Men Of God, It Will Be Difficult For You To Have Success In Any Of These Areas If You Allow Any Bitterness Or Anger To Remain In Your Life.

Who

- Has Hurt You?
- Deserted You?
- Humiliated You?
- Cut You From The Baseball Team When You Were A Freshman Even Though You Struck Out Eight Of Nine Batters In A Scrimmage Game Against The Varsity Baseball Team In High School

Jesus Showed Us That Forgiveness Is Possible.

We Forgive Because He Forgave Us

Jesus Also Commanded Us To Forgive, It's Not Even Optional

A Godly Man Resolves To **Forgive Those Who Have Wronged Me And Reconcile With Those Whom I Have Wronged.**

10. Resolve To Live With Integrity

Psalm 25:21 NLT "May Integrity And Honesty Protect Me, For I Put My Hope In You."

There Will Be Times When You Fail,

When You Fail Your Choice As To What To Do Next Is Pivotal

Determine To Fail Forward.

Let Your Mistakes Turn Into Life Lessons And Determine To Fail Forward.

Become Wiser After Each Mistake.

And Hear This – **Repent Quickly**

Repent To

- ❖ God
- ❖ Whomever You Have Offended

Resolve To Make It Right

May Our Testimony Be Like That Of Job ^{Job 1:8} "There Is No One Like Him On The Earth, A Blameless And Upright Man, Fearing God And Turning Away From Evil."

A Godly Man Resolves To

- ❖ **Learn From His Mistakes**
- ❖ **Repent Of His Sins**
- ❖ **Walks With Integrity**

As A Man Answerable To God.

11. Resolve To Be Found Faithful

Psalm 51:10 “Create In Me A Clean Heart, O God, And Renew A Steadfast Spirit Within Me.”

Men

- ❖ Love Coming In First
- ❖ Are Usually Competitive

We Like Being The Best At Something.

The Problem Is That We Want The Glory For Ourselves

Jesus Said That We Forfeit Whatever Reward We Might Have Received If We Do Something Solely For Others To Notice Us

Every Time We

- ❖ Brag On Ourselves
- ❖ Show Off
- ❖ Fish For Praise

The Bible Says We Actually Dishonor Ourselves.

King Solomon Said **Proverbs 27:2 NKJV** “Let Another Man Praise You, And Not Your Own Mouth, A Stranger, Not Your Own Lips.”

At The End Of Time The Bible Says We Will Stand Before The Lord (All Of Us) In A Kind Of The Ultimate Awards Ceremony

Everyone Who Served Christ Will Receive A Reward

It Is Not The Man Who

- ❖ Lifts The Most Weight
- ❖ Hits The Ball The Furthest
- ❖ Makes The Most Baskets
- ❖ Hits The Lowest Score On A Golf Course
- ❖ Preached To The Largest Crowd

Those Who Come In 1st In Eternity Are The Ones Who Are Faithful

I've Got Some Good News For You Men

- ❖ You Don't Have To Be The Best
- ❖ You Just Have To Be Faithful

A Godly Man Resolves To **Be Faithful To**

- ❖ **Christ's Bride The Church**
- ❖ **Obey His Word**
- ❖ **Do God's Will**

12. Resolve To Leave A Legacy

Joshua 24:15 "As For Me And My House We Will Serve The Lord."

In This Famous Verse We Read A Powerful And Bold Statement By Joshua To The Entire Nation Of Israel.

Get This Context –Moses Is Dead.

The Entire Nation Of Israel In A State Of Flux

They Are In The Wilderness And Had Been For Forty Years

It Has Been A Long Time Since Their Miraculous Departure From Egypt.

A Massive Group Of Millions Of Israelites Are Now Stuck In The Wilderness With A Desperate Need For Leadership.

God Turns To Joshua And Tells Him It Is His Time To Lead.

Imagine How Joshua Must Have Felt.

He Was Afraid And Probably Felt Unprepared For The Task At Hand.

No One Could Be A Leader Like Moses.

Moses

- ❖ Split The Red Sea
- ❖ Turned The Bitter Waters Sweet
- ❖ Manna Came Down From Heaven

Now You Want Me God?

That Is How A Lot Of Men In This Room May Feel Today

God These Resolutions Are Great Ideas And Great Ideals But I Don't Think I Can Do Them But God Chose Joshua And Told Him **7 Times** In ^{Joshua 1:9} "Be Strong And Courageous...For The Lord Your God Is With You Wherever You Go."

You Are Not A Man Because You Are

- ❖ Smarter
- ❖ Talented
- ❖ Organized
- ❖ Tall
- ❖ Wealthy
- ❖ Muscular

Hear The Call From The Bat Cave

- ❖ It Is Your Time
- ❖ This Is Your Moment

There Are People In This Room That Your Life Is Nothing More Than

- ❖ Wreck
- ❖ Problems
- ❖ Heartache

It Doesn't Matter How Many Times You Have Failed

The Bible Declares "You Are A New Creation In Christ. Old Things Have Passed Away And All Things Have Become New"

Pastor You Don't Understand There Are Failures In My Past

That Is The Point – It Is In Your Past

Your Past Does Not Have To Determine Your Future

God Has Chosen You Sir

The Devil Himself Will Tell You That You Don't Have What It Takes To Lead Your Marriage And Family.

He Will Point Out Your Mistakes And Failures Of The Past.

But God Says,

- ❖ This Is A New Day
- ❖ You Be Strong And Courageous

Beginning Today

- You Need Courage To Trust God
- You Need Courage To Stand Alone
- You Need Courage To Do The Right Thing
- You Need Courage To Not Cave Under Pressure
- You Need Courage To Get Back Up When You Get Knocked Down Again And Again And Again

**Video Clip - The Resolution (From Courageous Movie) Chapter 22 - The Resolution
Begin At 1:18:24 (Fade In) End At 1:22:22 (Fade Out)**

The Word Resolution Does Not Mean An Attempt At **Perfection**

You Don't Have To Look Any Further Than David Or Peter To Realize Godly Men Fail

But When You Get Knocked Down, You Get Back Up

But A Resolution Is A Commitment To A Direction

Joshua 24:15 "As For Me And My House We Will Serve The Lord."

Men You May Be Asking – How?

Action Points

- Make This Your Prayer List For Yourself
- Read The Book "Resolution For Men"
- Join A Men's Small Group