

FATHER and YOUNG MEN'S SERMON

CONTEXT:

1 John 2:13-14:

13 I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known Him that is from the beginning. I write unto you, young men, because ye have overcome the wicked one [satan]. I write unto you, little children, because ye have known the Father.

14 I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known Him Who is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the Word of God abideth [lives] in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.

TEXT:

Deuteronomy 16:16: Three times in a year shall all thy males appear before the Lord thy God in the place which He shall choose; in the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and in the Feast of Weeks, and in the Feast of Tabernacles: and they shall not appear before the Lord empty:

John the beloved disciple, being a minister and pastor, knew the value — and appreciated a group — of consecrated men in the church, as only a pastor can. Nothing is more encouraging and inspiring than to have the men of the church take hold of the work; but the men of the church must be made to feel it is a man's work, too, and not just a place for women.

Therefore, I am appealing to you men that the very best in you be shown.

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In the life of our Lord, He was not only possessed with a tender heart of womanhood, but He was possessed also with the strength and courage of manhood. See Him enter the Temple filled with Holy indignation?

He had a braided cord, and with it He is casting out the dove sellers.

He overturns the tables of the money changers.

His deeds are accompanied by His actions, with the rebukes of a judge, the whip of flashing blows sails through the air. Hear His words: “My Fathers House shall be called the House of Prayer of all nations but ye have made it a den of thieves.”



John 2:14-16: [Jesus is angry]

14 And found in the Temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting:

15 And when He had made a scourge of small cords, He drove them all out of the Temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables;

16 And said unto them that sold doves, “Take these things hence; make not My Father's House an house of merchandise.

Matthew 21:13: And said unto them, “It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves.”

John writes a special message to these men; under the guidance of the Holy Spirit he commends these men, both young and old, for the sterling qualities which were in them. He did not wait until they were dead to speak of their spiritual wealth to the church, but gave the flowers while they were alive, so showing how he appreciated them.

This message was, no doubt, a word in season, lest they be weary in well doing.

Galatians 6:9: And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

They were men who had a deep reverence for our Lord Jesus Christ. They knew the Lord and put their trust in Him.

Psalms 125:1: They that trust in the Lord shall be as Mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but abideth for ever.

The last commendation to these young men was **YE HAVE OVERCOME THE WICKED ONE**. These heroic men are a tribute to any pastor and are much needed in these last days. Men have always liked to be looked to as heroes in the eyes of their wives, children, and associates.

But, if you have not overcome the wicked one, you are a faker, a pretender, a mouse, not a man. There is one sure way to overcome the devil, and that is by living the Word of God and using the Word. Jesus fought and overcame the enemy by use of the Word.

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Matthew 4:1-10:

1 Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.

2 And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He was afterward an hungered.

3 And when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If Thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread."

4 But He answered and said, "It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every Word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."

5 Then the devil taketh Him up into the Holy City, and setteth Him on a pinnacle of the Temple,

6 And saith unto Him, "If Thou be the Son of God, cast Thyself down: for it is written, 'He shall give His angels charge concerning Thee: and in their hands they shall bear Thee up, lest at any time Thou dash Thy Foot against a stone.'"

7 Jesus said unto him, "It is written again, 'Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.'"

8 Again, the devil taketh Him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth Him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;

9 And saith unto Him, "All these things will I give Thee, if Thou wilt fall down and worship me."

10 Then saith Jesus unto him, "Get thee hence, satan: for it is written, 'Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve.'"



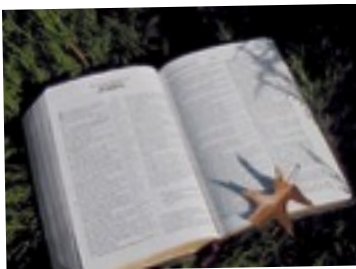
God, give all of us men the unswerving courage of a Daniel and a backbone like a saw log.

The reason why those lions couldn't eat Daniel was because he was 75% back bone, 15% knee bone, and 10% jaw bone. God wants men, strong men, men in whom the Word of God abides, and men who have overcome the wicked one.

Ezekiel 22:30: And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before Me [The Lord God] for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none.

My beloved brethren, let this never be said of us. Knowing that God in **1 Corinthians 6:9** rebukes men who are effeminate, sissified, weak — let us be men, stay men, not only **in word**; but **in our conduct be strong**, not hard boiled. We must be meek, but not weak.

1 Corinthians 6:9: Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the Kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,



I am often shocked, amazed, and astonished at the reverberations, repercussions, and kickbacks of resentful parents when — out of love for their souls and for their children's welfare — the Word of God has been given as a reminder of how parents should raise their young ones.

The parent who refuses subordination to the Word of God is not fit to raise guinea pigs.

Every parent must know that he and she shall stand soon before the Courts of Heaven and give an account to God for their stewardship in commanding their children and households after them.

God, Himself, started the home, and He made the choice of a man named Abraham to set the model home life in operation. He gives His reason for His choice:

Genesis 18:19a: For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep The Way of the Lord,

Some time ago in a Parents Convention in Cincinnati, the question was raised concerning the time a parent should begin training their children. Some suggested it should be at the age of three; others four, five, even seven! An elderly and godly grandmother stood and objected with this startling remark: "You are all wrong. The time to take the first step in training a child is with the generation before, namely the parents."

According to the teachings of the Holy Word of God, the husband is the head of the home. Today, the father is more of a figurehead. Many fathers today cannot command their household rightly. It looks as though they have a hard time commanding themselves aright.

Many so called fathers are led around by the nose by some pet habits or besetting sins and are not fit even to lead a horse to the water trough, much less the precious children of his household.

Other men have turned mouse and are led about by a bossy wife.

Abraham commanded his household rightly, and his wife maintained a wife's place.

1 Peter 3:5-7:

5 For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands:

6 Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement.

7 Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.



After the authority of the husband and father in the home has been taken away, the sense of responsibility which men had in other days toward the care of their families has rapidly decreased.

If a home is to be built on the standard of the Bible, which is the only right way and only successful way, then both father and mother should set the right example of obedience to the Word of God in their own lives. God will not bless disobedience and willful rejection of His Word.

A good father owes it to his children to know them. A good shepherd knows his sheep; and a good father knows his children. This is, more than to know about them, or to know only their names. The place of authority in commanding the household will be through love, intimacy, and companionship with such a bond of friendship as is revealed by the journey of Abraham and Isaac to Mt. Moriah.

“My father, my father.”

“What is it, my son?”

“Here is the wood and the fire, but where is the sacrifice?”

“My son, God will provide Himself a sacrifice.”



A Christian worker came to the pastor and told him of the call to preach. He replied, “Do you have any children?”

The man said he had eight. “Then,” said the pastor, “Go preach to your children first and get them all into the field.”

One of the saddest things I can think of is the father and mother passing the home life into the hands of strangers while they go out pleasure hunting. A Father-Son Banquet at Church may be helpful, but a banquet at home with your feet under your own table is worth fifty in Church banquets.

A highly cultured lady said to a friend, “Have you ever done any literary work?” “Oh, yes,” she replied, “I am writing two books — one called Mary and one called John.” The cultured lady said, “I have never heard of them.” The godly mother answered, “No. I guess not, for the two books are my two children. I am trying to write upon their hearts and

make indelible upon their souls the love of Jesus Christ in eternal characters.”

Some fathers are more interested in their full-blooded chickens, cows, or pigs than in their families.

Every father owes it to his children to be an example and to regularly attend the Services of the House of God. Do not send your children, **bring** them. Think of the beautiful example of Jesus in the Temple at the age of twelve years. He was there because His parents took Him there. Children learn more by example than a thousand precepts.

Fathers, you owe it to your children to be an out-and-out Christian. A half-way sort of life is as disgusting to you as it is to them. **You cannot expect your children to respect that which is sacred and holy if you do not.**



The underlying influence of a father who has taken interest in the salvation of his children will cause them to seek the Lord for salvation.

Proverbs 22:6: Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

So says the Bible.

This job is not for mothers only, but even more so for the fathers. God said of Abraham,

Genesis 18:19a: For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the Way of the Lord,

God wants to put that same faith and confidence in you, too.



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