

FIGHT

Fight Like A Man
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April 17, 2016

Discussion Notes
The Crossing Church
Las Vegas, Nevada

OPENING

Families are the most complex, frustrating and life-giving relationships in our lives. I don't know where you are in your relationships, but over the next few weeks we are going to be talking about families. You might wonder why we would name a family series "FIGHT". It is because great families don't happen by accident. If you want a great family, you have to fight for it. God says it is worth fighting for.

SCRIPTURE¹

2 Corinthians 11:23b-27 "I have worked harder, been put in prison more often, been whipped times without number, and faced death again and again. Five different times the Jewish leaders gave me thirty-nine lashes. Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked. Once I spent a whole night and day adrift at sea. I have traveled on many long journeys. I have faced danger from rivers and from robbers. I have faced danger from my own people, the Jews, as well as from the Gentiles. I have faced danger from the cities, in the deserts, and on the seas. And I have faced danger from men who claim to be believers and are not. I have worked hard and long, enduring many sleepless nights. I have been hungry and thirsty and have often gone without food. I have shivered in the cold, without enough clothing to keep me warm."

2 Corinthians 12:9 "Each time he said, 'My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.' So now I am glad to boast about my weakness, so that the power of Christ can work through me."

Colossians 1:12-14 (NIV) "...and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his people in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."

Ephesians 3:18-19 "And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how high, and how deep his love is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God."

Philippians 4:13 "For I can do everything through Christ who gives me strength."

Ephesians 1:19-20 "I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms."

OBSERVATION

Mike Breaux says, "The most interesting men in the world are the men of The Crossing. I want to talk about them because I am one and God sees amazing potential in every man here."

Our past doesn't define us - we are people Jesus loves and made in His image to live for His purposes.

Question: Who of you, before finding Jesus, always felt less than adequate and what was that like?

¹ All scripture is TNLV unless otherwise indicated

Men tend to want to be tough guys, full of grit like Matt Dillon, Clint Eastwood and Mike Rowe. Yet they feel inadequate in the world of rough and tumble men. They are missing the meaning of true manhood until they meet Jesus.

Question: Who was the “tough guy” you admired in the past? What was he like?

Question? How does he measure up today? Whom do you admire today?

A lot gets right in our families when men embrace God’s plan for our lives. He puts us on the Potter’s wheel and shapes, molds, and chisels us into the kind of men He wants us to be: men who fight for our families, fight injustice, fight for the underdog and those who can’t fight for themselves. They fight with integrity, honesty, courage, kindness, boldness, gentleness, faith and love. God makes men into champions who make an eternal difference with their 60 grit lives.

The appropriate equation that describes this process is: **G + R = I T**

Question: What do think this means?

Question: Who are some of the Bible’s gritty guys? What did they do?

APPLICATION

True Grit is **GRACE + RELIANCE = INTERNAL TOUGHNESS**

God says, “If you want to develop internal toughness, My grace is all you need. When you begin to embrace My grace your life will start changing.” Getting a firm grip on the grace of God - the radical, relentless love of God for you - is where it all starts. Then relying on God is the next step.

Reliance on God says “the greatness of a man is in direct proportion to the measure of his surrender.” We need to humble ourselves, come to God and say:

- I need your help to be a good man, dad, husband.
- I rely on the power of Jesus within me.
- I understand the incredible greatness of God’s power for us who believe Him.
- I know that there is power in powerlessness.
- I surrender to you.

Question: What are you relying on today that is not changing your life for the good?

God wants to build great character in us - an internal toughness. He wants us to have endurance, peace, joy, gentleness, self-control, resolve, courage, passion and power that we cannot manufacture on our own. St. Paul was a 60 grit guy and an example of what God can do with a reliant man.

Question: What are you doing to become reliant on God today?

Always live in the confident truth that you are a much loved, uniquely gifted, highly valued, treasured man or woman of the Most High God. When we didn’t qualify for Heaven, God qualified us. He chose us.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, help us to rely on your strength, your wisdom, your grace, and your power every day and not on our own understanding. I want to surrender daily to Your will in my life and to bask in the peace of Your grace. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Child dedication is available at all four services on Mother’s Day, Sunday, May 8, 2016. You can register online at www.thecrossinglv.com/childdedication.

Financial Peace University classes begin on Sunday, April 24th at 3:30 p.m. and on Tuesday, April 26 at 6:30 p.m. Weekly sessions are 1 ½ hours long for nine weeks. Registration available on-line.