

THE FORGE

Letting Scripture Inform Our Thinking and Identity as Young Men

Session #2

- Review
- Discussion
 - In your meeting with your dad or mentor, what was the most interesting answer you got?
 - As you sought to grow in your relationship with God your Father, how did the exercise of praying through a Psalm help? Any thoughts you want to share about that topic?
 - In the Book, Keller lays out the differences and similarities between the two sons, how they are both lost, how they are both loved by God, and how they both need God to change them. What stuck out to you about the book so far? What did God teach you about yourself through the book?
- Man as Son of Particular Parents
 - Proverbs 1:8-9
 - Proverbs 6:20
 - There are plenty of places in Scripture, and all throughout the proverbs, where we are reminded to simply embrace or pursue wisdom in a generic sense. However, the primary sources of wisdom the young man is called to pursue are “the fear of the Lord”, and your parents...and they don't cease to be your parents when you turn some certain age. If you have godly parents, you should have a disposition not to forsake your father's commandment or your mother's teaching.
 - Malachi 4:5-6
 - These verses in Malachi are the final verses of the Old Testament...and then the Bible is silent for 400 years. When something is the last word for 400 years, it's pretty significant. Turning the hearts of children to their fathers is a massive part of God's plan.
 - React to what I just said. What do you think? How can we go about giving the proper priority to the fact that God has given us particular parents?
- Man as Son in a Particular Family
 - God has placed every person in an exact family, in an exact place in history, in an exact location, for a particular purpose. If we don't embrace and pursue God's sovereign design in this area, we need to see that for what it is: rebellion against God.
 - Matthew 1:1-17
 - Abraham – chosen
 - Isaac – miraculously provided
 - Rahab – the first Non-Jew to be drawn into the family of God
 - Ruth – God rewarded her faithfulness to serve her family
 - David – God brings him to a place of power because of his faithfulness in little

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- Solomon – David has Bathsheba’s husband killed so he can take her as his wife...and God chose to redeem that situation, give them a son, and continue the line of Jesus through that son of David.
 - 14 generations, then 14 more generations...this story was WELL THOUGHT THROUGH...our story is not less well thought through. God has each of us exactly in a family, with exactly the perfect back-story and history, and exactly the right future. The family is the unit through which God has progressed his story throughout history, and the family you’re in is not a mistake. It’s on purpose.
 - Any young man who is not pursuing, appreciating, engaging, and participating in his family, is actively rebelling against the design of God.
 - Any young man who doesn’t actively and intentionally pursues having a family of his own some day through careful preparation now, IS actively ignoring the design for creation which God has created.
 - Face it. Not embracing and pursuing your family relationships is rebelling against God. Plus, it’s missing out on all of the benefits that come from a primary gift given by a father who loves us and loves to give us gifts that bless us and serve us and help us!
 - React to those statements.
- Man as Servant
 - How does the Bible define servanthood?
 - Philippians 2:3-11
 - Greatest is the servant of all....this is the secret sauce. Aspiring to greatness in the Kingdom of God...the only one that matters, looks like pursuing servanthood.
 - Family – It’s a privilege to have a family to serve. Do it like it’s a privilege, treat it like an honor.
 - Not primarily about what do I get out of this family, but what do I bring to the table and what am I called to contribute.
 - Church – This is the context you were made to pour your life into...God’s plan for the redemption of the world flows through the local church. Any grand plan you have in life pales in comparison to this plan...so don’t just do it halfway...don’t just show up. BE the church. Orient your life around the local church, make career decisions with “how does this affect my ability to serve the church” as a major factor.
 - If you’re looking at your purpose as being part of the big picture purposes of God, then you need to look at your life through the lens of local church involvement, ownership, and sacrifice.
 - Anyone here have an example of someone who comes to mind that serves the church and really seems to get this principle of the centrality of the church in their life? How do you think you could learn from them?
 - Friends
 - Saved – Don’t just goof off. Guard the deposit God has given you in friends who trust in Jesus. Dig deeper with these guys. Find out how you can serve them, how you can learn from them. Resolve conflicts quickly.

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Be accountable to them. Be Iron sharpening Iron with them. Be willing to ask hard questions and be willing to listen to hard questions.

- Anyone have any examples of one of the other guys in the group here being a good friend to you?
- Lost – Don't be a wimp. God has not given you a spirit of fear...you know what you believe, and you know more about "why" than you think you do...so boldly cast your seed.... don't be a holy dork, and don't blend in so much you are molding into the world. Be IN...engaged, normal, fun to be with, joyful, stimulating in conversation, etc....but don't be of...don't compromise on your conscience...God doesn't need you to compromise in your conscience to use you as a witness to the lost.
- Discussion/Response
 - Do you have the Bible's perspective of serving?
 - Where can you grow in serving? Pick one area.
 - What comes to mind when you think of serving?
- Homework
 - Prayer: 15 minutes of prayer each day. Keep a journal of things that come to mind to pray as you pray through the Psalm of the day.
 - Reading: Chapters 4-5 (pages 48-89) of "Prodigal God": write down at least one thing that stands out to you from each chapter.
 - Read Matthew 25:14-30 and write down one main thought.
 - Parent/Mentor Interaction: Initiate a meeting with your dad (or if your dad isn't available, your mom or a godly man in your life), encourage them by telling them one way you see them serving and ask them and dialogue about these questions:
 - "What's one way I could better honor my parents? Serve my family?"
 - "Where do I most fulfill the command to be the Servant of all?"
 - "How do you think I could serve better with my family, my church, my friends?"
 - "Will you help me, through prayer and accountability, to prioritize my family? And pursue servanthood?"