



#61

Theme: "Take a Man's Step"

Scripture: Psalm 37:23-24

"The Lord makes firm the steps of the one who delights in him; 24) though he may stumble, he will not fall, for the Lord upholds him with his hand."

A Thought:

What makes a man? This question has been asked since time in memorial. Recently, one of the highly regarded men's Christian outreach groups produced a "man on the street" video presenting the above question to men, women and boys. The question posed some head-scratching, wide-ranging and disparate responses the likes of: "when you turn 18," "when you first have sex," "hee, hee, some never leave boyhood," "I don't know when," "you can be a man at 14 and never become a man at 40." Do the responses surprise you? If not, why not? The video respondents and the rest of us have experienced a vast array of male personalities and in today's world they are many. Boys and men especially boys have succumb to the onslaught of worldview thinking...sadly, believing the twenty-first century version of the male species. We cannot assume that today's manhood is based on pop culture and what it offers via television and movies. If that's the case our society is in dire-straits. As one writer said..."in today's modern culture, we have lost any traditions and rites of manhood we may have once had." For the most part men in this country do not have an epiphany, formal and or physiological (exceptions - puberty, religious rite and deeper voice) transition from boyhood to manhood. Women and girls generally have their day (I'll leave it at that). Back to square one...at what point does a boy become man? Apostle Paul tells us in so many words in one of his spiritual sonship pastoral letters...(2 Timothy 2:22) *"So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace along with those who call on the lord from a pure heart."*

Gents...manhood is based on many levels.... (maturity, values, responsibility, hard work, wisdom and a truthful spiritual walk). For starters read Proverbs chapters 1-9 (father teaching his son the importance of instruction, counsel and insight).

Now....what are your thoughts? Write them down.

Talk to yourself:

- At what age did you realize you were no longer a boy? Did you accept this change at face value?
- How do you personally define manhood? What are the virtues of manhood?
- What principles of manhood can you instill in your son?
- Read the following scriptures. Spiritual development/maturity passages for young boys and men. (Proverbs, Ecclesiastics, 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy and Titus)

Scriptures to read: Genesis 1:26-27, 2:21-25, 9:1, Joshua 1:9; 1 Samuel 12:24; Romans 5:12-21; 1 Corinthians 16:13-14; 1 Timothy 4:12; 2 Timothy 4:12; Acts 17:24-34; Ephesians 1:4-7, 2:10, 4:20-24; Titus 2:6, 11-15; Philippians 1:6, 1:19-30; Proverbs 1-31

Quote: Author Unknown, “Man must realize that he was created and chosen by God for Himself and that God is indispensable in his life. He needs the Lord in every aspect of his life. He needs the Lord to live a worthy and fulfilling life.”

Bottom Line: You do not have to exit the confines of a church campus to hear a woman’s popular refrain...”Where are the men?” Author Bill Bennett’s book, *The Book of Man: Readings on the Path to Manhood*, warns us...“*without clear role-models, today’s young men will choose perpetual childhood, waste time with pointless activities, and shrug their God-given responsibilities.*” Not a positive scenario. A very wealthy farmer was once rebuke for having his sons work in the fields when they did not have to. The father’s reply to the criticism was apropos to today’s discussion. His curt response....”*I’m not raising corn. I’m raising boys to become men.*” The lesson: hard work, discipline, patience, proprietorship and a richer vision of one’s life. Men...our young sons and boys need us to be role models. We must teach our boys the importance of planning their lives not in minutes or hours but in years...Proverbs 22:6 (NIV) “*Train a child in the way he should go; and when he is old he will not turn from it.*” The apex of maturity should be based on Biblical maturity - sixty-six books of truth serum. The Lord expects no less from us.

NOW.....THAT’S THE BOTTOM LINE.

Spiritual Dabbler, Your bro, Ray

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