

## **CALLED TO LOOSE THE THUNDER**

A Men's breakfast message message  
on developing a process that shapes the  
next generation of heroes and patriots

9/30/01

### **I. The Aim of Fathers**

**A. The Bible says that children are arrows in a man's quiver**  
Psalms 127:3-5 *"Sons are a heritage from the lord, children a reward from Him. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are sons born in one's youth. Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them. They will not be put to shame when they contend with their enemies at the gate."*

#### **B. But what is the bow?**

- 1. The process that attaches, stretches and projects one's children into a preferable future.**

#### **C. And what is the target?**

- 1. The target is a preferable, foreseeable future.**

#### **D. What is the goal?**

- 1. To hit the right target with the right arrow.**
- 2. Fathers are in need of clear direction, a clear target toward which to aim both their children and themselves.**

### **II. The Need for Strength and Vision**

#### **A. Where does one get them?**

- 1. Not from Society (the World)**

**Stu Webber, in a preface for Raising a Modern Day Knight (author Dr. Robert Lewis) wrote –**

*"Our culture is in deep trouble, and at the heart of it's trouble is its loss of a vision for manhood."*

**Webber agrees with many that the last 50 year effort to feminize the men of America has taken it's toll on fathers and sons. He said –**

*"If it is difficult for you and me as adult males to maintain our masculine balance in this gender –neutral culture, imagine what it must be like for our young sons who are growing up in an increasingly feminized world. C.S. Lewis summed it up years ago when he stated that [our modern politically correct feminized society]' castrate and bid the geldings be fruitful.'"*

**Our culture has not only blurred the vision of authentic, virile masculine manhood is, but then emasculated us so we no longer have the strength to even hit the target, k\let alone see it!**

**Robert Lewis wrote –**

*“Over the last few decades, this culture has steadily and relentlessly undermined healthy notions of what it means to be a man. Once noble images of masculinity have now been replaced by images of men behaving badly...or incompetently...or both. Manhood is no longer a unique calling; it is now seen as a problem to overcome.”*

**The future painted for us by our society is one of relativism instead of truth, irreverence instead of honor, feminism, sensuality and homosexual perversion instead of self-restraint, fidelity and godly romance; selfish cowardice and greed, rather than self-sacrificing heroism, and a country led by strong, goddess worshipping women and spineless, godless men who, like chameleons are defined by their environment and polls.**

**That however, is not the kind of future I foresee and prefer for my children, nor is it the one my Bible forecasts for me. My Bible says in Matthew 24 & 2 Timothy 3 that perilous times are coming that will cause some men’s hearts to grow cold and other men’s hearts to stop as a result of fear. 2 Thess. 2 & 1 Tim. 4:1 Tell me times are coming when many Christians will fall away from the faith and into error. Great Tribulation and trouble the likes of which no one has ever seen before nor will ever see again is the way my Bible foresees the future world my children may live in. And everyone of us are called to shoot the kind of arrows into that future world that will pierce and penetrate instead of shatter. Every son and daughter born to each of us must be sons and daughters of the Christian church and of the Christian truth, first and foremost, and must see clearly their destiny before them and know who they are and what they are here to do. They must see themselves as their fathers arrows, and raised by a process that shapes them and forms them and prepares them to meet their destiny as Christian men and women in a decadent society!**

**Isaiah 49:1-3 gives the self identity of the kind of children I call Thunder children –**  
*“Before I was born the Lord called me; from my birth he has made mention of my name. He made my mouth like a sharpened sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; He made me into a polished arrow and concealed me in His quiver. He said to me ‘you are my servant, in whom I will display my splendor.’”*

## **2. The Sons of Issachar**

**1 Chronicles 12:32 provides a little window in the midst of endless genealogies into the unique, far from average sons of a father who successfully did his job with his arrows. The father’s name was Issachar, and this is the little but powerful blurb said about them: “the sons of Isasachar, who understood the times and knew what Israel should do – 200 leaders, with all their relatives under their command.”**

**Now there was a man with a vision of manhood and strength and directional process to communicate, empower and loose his sons into the future in such a way that what ever befell them did not so much shape them, as to become shaped by them. These kind of sons were initiated consciously into manhood by their father. Robert Bly, a pioneer in secular men’s movements, lamented – “There is no place in our culture where boys are initiated consciously into manhood.”**

3. Most men I know have no problem tracking me this far, and most add a hearty “Amen!” at the kinds of things I’ve been saying. However, what men further need are answers to their sons and daughters question of what the traits of genuine godly manhood and womanhood are.
4. What men need today to raise up sons & daughters of Issachar are four things:
  - i. A clear, inspiring, biblically grounded definable vision of what a true man and woman ought to be
  - ii. A directional process that will shape and form them into the vision they can clearly see and define, which will include specific language and training that will move the young boy and girl along a continuum toward adulthood
  - iii. A restoration of ceremony and symbols that commemorate achievement, progress and advancement toward the vision; confer title and deed of advancement in terms that are recognizable and esteemed by all, and remembered by all.
  - iv. The fourth thing men need is not so much a program, but a fraternity of men who belong to and are committed to a process that will shape and mold their young sons and daughters into moral, strong, mature, responsible and heroic men and women, who like the sons of Issachar know what time it is and what must be done.

### **III. Reaching Backward for an Enduring symbol/model/Icon of Authentic Manhood**

#### **A. Knighthood**

1. Knighthood provides an enduring and powerful symbol of potent masculine manhood
2. It has within it’s philosophy a gradual directional process that graduates young boys and girls along a continuum toward the goal of maturity and adulthood, through the incorporation of ceremony and symbol.

#### **B. Is it Biblical?**

1. Three examples
  - i. Josiah – 2 Kings 21 – 22

- **Manasseh (grandfather)**

**21:16** – *“filled Jerusalem from one end to the other...”* **with the blood of sacrificed children!**

- **Amon (his father)**

**21:20** – *“He did evil in the eyes of the Lord, as his father Manasseh had done.”*

- **Josiah (chapter 22)**

- **Became king at 8 (Page/Lass)**
- **Where does such an unfortunate young man look to find an example or pattern to follow?**
- **26 discovered the Bible**
- **had to find a woman (the prophetess Huldah)**
- **began reading his bible and finding out how to understand the time in which he lived and how to lead people to do what needed to be, demanded to be done (could he also have discovered his ancient ancestor King David, the giant killer?) You can see King David’s influence all over Josiah and throughout his reign. The combination of scriptural direction, personified in a biblical hero was all Josiah needed to enter into a life and destiny shaping directional process that squeezed out of him every last ounce of masculine leadership so desperately called for in the day in which he lived.**

## ii. The Baptist (Matt. 3)

**In the beginning of the N.T. we are introduced to what appears to be a deranged, insect eating, beehive raiding wild man from Borneo! He dressed very strange, making him appear as if he was covered in fur. We are told he lived alone in the wilderness like a hermit. His parents were very old when they had him, and were**

dead when he was still a young man. He too lived in a time of co-opted manhood, impotent, politicized religious leaders, and cowardly men. Where would he turn to find a model, example, icon, pattern of manhood the likes of which was called for in the day he lived. Where would he find the kind of hero he could relate to and wrap himself around, and fulfill his calling through?

- Like Josiah he turned to the Word of God and, reaching back 700 years, found Elijah, the Tishbite
- 2 Kings 1:8 tells us he was either a hairy man or dressed in a garment of hair, depending on the translation, and wore a thick leather belt around his waist
- he too lived a lonely life in the wilderness and ate a restricted diet of flesh and bread provided by Ravens
- and drank water from a brook at the Kerith Ravine
- John ate Locusts and wild honey, and Matt. 3:4 tells us he wore a garment made out of camel's hair, and wore a large leather belt around his waist. Malachi told a future prophet who would come in the spirit and power of Elijah. See the connection? John found scriptural instruction of what needed to be said and the kind of leadership needed to be modeled, personified in a biblical hero both inspiring and enduring, and thundered across the Jordan defining the times in which he lived instead of being defined by them.

iii. **Mattathias Maccabee (inter-testamental period, 166 B.C.)**

- “the hammer”
- the history
- originated the concepts of chivalry and knighthood
- a biblical hero (Jesus celebrated Hanukkah, a festival commemorating Maccabees defeat

## of Antiochus and rededication of the temple

### C. Is it useful?

1. provides a clear, inspiring, definable, and enduring image of true biblical manhood
2. provides a directional process that takes an 8 year old boy and girl and becomes the shaping influence of their lives into adulthood
3. provides manhood language
4. provides ideas for ceremony and symbolism
5. incorporates the hands on direction of the father, as well as fosterage in the shaping of our children
6. is held together by a fraternity of growing men who have given themselves to the calling of loosing thunder

### D. Mark 3:17

*“James son of Zebedee and his brother John (to whom He gave the name Boanerges, which means Sons of Thunder.”*

### E. The Process won't be easy

**William Marshall, the greatest of all Knights said this of the directional process: He said that it must be** *“So strong a thing, and of such hardihood, and so costly in the learning, that a wicked man or low dare not undertake it....Whoso would enjoy high honor first must suitably display that he has well been schooled to such arts.”*

### F. A Summary of what the process will teach

1. Action instead of passivity
2. Acceptance of Personal Responsibility
3. Courageous Leadership
4. Fixed Focus on a heavenly reward
5. A commitment to a Transcendent cause

### G. The Process at a glance (handouts)