

# 10-19-25 Message

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Faithful man, spiritual leader, contentment, childish things, prayer warrior, financial support, physical protection, spiritual growth, biblical virtues, marriage expectations, godly men, practical messages, renewal of mind, Hall of Faith, Apostle Paul.

## SPEAKERS

Pastor Dow Boyer, Speaker 1

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### Pastor Dow Boyer 00:00

Good morning. Grace point. As you can see, I'm not here physically, but I did make every attempt. If you'll look to the screen right now, you'll see that I did buy a time machine off of Amazon, and yeah, it didn't work. So we tried a backup plan here. Bonus points. If you can tell me what that is from, you'll notice the year 1982 so anyway, I do appreciate you allowing me to do this instead. Our girls, right now began this trip of nationals in Lawrence, Kansas, and now we are at the very end of that trip, and they've made it pretty far into the tournament, and it was going to be too hard to make my way back, and it's going to be too late at night, so this was our backup plan. But anyway, I'm so happy to be here with you guys this morning, and I'm glad that technology allows us to do this. No, it's not covid. We're not starting all over again with that, but I will be back with you soon, so I appreciate the opportunity to still be able to communicate with you today. Just was I was thinking this week. I was like, there's just so much going on. Bill's already mentioned these a few minutes ago, but we have fall festival, we have Friendsgiving, our Christmas concert, which is always a big, big hits coming up soon, as well as something I'm really excited about. We've never done a Christmas Eve candlelight service, but this year we're going to do that, so that's awesome. And then next week, it'll be communion. So it is a busy time for us. And then we're going to be right into November in the holidays. And so I wanted to spend a couple of weeks just while we had a break before communion, and then on to November, where we gave a couple practical messages. And last week I talked about the changed mind. And if you remember Romans, 12, one and two was kind of our reference point last week. And it says that I beseech you, therefore brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. But the next verse, he says, be not conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God? See, change comes from a renewal of the mind. That's when transformation happens. We also looked at Ephesians 4:22, through 24 and it says, Put off the concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lust. But then he says in verse 23 be renewed in the spirit of your mind. And he follows it up with and put on the new man, which, after God, is created in righteousness and true holiness. So we talked about these three steps when it comes to taking, I guess, taking control of our minds so that it can transform us, right? And this thought those steps were we do, first, a thought test, and you'll

find this in Philippians, four, eight, when it talks about, Finally, brethren, whatsoever. Things are true, honest, just pure, lovely what sort of things have a good report? If there be any virtue, if there be any praise, think on these things. That is your thought test. And if something meets that criteria, then it's okay to think about but if it doesn't, you have to go to step two, which is you've got to enact thought prison. And that's Second Corinthians, 10, four and five, when it's dealing with taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ. So the idea is, if something shouldn't be there that doesn't meet the test that we put it in a bubble and we flip it to the back of our brain, we don't continue to think about those things that we're not supposed to think about. And the longer we do, the more devastating the consequences become but then finally, after we've removed that thought, we need to renew our mind. And that's the third step. We've got to put new things in our mind to take the place of the stuff that we took out. And those things should be scripture. Those things should be our identity in Christ, and that's what we want to renew our mind with so that was last week, and I wanted to follow that lesson up with another practical message, but this one is focused on a particular sex for the most part, and here's where I'm going with this. We can, we can just basically look around at the news social media, and we know from current events, they've showed us that whether it's a right, right leaning person or a left leaning person doesn't really matter. It's basically that young biological men have largely been the ones behind most of these mass shootings, assassinations and assassination attempts. We've even heard rumors about. Young men being radicalized on Discord, and it's hard to know what's true and what's not true, but one thing we can extract is that the man today is not the man that God intended or wants the man to be. And I really wanted to address that this morning with you. I know it's not Father's Day. There will be something for you. Ladies. You do not have the day off, so I hope that you're still going to not nod off or, I mean, you can use your elbows today to to the men sitting on your right and left. But let's go ahead and start with the list Craigs. I was thinking about this last couple of weeks, and I was looking through Scripture. And sometimes scripture has this list of men, you know, and sometimes it's our criteria. It's like, do I look like that? And it starts becoming this kind of comparison concept that we start going through in our mind as men. We're like, do I look like that? And there is this list of men that is just crazy, if you're in Scripture at all, and you run across this idea of these mighty men of David, and it's really kind of obscure. You know, you get to the end of David's life, and then, not once, but in two different places, there's a list of these men who did these amazing feats right and these were David's right hand and left hand men. These were his, his most trusted confidants. These were his, his mighty men. And I wanted to look at some of these this morning, just to kind of set the tone for what we're going to talk about the rest of the way. Now we'll spend a great deal of time here, but enough for us to get an idea. So starting out the first one of these mighty men, and then we'll look at a couple that were almost good enough to be in the top three, but they ended up kind of being just outside that. So we'll look at five altogether. But this first one goes by several different names, and you got to read both passages to kind of get a feel. But basically the Bible describes him in Second Samuel as the tachmonite. And then he's also described as adino, the eznite, or in First Chronicles, his name is Joshua beam, and he is a magmanite. But he is, make no mistake, he's the chief of the captains. He's the first one mentioned, even though these accounts differ a little bit. So in Second Samuel chapter 23 this is what is said, and we'll take the easy way out, and we're just going to go with a dino. Okay, so here is the first part in Second Samuel, 23 eight. It starts by going into this line here. It says, These be the names of the mighty men whom David had, the tachmonite that sat in the seat chief among the captains. The same was adino, the eznite. He lifted up his spear against 800 whom he slew at one time. So outside of his name, we've got this unbelievable feat, 800 that he slew at one time. Now, on each one of these, we're going to look at the same example through First Chronicles. Sometimes it's going to give us a little bit more information. When you look at the same story through First Chronicles, one or 1111. It says, and this is the number of the mighty men whom David had.

And then it's going to mention his name. Here it's going to see Jashobeam, a Hachmonite, the chief of the captains. He lifted up his spear against 300 slain by him at one time. Now I know the one passage said 800 and the other said 300 and there may be some confusion there. These might have been multiple events. This may have just been a different recording, or there might have been multiple people involved in one of them. But it's clear that both of these are talking about the chief of the captains talking about the same person. So the first guy we've got, I mean, he slew anywhere from 300 to 800 or maybe both with a basically a spear at one time. Pretty amazing stuff. Alright, the next one is Eleazar, son of Dodo. I know there's probably some chuckling at that one in Second Samuel, 23 verses nine and 10. And after him was Eleazar, the son of Dodo the Hachmonite, one of the three mighty men with David when they defied the Philistines that were there gathered together to battle and the men of Israel were gone away, he arose and smote the Philistines until his hand was weary and his hand clave unto his sword. And the people wrought a great victory that day. And the people returned after him only to spoil men. He was taking people out, left and right the Philistines to the point where it says that his hand was weary and his hand clave unto the sword. It gave the idea that come night and day, the Philistines that were in front of him, he was taking no breaks. He was just taking people out, left and right. The example in First Chronicles says and after him was Eleazar, the son of Dodo the Hachmonite, who was one of the three mighties. He was with David at pasture, and there the Philistines were gathered together to battle where there was a parcel of ground full of barley, and the people fled from before the Philistines, and they set themselves in the midst of that parcel, and they delivered it, and they slew the Philistines, and the Lord saved them by a great deliverance. So here was his story. And then the third one. This one's name was Shammah. He was the son of a G, the Gathite in Second Samuel, 23:11, and 12, it says. And after him was Shammah, the son of a G the Gathite and the Philistines were gathered together into a troop where there was a piece of ground full of lentils, and the people fled from the Philistines, but he stood in the midst of the ground and defended it and slew the Philistines, and the Lord wrought a great victory. Now these three, these were the three mighty ones, right? And then we go on to say, in both accounts that these three men that they basically broke through the line of the Philistines. When David was held up into a hold, David said, I'm thirsty. And these three put their life on the line, broke through the Philistines. Went to the well of Bethlehem, grabbed water, took it back to David, and then David's sitting there, and when he's sitting there, he decides not to drink the water that they just basically sacrificed their lives for. But instead he poured the water out unto the Lord as appreciation to the dedication of those men. That leads to two more that are kind of just outside of the mighties. And one of them has a phenomenal story. We look at the first one though. The first one is Abishai, and this was the brother of Joab. So in Second Samuel, 23:18 and 19, it says. And Abishai, the brother of Joab, the son of Zeruiah, was chief among three, and he lifted up his spear against 300 and slew them, and had the name among three. So you're like, wait a second, wasn't he one of the three? Keep reading. It goes on to say, was he not most honorable of three? Wherefore, he was their captain. How be it he attained not unto the first three? After the first three, there was at least the next ones they would call the 30. But if you start going through the list, it's a little bit longer than 30, especially in Chronicles. In First Chronicles, 11, verse 20, it says in Abishai, the brother of Joab. He was chief of the three. For lifting up his spear against 300 he slew them, and had a name among the three of the three. He was more honorable than the two, for he was their captain. How be it he attained not to the first three? That leads us to one more. You know all the men in here sitting or watching today? Yeah, I know this is setting the standard pretty high, right off the bat, right? We're like, Man, I thought this was supposed to be uplifting toward men. You're giving me these incredible feats that there's no way I can do, right? Well, I'm going to give you one more, and this one's kind of crazy. And the last one is Benaiah. He was the son of Jehoiada. Now in Second Samuel, 23 verses, 20 through 23 it says, Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, the son of a valiant man of Kabzeel who had done many acts. Now, listen to this. Listen to what Benaiah

did. It says he slew two lion like men of Moab. I have no idea what that means, what these actually look like, but two lion like men of Moab, and he went down also and slew a lion in the midst of a pit in time of snow. And he slew an Egyptian, a goodly man, and the Egyptian had a spear in his hand, and he went down to him with a staff, plucked the spear out of the Egyptians hand and slew him with his own spear. These things did Benaiah, the son of Jehoiada, and had the name among three mighty men. He was more honorable than the 30, but he attained not to the first three, and David sent him over the guard. Now in First Chronicles, we're going to learn a little bit more about this Egyptian, which is kind of neat. So we'll look in First Chronicles 11:22, through 25 and it states Benaiah, the son of. Hoedah, the son of a valiant man of kabzeel who had done many acts. He slew two lion like men of Moab also, he went down and slew a lion in a pit in a snowy day. But here's where it's differs. And he slew an Egyptian, okay, we learned about that previously. We didn't learn this though, a man of great stature, five cubits high, and in Egyptians hand, was a spear like a weaver's beam. And he went down to him with a staff, and he plucked the spear out of the Egyptians hand and slew him with his own spear. These things did Benaiah, the son of Jehoiada, and had the name among the three mighties. Behold, he was honorable among the 30, but attained a knot to the first three. And David set him over his guard. And so we got young women who are watching and who are here, or single women, and you might be waiting for one of these guys. It might be the reason that you're single here today, right? And sometimes the expectation works this way. On both sides, it's like, Guys, can we measure up to these incredible men in the Bible? And then women, can we find guys that are like that in the Bible? And then sometimes it keeps people in an unmarried state for a really long time. So what is the standard? Are we looking for somebody to be a godly man today? Do they have to be strong enough to slay a lion and a pet on a snowy day, or do they need to be able to take down 300 or 800 men in a with a spear by themselves? I mean, is that what we're looking for today with men. Have we set the bar too high? But then that's one list. But then there's another list that involves men and women, but quite a bit of men, and that's found in Hebrews chapter 11, the hall of faith. And so let's look at this list a little bit here, starting in verse one of Hebrews 11, it says, Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen for by it, talking about faith, the elders obtained a good report through faith, we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear. So this is the first part of that chapter, and this chapter is 40 verses long. In between the first three and the last two are a bunch of incredible accounts of people who were pillars of the faith. This is commonly known as the Hall of Faith. Chapter, you have Abel and he had a more excellent sacrifice, Enoch, he pleased God, and then it says he was translated, or he went to be with the Lord, even though he did not die on this earth. We had Noah, who, by faith, he was moved to prepare an ark. We had Abraham. By faith, he sojourned into a strange country. We have Abraham and Isaac, and the fact that Abraham was willing to offer up his son by faith. We have Isaac who gave blessings to Jacob and Esau. We have Jacob who blessed Joseph's sons. We have Joseph who, by faith, talked about his bones being transported back home. We have Moses, who was hid for three months and later refused to be called Pharaoh's son. We've got the story of Jericho, where they marched around and by faith the walls of Jericho came tumbling down. We have judges, we have Gideon, we have Barak, we have Samuel. All through this passage, you see men who were identified by faith with these incredible acts by God. We see the end of this, this chapter with these two verses, starting in verse 39 it says, And these all having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise God having provided some better thing for us that they without us, should not be made perfect in their lives. They received, not the promise. And so we had these men doing these incredible things. I mean, these were the the tough guys, right? In fact, let's take a look at these guys real quick. Here's a picture. Here's a picture of David with the three mighties. I have a mirror at home. I don't look like that. It's like, where are standards coming from, right? And then I'm reading Hebrews chapter 11, and these great men of faith. And I'm

like, But, did I have direct communication with God? Did I have these signs and wonders? Did I have to trust God because he audibly told me something? No, not during those period of times either. So I wouldn't make either one of those lists. And if you're a woman here. Today, what is the expectation of men? And if you're a man here today, where, where do we get our standards? I mean, we can pull things out of both of those, right? Absolutely. But really today, what should our redeeming qualities look like? What should we look like? And it got me thinking about the Apostle Paul. We just looked at two incredible lists, but, but if we really look at some and we'll state, we'll keep tradition out of it. I mean, tradition has said some things, especially with some apocryphal type writings about Paul, maybe being having some medical conditions, maybe being balding, Knock Kneed, and some other issues like that. I don't know if those things are true or not, but we can tell from Scripture some things about Paul, and let's look at these. We'll see if Paul, if you would look at him, and be like man. That is the standard for what godly men should look like. So in Second Corinthians, 10:10, it says, for his letters say they, they are weighty and powerful, but his bodily presence is weak and his speech contemptible. And so here Paul saying they so. Paul's saying, This is what people are saying about me. Yeah. And that probably to be a tough thing, you know, I know that some of us are more sensitive than others, but, but to be able to say, I know what they're saying about me, they're saying, Pastor, Dow, you talk too long on a Sunday. Your head's too shiny. I can't I can't even pay attention because you're blinding me with your baldness, right? This would be like me coming and saying, This is what they're saying about me. I mean, Paul's writing this letter saying they say these things about me in Second Corinthians, 11 and six, he says, Though I be rude in speech, yet not in knowledge, but we have been truly made manifest among you in all things now, rude doesn't mean the same thing, like we would say today, when somebody is being rude, maybe they're talking over you, or something like that. Instead, it gives the idea of being unskilled, but though I be unskilled in speech, but maybe in his verbal vernacular. However, we know that he said not knowledge, though definitely not rude in knowledge. And he was constantly in synagogues. He was communicating with at Mars Hill and Athens. And so I think he had the ability to to speak. So I don't think that was quite there, but I think some would have maybe not enjoyed him. He might not have been an eloquent speaker, maybe like Apollos. And then we know this. We know that he had to have Tertius pen Romans for him. We know that he had all these afflictions. Listen in Second Corinthians, chapter 11, surely that gave him scars or limp or something. We know that there seems to be maybe some eye condition. When he talks about large letters, he talks about the thorn in the flesh, yet he was faithful and mighty in the Scriptures and greatly used. What I want to spend the last few moment, few few moments that we have together, this this morning is, is maybe trying to make this practical. Alright, where do I fit? Okay, maybe I'm not in the Hall of Faith. Maybe I'm not one of the three mightys. What does it mean for me? How can I just be the man that God intends me to be? Today? Many of you are going to go home today and you're going to have a wife. You're maybe going to have kids or grandkids. Some of you single guys are here, one day, you're going to have that. So we're all trying to decide, what does it look like to be a man that glorifies God in whatever state that I'm in? And so I'm going to look at some virtuous, I guess, characteristics, if you will. And the first one's this, that men need to be faithful. First and foremost, be faithful. First Corinthians, four, one and two says, Let a man sow account of us as of the ministers of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover, it is required in stewards that a man be found faithful. He's like, where do I start? How do I start becoming the man that God wants me to be? Be faithful, faithful to the house of God, faithful to the Word of God, faithful to the people of God, faithful to the people God has put in front of you. Be able to be counted on. Be in your place. Be faithful. Be the faithful man. And here's some other things that go along with that, if you're a married man, here tonight, specifically, or here this morning, that you physically be able. To protect and provide for your spouse. That's an area of faithfulness, that's the that's part of being a godly man. We look at Ephesians, 5:25, and it says Husbands love your wives,

even as Christ also loved the church and gave himself for it. Some of us can't stand our wives. Some of us don't even want to talk to our wives. But here Paul is saying, You need to love them to the point of dying for them. A few verses later, in verse 28 it says, So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. And then he explains that he that loveth his wife loveth himself, for no man ever yet hated his own flesh, but nourisheth it and cherishes it, even as the Lord the church that involves love there and remember that God commended his love toward us, and that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Can we physically be faithful in protecting our homes? Men? Doesn't mean we need to be able to slay a lion in a pit on a snowy day, but can we protect and be willing to lay down our lives for our wife and families? What about financially? Can we be the financial support that our families need and deserve? First, Timothy five eight says, If any man provide not for his own and especially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith and is worse than an infidel. Now let that sink in for a moment. Part of being the man, the faithful man that God expects you to be, is being able to financially support your wife and your family. They are depending on your support. So we've talked about physically being able to provide, financially being able to provide, but the faithful man spiritually provides. And let me just take a moment to talk about this. None of this is really going to make a lot of sense. If you're considered a natural man, you're like, What is the difference between a spiritual man and a natural man? Well, the Bible says in First Corinthians, chapter 214 that the natural man perceiveth not the things of God. He doesn't understand it. It is a spiritual book, and it is spiritual nature of our relationship with the Lord. And the only way that gets activated in our life is at some point in time when we look around and we say, I'm a sinner. My sin has separated me from a holy God. I can never work to get things right with God. I can't buy my way to be right with God. I can't give my way to be right with God, for it is by grace, through faith, that we are saved, not of ourselves, not not of works, lest any man should boast, it is a gift. And at some point in time, a man goes from natural to spiritual when he understands he can't do it himself, and he has to accept the fact that he is a sinner and that his sins are going to require payment, and that payment would be separation from God and a real place called hell for all eternity but God, But God commendeth his love toward us, and that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. And the Bible talks about in First Corinthians 15, one through four, that if we will place our faith and the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ and that shed blood of Jesus on the cross to take care of our sins, that we are saved. And at that very moment, the Holy Spirit comes and takes up residence in your heart, and now you are spiritual and no longer natural. If you've never done that, I want to invite you right now to take a moment and place your faith in the death, burial, resurrection of Jesus Christ alone to wash away your sins and give you eternal life. And if you've done that even right now, while we're talking, then you are spiritual. You'll be able to understand the things of God. You are no longer the natural man. And what this means is going back to Ephesians, 526, now this is an operation of Jesus in here, but there's going to be something very interesting said. It says that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word. And so if Jesus is saying, This is how I sanctify, right? This is how I do the washing with the word, then the spiritual leaders of the home should be doing the same thing. It should be about. The Word of God. The decisions in the home need to be about the Word of God. The decisions at home need to be to be in the house of God, the man is the spiritual leader to make sure that the home is spiritually focused in the right direction. And that also involves studying the Word of God. In Second Timothy 215 it says, Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed rightly dividing the word of truth or cutting straight the Word of God. That's why it's so important to know what the Bible was saying, who it was saying it to, and understanding what is for us today. Where are we getting our marching orders when we look at Romans through Philemon, and this is part of the leadership of the man, making sure that the home understands what is for them today and how to live it out. But the other thing the faithful man does is he's a prayer warrior. We know that the Bible says in First



Thessalonians, chapter five, that we are to pray without ceasing. We are supposed to be making our request known unto God and the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep our hearts and minds through Christ, Jesus. There is a piece of this, though in first Peter three seven, talking about the prayer life between the man and the wife, where it says, likewise, ye husbands dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honor unto the wife as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life that your prayers be not hindered. So I think Peter's on to something here, that it does affect our prayer life when we are not giving honor unto the wife. I think it's important we as leaders, we were also when it comes to rearing up our children, that we're not provoking our children to anger, that we're not negligent of our spouse, and let's not forget the different places where we talk about the requirements of leadership, that men must be faithful, they must be full of the Spirit, they must have a good reputation, they must manage their houses well. There's a lot on men today, and when we look around, are we measuring up to that? Where are all the men? Where all the men that love God, supposedly, that want to honor him with their life, that want to be good, godly men, believe me, the women are asking that question. And then it's not just about the married men, we've got a lot of single men, either watching online or in the auditorium here today, in our younger men, it's just a couple other, I think, virtuous characteristics that go both sides. And the first one is this, being content. Contentment is one of the great virtues in this life. If a man is content in his marriage, then he's not going to look outside his marriage. If young men develop this idea of being content, then they're not constantly looking outside of what they currently have. Contentment is a lost art, but it is a virtuous characteristic. Philippians 4:11, and 12 says Not that I speak in respect of want, for I have learned in whatsoever state I am there with to be content. That means totally satisfied. I know both how to be abased and how to abound everywhere and in all things, I am instructed, both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need that is contentment. And if we're leading those around us then and they see it in us, then they're going to model that. And then lastly, I think this is important thing, not just for the young men in the room. And I know we're directing this portion primarily to the singles, just for a moment, but there's an idea that Paul gives, even though it's a different context. But there's a good principle, and it is putting away childish things. And I'm glad I'm not here live so I don't get something thrown at me, which is good. And I know we all have hobbies. I have hobbies as well. I get it first, Corinthians, 13:11, though it's an interesting passage of scripture. It starts out talking about charity. These first three verses end up saying, hey, but if I, if I give my alms to the poor, but I don't love people, then it's basically pointless, right? And it goes through a few things the first three verses, then we got these characteristics of love we're going to eventually get to. Love never fails. But. But inside all that he somehow is talking about, not somehow, but he is talking about kind of what will cease, right? Talking about these spiritual sign, gifts that will cease. But he says this principle when he's explaining that verse 11, he says, When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child, but when I became a man, I put away childish things. So even though the context is describing something different, he's describing a true principle here, and that is that eventually children grow up to be men and put away childish things. But here we got people getting married later and later in life. They're wanting to not put away the childish things. They're wanting to delay things, take care of themselves first. Do do all their running first. It's both sides, both men and women. But we're getting slower and slower about putting away the childish things, and so we're looking around and we see a lack of men stepping up, and that's part of the reason right now, while you are single, you are in training so that when married, you can execute what you have learned and you can put into practice. Now, I was mainly talking to the men, but for you ladies, it's also to set the right expectation. Women can sometimes be really hard because they look around and they they got the marriage covenant, maybe going on and and they're looking at their husband. They're saying, My husband doesn't measure up. I'm not happy and I'm miserable in my marriage. And sometimes it's the woman who's always

in all the Bible studies, and I don't see the man, and I would say, Be gracious. Understand that you are a sinner and you married a sinner. But pray all of us should be willing to grow and change, as we talked about last week. If you're a single man here today or single woman, let's just keep it on the women for a second, but, but if you're single, what are you looking for in a husband? Are you are you looking for the type that could slay a lion in a pit on a snowy day, or that can, with a spear, take out 800 or 300 men. Or the type of man who sees a sign and obeys God and walks by faith, or someone that is so gorgeous that you just you're you're so happy with how they look, and you're just hoping that the spiritual side comes alongside. I would challenge you make a list of the things that you're wanting in a husband, see if they line up with Scripture and begin praying over those things. I think it's going to take a little bit more grace of the young men and women in this room in order for them to start getting married and understand that what they're waiting on might not even be realistic, but these characteristics we talked about today should be realistic. You should already see that in somebody. It shouldn't be a hopeful thing, but you should see evidences of this faithful man today, and that should be some of the things that you're looking for. So I was one to challenge both sides today. I will say this in closing, though, another virtuous characteristic is that when a man fails, he gets back up and he gets on the right track. I love it, that mark with all of his failures of leaving the missionary journey later in Second Timothy, 4:11 Paul says, Bring John Mark with me with you, because he now is profitable. Just because you haven't met any characteristic that I've even talked about today doesn't mean that you can't start. Doesn't mean that you can't start being the faithful man that God intends you to be. You might have a life that has been marred in unprofitable activity, but starting now, you can start making a decision to start being profitable for the body of Christ and for those around you, and for your home and your family, even if you've been married for 20 years and your marriage is on the rocks and you've been largely unpopular or unprofitable, maybe unpopular as well, right? But in that case, you can still become profitable to your house. So my challenge today was, let us not continue to be men who fail Society, who fail our churches and who fail our homes and our wives and our spouses, would there be a section of men who would step up and say, I may not be able to slay a lion in a pit on a snowy day or spear 800 men, but I can be faithful, and I could be. Faithful in the areas in my life that will impact my wife and those around me. I can be faithful in the area of physically protecting my family. I can be faithful in the area of financially providing for my family. I can be faithful in the area of being the spiritual leader in my home. I can be faithful in the area of being a prayer warrior for my home. I can lead in contentment in my home, and I can do my best to keep the childish things by the wayside so that I can grow up and be a man. I think those requirements are going to lead you right into the area of that we're looking for in leadership in the body of Christ. When you're talking about faithful, full of spirit, great reputation, manages the household well, husband of one wife, when we start looking at these qualifications, they are bound in these principles that we're talking about today. So I wanted to encourage all the men in the room and online. I also want to encourage the women that we can set the right expectations, that we know better how to pray for our husbands, and that if we're looking for husbands, that maybe we're praying for the right characteristics. Maybe it's not about the six pack. Instead, it's about like these six characteristics that we're talking about today might have been seven, if you include that last one, but that was why I want to encourage you today. This was what was on my heart last week. Was the changed mind. Today was the faithful man. I can't wait to have communion with you next week and to see everybody at the Philippians Bible study next Wednesday. But for now, I'm going to have everybody stand up and like we do at this time every week. Certainly Stan will have some instructions here momentarily, but I'm going to close us in a word of prayer, and then Stan will do the rest. Let's pray, Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for this day. Thank you for technology so I can still be with the people today, and Lord Stan, to still be with my family, it's awesome to find a way to be able to be in two places at one time. Lord, I pray that you'd be with each and every person



here today. Lord, I pray that we'd be faithful in the grace giving challenge. Lord, whether that is only \$1 that we can commit, what an awesome what an awesome gift that is. Lord, it's about us becoming cheerful and trying to be a part of something bigger than ourselves, and loving our church enough that we want to come together as a group and support it. That's exciting for me. Lord, we're excited to see where that's going to go. Lord, we just pray for the men in this room that they would step up and lead, that they would lead in their homes, they would lead in their churches, or in or in the church. Lord, I pray for the young single men that they would not give up hope, that they would not just say that marriage is not for me, or that, or that leadership will not be for me, or I'm just stuck in the video games and everything else. I pray that today you challenge them. Lord, I love when it talks about when Paul's talking to Timothy, he says, Let no man despise thy youth. I know in this room there are some young men that you're going to raise up to do some great, mighty things, and I pray that they would just be willing to obey and to follow your lead and what you've laid out for them in Scripture by the power of the Holy Spirit inside them, Lord, we definitely pray today, if there's anybody who has not placed their faith in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of their sins and eternal life that I pray today would be the day Lord keep the people safe, and we promise to give you all the honor and glory in Jesus name, Amen. I.