MEN'S FRATERNITY

Knights of the 21st Century

Trail 11

KEITH: You know guys, we're at that point in our journey where we're about to make a pretty significant swing. We're going to get to the issues that are so critical for us to be defenders. We've been setting it up, understanding why we need to be defenders, but now we're going to start to put the ingredients together that will make you make every environment safer every time you walk in it. Now in order to do that, you need to understand your worth, your value, sort of like in the picture here where you get to understand men, everybody is excited when dad comes home, at least normally if all goes well. It's a party. Dad's here and we feel better. Why? Because he has tremendous value to the family when he's functioning like a defender.

It's interesting. I remember a time in my life. I was about 11 and my mom would go pick up my dad every night at the train. She's leave about 5:30, he'd get in about quarter of six, they'd be home by 6:00. Most nights I'd go but some nights I'd stay at home and watch the Three Stooges and other cool things and inevitably every once in awhile 6:00 would come and they wouldn't be there, 6:10 would come and they wouldn't be, 6:15 they wouldn't be there, and I'm 11. I'm envisioning that my mom going to the train to get my dad got caught in a traffic accident, hit by the train, her car is crushed, she's dead, my dad gets off the train,

sees this dead wife laying on the railroad tracks, he has a heart attack, he's gone and I'm home. I'm an orphan, all alone, right. I am – by twenty after six I am crying. I have lost my parents. Why didn't I go, at least I could have been in the car and died with my mom. This is horrible because I just really wanted to see my dad who I valued so much and my mom walk through the door, right. And then all of a sudden the car would pull into the driveway. The train was late and I would stop crying because I was 11 and I wanted to be cool but I wanted to let them know when they came in the door I was just glad to see them and so I would hug my dad a little harder. I'm excited to see them just a little bit more because the value of a man when he walks into an environment always makes that environment feel better when he's a defender.

That was a phase of my dad's life when he was still a man trusting God and he would just demonstrate some things that were just to clear, so cool. In fact this is what I want you to do. I want you to understand that when God says there are basically two things I long for from you, to love me the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your mind, with all your soul, with all your strength, and love your neighbor as yourself. And what He assumes in those two things is one, I will love Him vertically, but I also love others as I love me. Now I grew up in the Christian community which always used this term – joy. Jesus, others and you, so you were always at the bottom of the barrel. God does do it that way. God says, Jesus and you better love you at this level so you can love others at the

same level. It's the value of yourself and what I want us to work on is the value of who we are. So the guys are going to teach throughout this time a variety of things saying, okay, how valuable are you as a man. If you understand that it will make all the difference.

So I want you to look at I. It says this. A man develops the potential that God has given him. By wisely investing in himself, he increases a sense of personal value and influence. His capacity of a man is increased by this. How your going to increase who you are in your value.

A. Attending a campfire group which gives him the opportunity to discuss the Knights concepts and learn to apply them with other men who are supportive of his manhood journey. Guys, here's what I want you to do. I want you to think in terms of this. When you go into your campfire, you're going to immediately talk to other guys about what you need to be, what you need to do, what you need to accomplish and your value, how you value yourself will increase. Now God values you very high. We're always short of how He values us. He redeems us at the level of how He values us. So when you get in the campfire, a group of guys are going to tell you, listen. Let me tell you who you are. Let me tell what I see in you. Let me encourage you. Let me call you up. Now we'll be honest with each other. We'll say when we're blowing it, but we're going to say it because we value who they are and they're going to help us in the journey. It becomes a very key part. So when you get done this trail, you

go to a campfire. Just don't have the trail and not spend time talking with some guys. You're going to miss a very important part.

Look at B. Integrating what he learns regarding knighthood into his daily activities. Through these efforts, he develops strength which can be utilized to increase his potential as a man. One of the things that is so vital and important in our lives, guys, is that we're going to have work on this when the other guys aren't around, right. I mean I talked to one of my key guys last night on the phone, the seven guys in my life, got an Amen from one of them of this morning on my phone just saying they are praying for me, talked to Roy and Clair, guys that I do life with all the time because Robert and T.C. won't live near me and they don't like me. And what happens is, when I get involved with these guys, they're calling me up, they're keeping me focused, but they're not always there. You got to be doing your knighthood stuff all the time because you want that reaction when you walk into every environment, everybody feels safer, better and delighted that you're there.

Look at C. His willingness to explore new areas of life which causes him to stretch himself and discourages complacency. If you want to learn to discourage complacency in your life, have the courage to say, okay, what else is there. Because you begin to understand your value, you're always going to understand that you haven't quite got to your value yet, so you're going to keep growing in it. So T.C. is going to share a couple

ideas that will help us understand what we can do with this. T.C., go ahead and share.

T.C.: Cool. Thanks Keith, I appreciate it. Guys, I'm going to take you through a few more of these. Let's look at D. His efforts to develop himself which enables him to lead others well. That's pretty cool. I mean for me, I was a guy that did a personal trainer for many, many years and it's quite simple. I needed to look the part. It's kind of hard for me to tell you, hey, you got to have disciple, you got to eat right and I never work out, I never train, and I'm just eating hole holes and cupcakes all the time. People aren't going to listen to me because they're like you don't even do it yourself. In order to lead others you have to lead yourself well and represent that. You know, you got to look the part. You got to be the part.

Let's look at the next one. E. His acknowledgement of his self-value which gives him the confidence to step toward the unknown parts of life. I know who I am and hopefully you know who you are, not defined by the world. You know the world doesn't help me to know who I am. Every time I watch television and there's something telling me I don't drive a good enough car, I don't have enough money or whatever then that might make you, you know define your self-worth through what people say. My self-worth is defined by Jesus Christ and what the Bible says and it's also defined by those who love me the most and feed into my life. You know, that's kind of what your campfires will do. That tells you what you're

worth and once you understand that, you'll be able to take on the unknown parts and things that aren't so sure because you'll have the confidence to say, hey, whatever it is I'm ready for it. I'm prepared for it.

Let's look at the next one, F. Believing the Bible which says, "To whoever has, to him more shall be given, and he will have an abundance, but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away." Matthew 13:12 NASB. Listen, this speaks to Jesus Christ. With him you got everything. Without him, you got nothing. The Bible even says apart from me you can do nothing. This is something you got to decide if you believe for yourself. By believing this you'll understand that with Jesus, he has the plan for your life. God has the plan for your life and if you follow that, you know, you'll be able to go ahead and be who God made you to be. You'll be able to take everything Knights is trying to teach you and apply it and have the strength to do so. If you decide you don't believe this, then you won't trust God and without trust, it's really hard to become who God wants you to be, so you got to trust Him.

Let's move on to the next one. Learning to walk more by faith than by sight. 2 Corinthians 5:7 NASB. Listen, one of the thing that I have experienced throughout my life is not being able to see clearly can cause this thing called fear. Men don't like to talk about fear a whole lot. But if you fear the unknown you won't step into that next challenge. You have to always be able to see what's coming. But man, if you have faith in God and believe that He has a plan for your life, you can walk, and it's almost

like, hey, He's got you by the hand and He says, hey come follow me. And all you need to be able to see is that God has that hand and as long as that's what I can see, I'm not worried about what's ahead because I know God's got a plan and He's got me, alright.

We're going to pass this thing over to Clair and he's going to take us to the next part.

CLAIR: Thanks T.C. II. A man recognizes that his value is through his acceptance of unique gifts that have been given to him. Let's take a look at a couple points under II.

A. He is able to identify five individually specific areas in which he has skills and talent and uses these parts of himself to give to others. I was thinking about this and five is just an arbitrary number. What we're trying to tell you is that God says you have many gifts and Psalms – I think it's 139 – He actually says, we are fearfully and wonderfully made. So if you're questioning this, do I have value, do I have gifts or talents, just start looking around. There's lists in the Bible that tell you that God made you different ways and different skill sets. Aptitude tests are something I really enjoy. I like looking through how I'm designed and we use these parts of ourselves to give to others. So the better we understand our talents and recognize we do have them, the better we understand how to bless others with those talents.

Let's move onto B. He believes that he is blessed by God and has a responsibility to use those strengths in ways that increase his potential as

a man. I have been blessed in a lot of different things and sort of sounding egotistical here, I've giving and tithing have never been a big challenge for me. We've been blessed financially with some businesses and I found out that writing those checks wasn't enough for me so I started thinking about this whole concept of tithing and giving of myself, giving to where it hurts and actually I found out that my time, the 24 hours that we're all given in a day was a better way for me to think about tithing. So we still give financially and try to bless those around us. However, I found that tithing my time is a little bit more important to me. So just another way I look at my gifts and say, God how can I use them to bless You and your kingdom and I try to tithe a percentage of my time as well.

Let's go on to C. He does not hide his talents but he uses them to expand his influence. I was part of a church growing up and I'm not sure if you guys have experienced this, a fairly conservative church and there was this whole part of the Mennonite community actually here in the Pennsylvania area. There's this whole thing with that culture of let's not be too flash, let's not be too great. Well the result it had on me is I had some strengths in certain areas and loved doing certain things but there was always this thing, don't push too hard. Don't go too far. And I remember specifically we were going to be doing a drama in our church and we were kind of taken over the top. There's a humorous thing. I enjoy that. I specifically remember the Pastor coming and saying, hey, let's just take it back a notch and it just took the wind out of my sails. I

don't think that's what God wants from our talents. I think He gave them to us to push them as far as we can go. I am now part of a church that looks at things very differently. They believe if it's for the kingdom, it should be with every excellence from the music to the teaching to the lighting experience. Everything about the environment is just push it to the top. Those are all gifts from God.

Let's move on to point D. He recognizes that his gifts are magnified by the gifts of others, all of which are necessary to impact the forest. This to me is all about doing things as a team. I am naturally wired when I do things. I love the team teaching that we do here at Knights. I love working together with teams of people. We built our men's ministry on teams. I was thinking about something the other day. I – my business is expanding and I'd like to expand it across the east coast but geographically it brings some challenges. So I've always had on my bucket list I would like to get my pilot's license. And I was thinking about this metaphor the other day. If I get my pilot's license, it's most likely going to be a single engine, possibly twin engine, maybe with an instrument rating. I don't know how far I'll go with it, but I am limited as a single engine pilot in how far I can go, how high I can go. I can only cover parts of the east coast, how many people I can take, how much cargo I can take. All these limits on it. However, if I took it to the next step and I became a commercial pilot and I learned to work with other people like flight engineers and flight attendants, think about the big

planes I can hop on and I can be part of a much bigger picture. I can travel much further with many more people, around the world actually. So just think about those limits. If I just take my talents and I use them individually, I get to fly one little plane. If I find other people and create a team, the sky is the limit and the world is the limit.

Let's move on to point E. He is motivated to learn more in each of his areas of skill and enjoys participating in life in this way. I would love to give you another football metaphor, but T.C. already threatened me twice if I do. He's going to snap me like a toy again. If you've seen him, he can do it. So let's switch to basketball. I heard a story awhile ago, I believe it was Michael Jordan. This question is, do I focus on areas of skill or do I focus on my weaknesses. And I think the tendency in my world is often want to shore up my weaknesses and kind of ignore my skills. What we want to tell you here is focus on your skills. Develop them even further. Take them as far as you possibly can. So the story with Michael Jordan if I understand correctly, he was a horrible free throw thrower and had a coach early in his career, said Michael, I want you to do nothing else but focus on free throws. We're going to get that percentage up to where you're better. Well Michael thought about it and luckily he got traded to another coach and when he took that information to a second coach and said, hey, is this what I should be doing, the guy said, are you out of your mind. He said, think about it Michael. You could spend hours and hours and hours. You could spend the rest of your

career trying to increase your free throw percentage. He goes, at best you may move from bad to average. He said if you focus on your offensive skills, you're already great. He said you can be the best in the world. Think about it. That's exactly what Michael did, focused on his strengths, took him further. He'll be in history forever.

Roy, do you want to take the next couple steps with us.

ROY: Yeah, thanks Clair. You know there's a lot of things we have difficulty doing and I want to tell you something that it's impossible for you to do. It is impossible for you to out give God. You can't out give God. We can't as humans out give God. III. A man recognizes that his relationships with others help him learn to value himself. Keep that in mind that we can't out give God. As we relate to other people and we show God through us to other people, we end up receiving back from the very relationships that we're giving to.

Let's look at the next one. Because he allows others to experience who he is in a non-defensive manner, they value him as a person. Now some guys, males, they go through life almost like porcupines. Because they have a weak stomach they roll up in a ball and everybody that comes by they quill them – through aggression, through sarcasm, through a negative perspective. As a man, when you have strong spiritual emotional identity abs, so to speak, you can risk getting hit here. So you don't have to be as defensive and that allows you then to experience the people around you in a more open and vulnerable fashion.

Let's look at the next one. The people in his life feel good when they receive his love. As we give love to others, the people around us feel strengthened by how God has caused us to be able, in a very pragmatic way, to care for them.

2. They know he is truly listening to them. You know part of being Christ-like with those around us is quieting that noise inside of us and learning to put on the emotional shoes of another person, to be able to see life from their perspective.

Let's look at the next one. They feel his affirmation through the complements he gives them. You know, if you ever go to a sports bar, you hear this, ah, man, yay, all this cheering, all this complaining. Sometimes when you're in a sports bar you have two different teams. You can tell the ebb and the flow. Look at all that passion and all that energy for a team. Some of the players that you're cheering for aren't going to be there next year because they want more money over in a nearby city. Actually the team you're cheering against. Complementing somebody is like a verbal hug. We all need complements and one of the ways that you and I can help reflect who God is in our valuing of another is to really get good at complements. The passion we put in the cheering for our team who can't even hear us because we're not even at the game, we have a team around us of people way more valuable, way more committed. They've been given to us by God to take care of and it's time for us to

give them verbal hugs, to show them some of the passion that we let out at another moment in time.

Let's look at the next one. They receive his positive attention. We need to create moments where the people around us that we're caring for can sense that we are fully present with them. That presence, being with them as they live life is one of the greatest gifts we can give. Let's turn it back to Keith.

KEITH: Guys, you're valuable and that value when lived, it's going to be expressed in ways which we deserve from Roy to others in levels that people go, wow, I want to be behind that, around that and feel safe living in that. And that's what the picture is, right. Dad's home. It's good. Everybody feels better because we're there.

Look at C. A man is different from a male. Male is a spandex male. A man is a knight because he chooses to believe in his value. This choices leads to some other very positive choices, alright.

Look at the first one. He reinforces his belief in his value by holding himself to a positive set of standards to reflect his self-respect. We've been talking about your principles, right. We've been talking about what are your beliefs. What are some of the things you're going to hold onto. Guys, a spandex male, a guy that you don't want to be is not a man who values himself, alright, because he doesn't hold himself to any standard. When you hold yourself to no standard, there is nothing that is reflected towards other people that feel safe and positive and makes them feel

valued and loved. And so what happens is we mess it up. Well you and I have beliefs. We have principles that we live by and when you live by them, others can become confident like rocks giving stability like a foundation that really counts.

Look at No. 2. He consciously chooses to stay away from destructive activities and people who will treat him negatively. That's always making a choice what people you hang out with. My seven guys, six of them are always positive – well actually five and a half. One guy is sometimes is always realistic, which sometimes is positive, sometimes negative. But other guys, most of them are very positive. Sometimes it's good to have a guy that balances you out, just looks at life a little bit less positively. I then to be a very positive thinker so it helps me to have some guys like that. However, he's not negative in destructive ways. The guys around me that are in my life are very significant from that point of view. You got to be careful of what happens to you when you get a guy who's kind of speaking and always kind of taking you in the direction of destruction. So choose wisely who your friends are. It's always good to reflect. Who's my best friend? Who's the one I trust the most? Whose the one I trust the most when the crisis happens, not when the party happens? It becomes very significant.

No. 3. He takes care of himself physically. He takes care of himself physically. I was going to actually have when it came up on the slide and you were looking at it here, I was going to have T.C. stand in front of me

and see if you could tell the difference between the two of us. I do run, if I'm on fire, but I drop and roll at that particular point. I do do certain things but you know what's really fascinating? I feel so much stronger and powerful than you. They get us confused all the time, don't they? I know it happens. Taking care of yourself physically guys is because the others don't feel safe when you're not healthy. I can tell you that my boys are all gone out of the house now, but Lynn will always say to me I want to grow old with you and my biggest problem is I just work way too hard. Just go, go, go all the time and as a result of that the things I sometimes need to do to refresh my body, to refresh my soul, are the most things I miss. And so it's very important that you do that and in this case, I got to tell you guys, don't do like I do, do like T.C. does but learn guys, to take care of yourself in every way physically. That's something I'm really working on.

Look at 4. He develops his mind in intentional ways so that he can handle the various life circumstances that occur by being a king, lover, warrior and friend. I just want to throw this at you again. We talk about these all the time. For a moment, let's just talk about the lover. The lover is not, that's not a sexual thing. The lover is a person who when he's around, the people feel highly valued, highly drawn to. And when that – God's my lover, right. It's not sexual, that's very intimate, very drawn to in a relational kind of way. Think of the four shells of your mind, the man who lives as a knight, the man who believes in who he is will live

comfortably in those places and one of those is lover so that those around him again sense and know that he values them greatly and longs to be with them and longs to spend time learning about their world. And that's part of who we are as men.

Look at 5. He sets boundaries and confronts the imperfections of others with love. He sets boundaries, okay? One of the hardest things I've had to learn to do over the years because I'm a very – I'm an encourager, I'm a motivator, I want to get people going from point A to point B. One of the hardest things to do is confront and I've discovered that the lack of ability to confront gets in the way and I don't confront because you know what, I will let my boundaries to here and to here and to here. Sometimes you need to know what your boundaries are and set them really solid so that when somebody steps over the boundary you're not saying, I'm going to correct you, you're going to warn them of the destruction if they keep going in that direction. Learn the art of so valuing yourself that you can value others by be willing to get in their face when you have to. Also know what your boundaries are. I can't go there. To this day, I've been free from pornography for over thirty years but to this day I have certain boundaries when I am traveling by myself. Why? Because I know me. Learning the boundaries. Sometimes you have to learn to confront yourself in these journeys.

Look at the next one. He recognizes that his shadow is constantly attempting to dominate his life in new ways. I want you to envision

somebody who is trying to find a way to get to you, perpetually just poking, looking for a way to destroy you. The shadow is all around you. The shadow is our word, I think you know for sin, right. And sin all around us is trying to destroy us and kill us and all that and it's always looking for new ways. One of the things that's funny as I've gotten older, I've lost some of my positive edge. I've become a little skeptical, lived too much, maybe seen too much, watched people hurt each other too much and so all of a sudden as that skepticism is rising, I'm realizing that that's just a new way for the shadow starting to dominate my thought process. You got to recognize it and you've got to deal with it straight on it and say get out of here, by the power, blood and name of Jesus. Get out of here, I'm in Christ. I'm not going to live in that. That's what gives it tremendous freedom.

Look at the next one. He uses his soul as a guide before he makes important decisions by looking at how he defines himself and his sense of meaning. You want to know what makes you tick, right. See this is really important. If I'm going to walk into my family and give hope and love and life and significance, if I'm going to walk into that environment, I need to know where my soul is taking me. Is it driving me to an intimacy with God and is it driving me to be all that I was designed to be. There are days that I'm so busy doing good things that I'm not doing what I was designed to be. Isn't that wild? Think about that guys. You can do a whole lot of good opportunities out there. Clair mentioned earlier an interesting word.

He uses a word called tithe is time. Tithe is actually an Old Testament concept for you guys don't know that where God said, hey, you just give a portion of. Tithing your time means I'm going to be very wise in how I use this in connection with my soul and who I am because I have a certain design. Know who you are and live within that design.

No. 8. He uses his armor wisely as he attempts to make a difference in the world. You want to be willing to take risks, know your armor, just know your armor. It's interesting, every couple months Caleb my third son has to have an MRI to determine where his cancer is. The three days before that, my armor starts to thicken up. I don't know what he goes through. I can't even imagine what he's going through but for me, as his father, my armor starts to thicken up because I start to think if cancer is back, how am I going to protect him, my wife, his brothers, the family. How am I going to be involved in taking care of that? My armor starts to thicken up. It's the risk you take. There are a lot of other risks like that where you're going to step into things where you go, is my armor intact, ready to go? All those things, everything we keep building into you for these five years become very significant as you think, okay, why do we do what we do? Well we want you to understand how deeply valued you are and you're worth protecting.

Look at No. 9. He understands the value of dealing with the pain which is related to his childhood memories and knowing that by dealing with this pain he will develop internal strength. Before Knights, to be

honest with you I didn't deal with my chain mail very much. I sort of ignored it. Guys, have the courage to go where the pain is, where those bad memories are and things that hurt are. Don't be afraid to go there and visit them and discover who they are and who you are in them. It goes a long way in saying I'm going to become the man I need to be. It will keep you from reacting in ways that scare those that you're protecting. Do you know where your pain is, right?

No. 10. He pursues relationships in which there is a balance between giving and receiving. He purses relationships that are going to find balance. This is so keys, guys. If all I do with my seven guys is give or is all I ever do with my sons is give, if I all ever do with Lynn is give, there will be like a Styrofoam cup with holes punched in it. Everything will be draining out of me and there will be nothing left. I need to be involved in relationships that are giving back. Now not all relationships that you're involved with can give back, depending where they are, what they're going through. But what happens, one of my sons went through a very difficult time in his marriage. During that time he is giving nothing back. He needs everything in, right. But I had other people who were giving. You need to find the balance between the two. So, know who your friends are. I would recommend that every year you're adding one or two friends into the world in which you live, that you are giving to them and receiving from them, the kind of friends that could go both ways. The more you develop

that, the stronger you're going to be to be able then to help others who can't give back. Building that arsenal, alright.

Last area. He applies his beliefs to his life in increasingly positive ways. He's going to apply his beliefs to his life in just positive ways. It all sums up in this. Are you willing to be positive? Are you willing to be positive as a way of life about what God made so that when you walk into the environment, that environment senses that you're valued, that you believe you're valued, not just by God, which is so key. You actually believe that what He's done is good in you. And in doing that, taking all the redemption that Christ offers and letting you live differently from everyone else.

Your Knightly News is a Knightly News about a guy by the name of Jeremiah. Jeremiah was a very interesting guy. He's involved with a nation that is running as hard as he can from God. They're a spandex nation. The nation of Israel becomes spandex. They didn't have men who value themselves. They didn't have guys that understood it. They had fallen into captivity. They disobeyed God. They had run from him. They didn't live in His fullness. Everything was a mess. Jeremiah comes along and he says, I'm going to show you what you're doing, so he spandexed it in his functions. He went through so many things on earth. He's one of the five major prophets in the Old Testament. I mentioned Isaiah a few times ago. This guy is one of those guys that did things that – he lived in a pit. He went around naked for awhile, carried a yoke on

his back, all these things showing the foolishness of what was going on. As Jeremiah lived in that, he had to show a nation something. Here's what it was. Trying to rescue a disobedient nation, he suffered so that they could see what they were doing. You know what he did? He so valued them that he showed them living in him what it would be like if they – what they're like in not valuing who they are – a spandex nation. Jeremiah was a knight in a world of spandex nations and made an incredible difference. Great book to read sometime. Read the book of Jeremiah.

I'm going to ask T.C. to share a couple more principles with you. T.C.

T.C.: Alright. Thanks Keith. You know it's funny. I'm getting ready to talk about something pretty near and dear to my heart. You know, we're talking about affirming your value. Me and Keith were joking around just a few moments ago when I walked out there with him, but what's cool is he doesn't define himself by what the world says is – make a guy important or makes a guy meaningful. He knows where his value is and its bound in Christ and that's why for so many years to watch a guy like Keith teach with such passion, he can do that because he knows where his value comes from. He's a great representation of that and so I was just thinking about that as he was speaking. And I'm just proud to know a guy like that. Hopefully you'll get to meet some guys like that in

your campfires that, you know, you can bond with and draw encouragement from.

But as we continue, D says this. It says a man's spirit affirms his value in the following ways. Let's took at these.

No. 1. God was willing to send His only son, Jesus, to die for him. Guys, this is what it's all about, and I'm going to tell you a short little story, and forgive me if I get a little emotional because I have a five year old son and I don't know if I could let him go for anybody, let alone a bunch of guys or girls or whoever that I don't even know. Would I let my son die for you guys, whom I never met? I don't know. But listen to this story real quick. It's a story that I heard and it's touched my heart forever. There's a man who takes his son to work, his little son. It's bring your child to work day and he works as one of the guys who operates the bridge where when big huge vessels come through, he has to hit a button and the bridge lets up. As the car stops, the bridge lets up so the big vessel can get through. So he's there, and he's telling his little son about what he does and showing him, hey son, you push this button to this and you push that button to do that, and the alarm goes off that lets him know that a big vessel is coming so he has to stop fooling around with his son and focus, you know, because this a pretty dangerous situation. He's got to stop the traffic and he's got to get the bridge up. So he's getting everything set to do all that and he's getting his buttons together, getting himself together, he's looking down the river and sure enough he finally

sees the big boat coming after a long advance warning and he goes to look for his son and say, alright son, it's about to happen. You're going to love this. He looks down and doesn't see his son, so he's freaking out but he also has to focus. You know, this vessel is large and has thousands of people on it. He looks and he notices that his son has crawled out onto the bridge, the very bridge that he has to open up and then he looks and he sees all these people coming and they're getting close. If he doesn't open up that bridge, thousands are going to die. But if he doesn't go out there and get his son right now, his son is going to die and he's got a choice to make. And there were tears in his eyes. He hits the button and the bridge goes up and his son dies. These thousands of people live. He doesn't know these people, never met these people, but he gave his son's life so that they could live and then go home to be with their sons. That's what God did for you, for me and I know that hurt God. And that inspires me to not waste the opportunity that I have, to live a life that says, thank you for that grace, for that gift. That's the driving force behind all of this. This one point, which if I don't control my emotions right now, I could stay on forever. If you don't get this, the other stuff doesn't matter. God gave His son, Jesus Christ, to die. He gave his life so that you can have life and then live a life that says thank you for that grace and for that gift. If you can internalize that, you will take all these lessons and you'll apply them hard because you'll want to say thank you to God for letting His son go for someone like me.

Let's go to the next point. He can pursue an ongoing relationship with Jesus Christ who has his Lord can empower him. The reason I can immediately rebound from telling you that story is simply because Jesus Christ didn't say dead. He arose again and by rising again, we are empowered with this great thing called the Holy Spirit. And the Bible says in Philippians 4:13, I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength. Now that's one scripture that a lot of times is misused, you know when people just say, hey, I can just do anything I want to do. No, if you read that scripture leading up to that point, Paul is saying I know how to survive in any situation and this is what it's all about guys – adapting. Any situation whether – Paul says whether I'm poor or that I'm well fed, whether I'm hungry, whether I'm in jail, whether I'm free, it doesn't matter because the Holy Spirit and knowing my purpose and my value, I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength. This is simply saying that the Lord can empower you. He empowers you with the Holy Spirit and God says it doesn't matter whether you're hungry, whether you're well fed, whether you're struggling with this thing or that thing. It doesn't matter. You know your value. You know your purpose. You know the part that's on the inside and you can do all things. And I hope you understand that. I hope you understand that.

Well let's go to the next point. He can seek God's forgiveness when he temporarily diminishes his value by choosing to sin. This is another huge, huge blessing from Jesus Christ arises from the dead and coming

back and us finding our value and purpose by our belief in Jesus Christ, his death, his burial, his resurrection. When we, when we sin, when we screw up and when we make mistakes which we're sure to go, guys, even in our attempt to follow everything that's in Knights and follow everything that's in the Bible, this is when we temporarily take our eyes off the prize so to speak. Our love for God fails. He forgives us. He empowers us to get back up, dust ourselves off and keep going. What I'm encouraging you to do is don't ever let Satan make you feel guilty because guilt, it won't – that doesn't empower you to move forward, but knowing that you can be forgiven, knowing that God looks down and says, hey, you're mine. You're not perfect, but I want you to be passionate. See it's not about perfection, guys. It's about passion and the pursuit to be the best you can be. It's okay to fail because you're going to learn from that mistake and you're going to get better. Remember, it's about passion though. I always remember my football coaches saying, mistakes are okay but they better be full speed mistakes, meaning you were trying to be the best you can be and then you get up and you learn the right way and you do the right things.

Guys, I'm going to pass it over to Robert.

ROBERT: Thank you so much T.C. Wow man, powerful stuff. Guys, we've got just a few more points. Follow along here. Let's see Point No. 4. He can rely on the Holy Spirit to give him comfort when he feels discouraged. That's some great stuff to know. You know when

Jesus left, he said he would send us the comforter. That's who the Bible calls the Holy Spirit. That's a beautiful thing to know that you have been given so much value, you have been valued by Jesus Christ to a point where he has now provided you with a comforter, one who will be there when you're feeling discouraged and down, you will find comfort in God.

Going ahead. No. 5. He can rely on the Bible's promises that God has given him for each and every life event that he encounters. That's great stuff. I mean we know that we can go to the scriptures and we can read about all of God's promises for our lives, the fact that He's going to be there for us. He has promised He's never going to forsake us, never leave us alone, that we don't have to walk through life alone, that He will provide a way, that He will make all things come together for a our good. What an awesome God and what an amazing value that He has placed on us to provide all this. That's some great stuff to ponder on.

Let's hit the last point here. No. 6. He can enjoy a future that promises an eternity with Jesus. Look we heard it from T.C. God gave His son, Jesus Christ, to die on a cross for our sins, to bring us salvation. What greater testament to our value that He has placed on us and to understand that now we get to spend eternity with Jesus. That is a beautiful thing. That is a powerful thing. That, my friends, is a valuable thing and that's what He sees in you. Knights we have seen and heard about so many different ways and all these points that we've made, you know, points that show us the kind of value that we need to understand

about ourselves, biblically, spiritually, in so many different avenues of life. You have value. Don't lose sight of that. In Christ our value is just so absolute.

Don't lose sight of al these different points we've talked about. They will help you guide and they will help you continue to develop your knighthood as you continue on in this series. One thing I want to tell you that as a knight, you should always value yourself. Guys, I look forward to having a campfire of my own. I hope you guys go now and enjoy your campfires as you talk about all these things. Until next time.