MEN'S FRATERNITY

Knights of the 21st Century

Trail 15

KEITH: So here you are guys, Trail 15. You must be important because we're bringing in all the big players. We're bringing in all the guys and saying, okay, how are you and I going to use the self, the part of us that's responsible for all of our choices, how are we going to use that to maximize who we are as defenders? How are we going to do it to create an environment that those behind us feel safe and protected? We're going to need to think through how we make a choice.

Now in order to that, what we're going to do is we're going to start what I would call on the lower stage, we're going to move to the upper stage of choice making and the lower stages have some really key components, alright. So, when you start with this, you start I'm going to make a choice to make a difference. I'm going to move forward and make a huge difference in my life. Now we're all making choices. In fact, to get you in the habit of making choices, let's think of three different types of choices. Let's think of a normal choice, a choice you have to make as you do life. Not like the choice of what you're going to have for dinner. Let's make it a little broader than that, like I just had to replace my hot water heater after 27 years in my house. So I had to make a choice, just a normal choice about what hot water heater to get and who to bring it in and install it and all that kind of stuff. So that's a normal choice, aright.

Let's take another choice. Let's take a hard choice. You have this choice that you have to make that's a lot tougher. It's a life and death choice. It's a big job change. It's dealing with an illness. It's dealing with what kind of treatment with that illness or it's dealing with the fact that I just lost somebody that's really important to me or I think that I'm going to leave my current job and move into this area or just difficult choices that you've had to face, alright. I don't want you to make up one, just one that you know you've had to face. I want you to think about a normal choice, what's a hard choice and let's do a fun choice, something you just sort of plan. Like, for me, a hard choice was dealing with some of the issues that my son went through with cancer this past year. But a fun choice was Lynn and I saying let's go run away for a few days after I was speaking in San Francisco. So where would we go – to Yosemite and just have some fun choices.

So getting that mindset, I'm going to ask some of the guys just real quick to share some of their choices. So I'm going to start with the one who always has something fun to do. Clair, tell me about a choice you made. I know it's going to be a fun one. You can pick them all. It's not going to be anything but fun, is it?

CLAIR: Actually we're in this middle of this choice right now. It's a choice between two funs which makes it a hard choice for me. Honestly, my sons, 18 and 21, our last summer together, I think, my oldest son when he graduates from college, he'd like to head out to

Colorado so the hard choice for us this summer, we'd like to plan – there's a cruise planned with our church. We're going to Alaska. Love to go there, great friends, time with my wife. The hard choice is, do we want to stay home and spend those last couple days with our sons. So fun, but hard.

KEITH: Well they called me and said they wanted you to go, so you do whatever you want. It's awesome. Okay, T.C., how about you, man. If you were to pick a choice, you can pick normal, fun, hard, a choice.

T.C.: Past or ...

KEITH: Past or present, go for it.

T.C.: A hard choice was to stop running a successful proven business to go after a totally unproven business but I felt a pulling and a tugging to do it. I really felt it was the right thing. So that was tough. Security, non-security and hoping for security again.

KEITH: Yeah, wow. And it's so important that you know what steps to put into when you make those kind of choices, alright. Roy, how about you, when you make those kind of choices?

ROY: Yeah, every day with a number of employees that I work beside and kind of counseling clients that we deal with sometimes, I have to make tough choices. What's the best way to help this person work through some of their marital difficulties because it's so challenging. The

kids are at stake. There's a lot of tension. How can I help that person restore their relationship and go on?

KEITH: There are other choices that we have to make as well. You know, some of them again – normal, also like once or twice a year kind of choice. Then there's really hard ones and then they're like, let's have fun. Dying to find out which category Robert would pick. (Laughter)

ROBERT: Let's see, do we go to Disney or do we go somewhere else? No, you know what, vacation time is always a great fun decision to try to make, you know, where we're going to go and spend some time together.

KEITH: And it is always a choice, right. We're going to put pieces together. Now what we're going to do is we're going to start to hand you those pieces and we're going to start at what I will tell you again at the lower stage. We'll move to the upper stage in Trail 16. In the lower stage you're going to use parts of your core and that which is around your core and each of the guys will give some insight into that.

Let's start with I. The man's self possesses messages from various internal elements within him as he lives life. The self decides which course of action to take depending on the choices that are available. Guys, this is just defining for you what the self is, right? You each have it, right? You have the chair of self that kind of oversees the core. From all the aspects of the core, from all the elements coming into that, you're going to make a decision. Until you learn it, you use this as a way of life.

Use it as a way of life and you will probably make poor decisions and if you don't use all of the parts of the core, I guarantee you you're going to miss something very, very significant.

So consider this. A. A man's armor tells him how safe he is and then recommends the appropriate level of vulnerability and the openness for each situation. This helps a man protect himself by - and before I share with you all the things that can be protected by the armor – but know this. The very first thing you do is armor gives you time, right? Armor gives you a few minutes to figure this out and while you're figuring it out, it allows you to go, okay, I'm safe enough in that environment.

Your Knightly News is such a guy. He name is Jotham. Jotham is an interesting guy. He's the son, the only survivor of Gideon. Now Gideon is a Judge in the Old Testament, a very good guy. There's an attack on his family by a guy by the name of Abimelech and everyone is killed, all of the sons are killed but Jotham. Jotham makes a decision. The decision is I am not going to play by this guy's rules. He makes a decision that he's going to expose this man for what kind of leader he is after all the destruction and all the damage. But you know, he didn't do it immediately. His armor bought him time. He hid, stayed safe for a few days – actually a few weeks, a few months. And then after everything, he couldn't rescue anybody. They were all killed. After a time he came and exposed this bad king for what he was. Look at this statement. He faced rejection, betrayal and the murder of his brothers so he proclaimed

Abimelech's rule would lead to their destruction. When did he do it? Not the day that everybody was being killed because he would have been killed as well. He waited later. If you ever read in the book of Judges, Chapter 9, you're going to read an amazing story of a guy who made a decision to reveal the heart of somebody dangerous. So when you think about walking up this hill and you're make a choice, or you're going to make a difference, when you do that, what happens is this. As you're going up that hill, as you're making that step by step climb, you'll discover that so often it involves buying time. You have times, guys. Everything you do, you can decide before you take the next step. God gave you time. He gave you this armor, thicker or thinner, depending what you need, but He gave it to you.

So let's consider a few things about that as you move forward. Look at the next point. Assessing the environmental threat. What's going to happen? I'm going to take a few minutes just to assess what's happening in the forest and the world around me. That's what it's doing. It allows me to buy that kind of time.

No. 2. Determining what is necessary to meet his personal needs. You see, if I'm not taken care of, I can't take care of anybody else behind me, right. If you look the guy climbing up here, he has a backpack on him because he's very much aware of the fact that he's in an area where weather can change, environmental threats. He's also aware of the fact that he doesn't have enough water, doesn't have enough protection. He's

vulnerable to the elements. So what you and I need to learn, okay, armor lets me assess. Do I have enough to do what I need to deal with? It's a very important part of it. Just take minutes. Don't go rash. Let your armor buy some time.

Look at the third thing armor does. It chooses the kind of relationships he has. In choosing the kind of relationship to have, I'm going to decide who am I going to involve in that activity, who am I going to involve in the event. This could be a picture of Lynn and I. that could be me and you'll notice you can't see my wife. You know why? Because she climbs mountains as a way of life. She's 42 miles ahead, alright. But we're going to do it together. You've got to decide who's going to be engaged. So in this room alone, there are two guys that as a way of life engage – Clair and Roy, not because Robert and T.C. are not worth engaging, they just live in Miami and California. What's the name of your town?

T.C.: Ontario.

KEITH: Ontario. I'm so confused. And in the middle of that whole part of our lives, what we do is we say, okay, who's going to join me in this fight, who's going to be part of this choice, who's going to give me their input. That's where you start. You start with armor. You buy some time. Roy is going to walk you through the next phase of what happens.

ROY: A man's chain mail offers him various perspectives which are based on his previous experiences. We see life through a screen of our previous experiences. I'd like to share with you briefly an experience I had many years ago in college when I saved a young man's life named Vern. It was a heroic act. Let me share it with you. See, Vern was what we called in my college a suitemate, meaning that I had my roommates here, we had a bathroom in the middle, and then my suitemates were over here. So there were three of us here, a bathroom, and another three of us. And I, for some reason, and I believe it was our God ordained, I came into my bedroom in the afternoon and I saw my buddy Vern in my bedroom, not his own and he was wearing no shoes, no pants, no shirt, just a little set of tightie whities. That's what he was wearing. And Vern had a suitcase in his hand and he turned around and saw me when I walked in. I said, Vern, what are you doing? He said this is great. He said I went out on the roof and I put some food and I got a raccoon to come into our bathroom and then I snuck out on the roof and I shut the door and now what I'm going to do is I'm going to walk into this raccoon who's caught between our two doors going into the bathroom and I'm going to put this raccoon in this suitcase. No shoes, no gloves, no nothing. I said Vern, that raccoon knows he's trapped. When you walk in there with all you got is your underpants on, it is going to be a disaster and my money is on the raccoon. And he looked at me and he said, Roy, can't I make him a pet and I said, Vern, my money is on the raccoon. I

said where did you grow up? He said well I grew up in New York City. I said did you ever see a raccoon before? Well just sometimes around here, but I don't know much about them, Vern said. And I said, Vern, from my perspective growing up in the country, I know about raccoons. I have previous experience even being a trapper and I'm here telling you at some particular part when you go in there, you're going to die. Vern looked at me and said what should I do? I said walk on the roof in your underwear, open up the window, the raccoon is going to take off and everything will be fine and you will live. And because he trusted my previous experience and he was about to make a choice because he didn't have any previous experience to work off of, which is why we need other people in our life when we go into new areas, my chain mail that day saved Vern's life.

Next. The beliefs that he has chosen which will guide his decision making in the future. Along with our chain mail, our previous experiences, we gain beliefs and it is these beliefs that we then apply to life. And we've got to measure those beliefs. Vern's belief was raccoon equals soft and cuddly. Not a true belief. My belief is raccoons know how to take care of themselves and they will take you out Vern.

3. Parental patterns which were modeled while he was growing up. Part of our chain mail we get from our parents. I remember my daughter just being home and I started singing a son. And I went, where did that song come from and it was a song I remember my dad twenty years

earlier singing to my sisters. Those links will help affect all our choices, our beliefs. Sometimes we're like Vern and we need help. Other times they help us.

CLAIR: Point C. The man's self receives input from his environment when, when he listens to suggestions from his tribe regarding how life should be lived. This one is huge for me. Number one, I am naturally relational. I love doing life together with other men. I tend to be more of an open book than some guys do, so whatever I'm going through I can probably tell you there's three close friends that are well aware of it, maybe more than they want to be at times, but they give me great advice along the way. And, the second thing why it's so big for me is I really have this belief that life is so short and so precious and I just want to get it right. I also have a belief that a lot of you out there will share, that God had a plan for my life long before I even showed up and that one of my greatest joys and my greatest responsibilities in life is simply to figure out what His story is, what does He want from me.

Well I'm told that God speaks to us in three ways. How do I figure out what this story is? Three different ways He can communicate to little old me what His story – what He designed me to do, what He designed me to be. The three ways are by spending time in His Word, by hearing directly from Him and then the third one is He speaks to me through other people. So guys be aware as you do life together with others, they're giving us all kinds of suggestions, giving us input, some of it good, some

of it bad, but it's all a big piece of who you're going to be in your manhood journey.

No. 2. He observes the ways that his elders face the ups and downs of forest existence. One of my passions in life, I love to travel. I love experiencing different parts of the United States and also internationally and every opportunity I get, I've actually picked careers at different times in my life just because of places it would take me. And one of the things especially when you travel internationally, you'll notice is there's big differences in cultures and countries. One of the things I noticed pretty early on is that the United States, where I lived and grew up, and I thought this was normal, it really pushes aside senior citizens. You get to a certain age and we write them off. We are young, we are new, we are fresh and other cultures do an amazing job about valuing that part of their culture about valuing that generation. When it comes to business in particular, I thought about all the wisdom these guys have and we push them aside. When I was growing my business, I kept learning – having to learn things and I made a lot of mistakes because I was new and young at it. And I thought about all the wisdom these older guys had so a couple of years ago we had talked about this, the recession came and in my particular business, I'm heavily leveraged. Banks got really nervous. When banks get nervous, they make you nervous and they start putting pressure on. I was in a situation. I actually thought my businesses were at risk and I had invested so much in them and did not want them to

disappear. I did not want to go bankrupt and so I sat down with a couple of guys that I share life with. They were about my age and quite frankly, we're all ready to jump off the tops of buildings. We're all young, we're all inexperienced, all scared and didn't have the skill sets we needed so I did something very purposeful. I went out and I believe it was seven men I found that I wanted to be at least 60 years or older, I wanted them to have some experience in business. I sat down with each of them and an amazing thing happened. The first guy I sat down with, I said here's my situation. _____ looked horrible. He just smiled and said, I've been through it. You're going to be fine. Well my instinct was to want to jump across the table and smack him upside the head because this was very real and very painful to me but he was completely calm. Interesting, the next six guys I met, same story, been through this five times. Here's what you do. You're going to be fine. That generation is amazing guys. Do not, do not discount the elders in your life. Honor them, value them, get with them, they can teach you so much.

No. 3. He listens to the radio, watches TV and connects to the internet. These are all forms of media today and I hope you're being sensitive to the choices you're making. I don't think I got a real wakeup call in this area until my sons came along. Somewhere around 12 to 14 years old I started thinking, what are they watching me watch? And I also recall that I always wanted to push whatever my parents' choices were. I want to go to the next level. So if I'm accepting this amount of junk in my

life, my sons are going to take it to the next level. What am I teaching them, what am I doing? It became a real challenge for me. You are aware the music you choose, the movies you watch, the TV shows you allow in your life, anything, the internet, the websites that you're visiting are becoming part of who you are. That's all that stuff that's being put in it and you are a sum total of a thousand choices you're making in these areas.

First I'd love to highlight to you. Paul wrote about this almost 2,000 years ago. He's writing a letter to some friends in Philippi and it's in Philippians 4:8. He tells you, guys, spend all your time focusing on things that meet these narrow boundaries. Focus on things that are righteous, that are admirable, that are excellent, things that are pure. Guys if you put that through the filter of the radio you're listening to, the TV you're watching, the movies you choose, and the websites you're visiting, will it change what you're allowing into your life? Take that challenge from Paul.

T.C.: Alright, let's talk about the man's body. The man's body sends messages in several ways. No. 1. His genetics determine his physical capabilities. This is pretty much straightforward. I think of the Manning brothers. I don't know if you're familiar with football, you guys, but Peyton Manning and his brother Eli Manning and his father Archie Manning, it starts with his dad, Archie Manning the great quarterback. And I don't think its any coincidence that there's a long line of successful

quarterbacks and they're all winning championships. Most of them got Super Bowl trophies, you know, so starting from the top of our genetic history, a lot of that determines, you know, who you are and what you're going to do. And it's interesting for a guy like me. I didn't get a chance to really know my dad or his dad or his father and on down the line, so if you're like me and you haven't, you don't even know your lineage, you know it's kind of fun, you may not be able to confirm it, but when you look at what makes you you, you can kind of think, man, I wonder if my dad was like that. And if you're okay to go there, like for me, I'm wondering who was the athlete in my family, because I'm athletic. Hey, who was the actor in my family, you know? Maybe that was my grandfather, I don't know. But that's just a fact, you know, the people before us help produce who we are and the abilities that we have.

No. 2. His instincts provide the initial behavior patterns which are used to help him adapt to basic life issues. This kind of feeds back a little bit to to about knowing yourself. Instinctively for me, I knew that when I stopped playing football, I knew that I had better find something really quick that allowed me to deal with people, that allowed me to not have to sit behind the desk and be still because I knew that was not me and I knew I wouldn't be happy, so my instincts told me right away as I knew I was nearing the end of my career, to start thinking ahead about what I was going to do and so I think I heard Robert say a few trails back that he had got his real estate license. Man, I did the exact same thing because

it was something that instinctively I knew I'd be happy doing because it allowed me to still be with people, create my own schedule, because I knew me. I wanted that type of freedom with my life. So my choices a lot was based on instinctively knowing what would make me happy and give me the best chance to succeed. So maybe that – well it should be you. You know your instincts will dictate these things.

Alright, the next one. His brain that thinks organizes the details of life in ways that help him figure it all out. This is just another way of just saying processing, stepping back, thinking things through. For me, I had to make a lot of calculated decisions once I got married, you know. Where are we going to live? What type of environment do I want to raise my children? Am I financially sound? Do I have or do I know how to manage money? Should I get help in doing this? Am I humble enough to go ahead and ask for that? But just actually sitting back and using the brain that thinks, to literally just think things through and not try to wing some of the more difficult situations that I find myself in. You know, marriage is not an easy thing. Starting a career is not an easy thing. Choosing where you're going to live and where you're going to take your family – when I took my wife away from her father, I promised him that I will take care of her and that required me to make some decisions that would affect her well being. So I really had to think that through. You know, am I ready? Can I do this and so you definitely don't want to ignore

that process of thinking things through and planning it out in a strategic way.

Let's go the next one and final one. His brain that feels helps him look at life from an emotional perspective and assesses how he feels about his relationships. This is one guys that I hope you don't neglect. You know guys don't like to talk about feelings and things like that. I even it said in a lot of circles that women are the ones who are the emotional types and I don't know, I guess we're just all brut and brawn or whatever, a power, but we better know how to feel.

I'll tell you a quick story for me and this touches me still to this day because it pretty much revolutionized my life. I chased football for awhile. I talked about that a lot, but it's been a big part of my life, this football thing, because it controlled me in a lot of areas. And it controlled me meaning I chased it for years. And it got to the point in my life where I had chased football for so long and it wasn't really being successful. Now I could play but I just wasn't being selected to the NFL. I was giving up all my resources, using all my money to go to different states and try out for teams and things like that and they wasn't picking me, yet I'm steadily losing money. But I wasn't going to jobs that provided for my family. Instead, I had my wife convinced because she believed in me and she knew I was good. I said, listen, I'm good enough. I know I'll make it. Just hang in there. This is a calculated risk. Watch the return I get on spending up all our money. I'm spending rent money and everything

going to different places, trying out for these teams, thinking I'm going to make it. You know where I'm right now, my brain that thinks wasn't thinking things through very well. I was just going after it. Well after months and months and months of doing this, I ended up with no money and I really couldn't pay the bills. But I'm sure you may have done this or know somebody who has done this. You just hanged on this opportunity. Well this opportunity never came but my money kept going out the door paying bills and one day they shut off my lights and gas. I'm sitting in the top of the attic which was the warmest room in the house at that moment and I'm looking on the floor and on the rug, covered up with a cover was my daughter and my wife. And I remember promising her dad that I would take care of her. Man my brain that feels told me you're failing, bro. And I remember my wife looking at me saying, my father would have taken better care of me. I mean she just said it like what it was, because she got tired of me wasting time on this dream. I woke up the next morning. I didn't even sleep – well I didn't even sleep that night, so I got up the next morning and did some different things with me life so that I can take care of them. My brain that feels told me I was failing and it didn't feel good but it made me into the man that I'm supposed to be because I went away, I got my degree and I turned my life around. So don't ignore the brain that feels. But this is just some of the things that our body helps us to know. We feel things, we think things, instinctively we'll do things, so we

just want to use all these things together as we continue to build the complete man.

ROBERT: Scripture teaches us, do not be conformed to the patterns of this world but be transformed, that is complete transformation by the renewal of our mind and that's the topic I'm going to talk about right now, the mind. The man's mind provides four different styles of action that can be used to respond positively to any forest change. Now what I'm about to talk about, I kind of want you to see these four points like four drawers in a kitchen cabinet but they're in your brain. What I want you to do is realize that everything you deal with in life goes into one of these categories, into one of these cabinets. This is how we file things away. You see if you're like me most of the time thoughts and stuff, it's like a big clutter of just ideas, my mind is disorganized. It's time that we renew our minds and start thinking about things a little bit differently.

Check out point No. 1. The king of his mind defines what is right and wrong and provides leadership through times of crisis. This part of the mind, this is like the intellectual part of the mind. This is the mind that kicks into gear when things start going wrong. This is like, for example, you know there's two seconds left in the basketball game and you're down by two points. You need to get over there and make that shot, so there's a strategy that starts coming into play. There's these moves that you know you need to make to get to that place. That's when the king is in control, you know what's right and wrong. It's for example

like when there's bills and you can't pay those bills next month so you know, alright, I got to make some changes. I got to put a strategy in place and go there so that I can meet that leader, that goal that I need to achieve right, the king's mind.

No. 2. The warrior of his mind protects him and others by giving him the courage to walk on the unfamiliar, ambiguous and challenging paths of the forest. Now, not to take this analogy even further, but in reality I remember one time I went out hiking and I stayed out there with my family a little bit too late. It was starting to get dark. I was pretty far away from the entry point and I was getting concerned because the further we walked and we're trying to make our way back, I started noticing these little tracks. Well they weren't little, there were these big tracks and you could tell they were bear tracks that were like in my path. And I started freaking out, you know. Like most people, I'm scared of large mammals, right. So I'm afraid of my family and stuff. You know what, I knew that we had to hurry up. I knew that I had to follow that path, keep my eyes wide open and go a direction that I wasn't too familiar with and do things I wasn't too familiar with or even comfortable with. But the warrior mind said, you know what? Get the courage, get everyone else involved with you and leave and go there. Stop kicking back and don't ponder too much. Make it happen. That's the warrior mind. It's the part that actually gets you to have the courage to take action, to do something. The warrior's mind.

No. 3. The friend of his mind seeks relationships with others and through these relationships he develops a support network. Guys, you heard it from all of us so many times, the importance of having a network of other guys to really find support in. The friend of his mind is like me coming up to my brother Roy over here and saying, hey brother Roy, you know what, let's create this friendship and let's take that and see where that goes and when I'm in trouble, I can call my brother Roy. Or when Roy needs something and he needs support, he can call on me and we can just develop that friendship. That's the friendship mind, the one that seeks that support but that relationship.

But there's an even deeper level than that and that's point No. 4. That is the lover of his mind helps him to connect at a deeper level with some people than he does with others while also pointing the way to a God who loves each of us. Now when you think of this lover of his mind, another way to really think about it is the intimacy, the part of the mind that seeks a deeper level of intimacy. That's what God wants with us, I mean that's the direction that God wants us to go in our spiritual journey with Him. It's the same place we go to when we go with our wives, right. I mean we go to a deeper level than with anyone else, the relationship that we have with our wives. It's not just that kind of intimacy. There's also a deeper intimacy that you can find with other guys. I think of my brother T.C. back here. I've known T.C. for years now, you know. We did films together and stuff. I love this dude. If I'm ever in trouble, even if I

am struggling in some real private stuff, that dude is the dude I call because I have a deeper level of intimacy with him. It has nothing to do with sexual or the lover aspect thing. Intimacy. It's something amazing. If you can find a way to file those things that you deal with, the things that come to your mind in one of those four categories, you are so far ahead than other people.

KEITH: So we start to take all the things that are given and we say, we're going to have to make a choice, right, because we have some place to go. So we take our armor, we take our chain mail, we take the tribes and the elders and all the input that we need from there and we get involved in allowing our body to give us input. We get involved in allowing the four categories of our mind to give us input and we have to understand we have a shadow.

F. says, a man's shadow continually attempts to do the following few things. No. 1, to create internal conflict and disharmony between the elements within in, alright. I decided I'm going to go up here. The shadow makes you think you're lost. The shadow makes you think you made the wrong choice. The shadow is trying to get you lost, trying to get you destroyed. The shadow is always trying to con you, alright. There are times when I go through things. When I was listening to Robert talk about the different shells of the mind, the different closets there, and as I was thinking about that, there are times when I think friends aren't friends when they are. Wonder what that is? Well that's the shadow lying to me.

There are times when the shadow tells me that friends that are not friends are friends. It doesn't speak the truth so what you need to do is with the shadow you need to always say, what's the truth? God, give me truth here. Obviously you're going to know as Clair mentioned, you're going to know truth from the Word, you're going to it from the Word of God, the Bible, you're going to know from a variety of locations but you're going to need to know what the truth is in each area.

The second part. To limit the development of each element, which negatively affects the man's ability to reach his full potential. One of the problems that the shadow faces is this, its desire is to keep you from ever becoming, ever becoming. I was listening to T.C. tell a story about football and we have talked about that story before and that moment when he had this dream and he had to kind of give it up for the highest good of his family. At that emotional moment when his brain that feels felt what his wife was explaining to him, one of the things he had to wonder was was he ever going to reach his full potential. Satan is an accuser. He looked at T.C. in the middle of that moment and he whispers in his ear, you're a failure. You're not enough. You're sacrificing what's good. You're sacrificing what was possible and all of a sudden it makes you feel like well maybe I'm not valuable anymore. It doesn't come from God. Do you know God never accuses; he convicts. He convicts. If Vern had listened to Roy, which he ultimately did, which is a funny story dude, if Vern had listen to Roy, it's a conviction – dude, don't go in and fight the

raccoon. That's convicting someone. Accusing somebody would have been Roy saying, hey underwear boy, you're a moron. That's accusing. God doesn't accuse. He might call you underwear boy but He doesn't ever accuse. What He does say is this, I'm going to convict you. So your shadow will tend to accuse and make you think that you will settle for something less than what God had for you. Go on the journey. Follow the steps. All on this level start to make your choices.

Look at No. 3. To cut him off from the relationships which provide support. To cut him off from relationships which giving the support you need. I'm going to get you alone. I'm going to get you alone because that's the way the enemy picks you off. We teach men there are four positions of a spiritual warrior – fallen, fleeing, standing and advancing. The standing position is never alone. A man never goes alone unless he's taking a stand. That means that – for us, it means that you're advancing. When you are taking a stand in a position where you're going to hold ground, you will do it mass. You will do it with guys on either side of you. Go it alone and you get picked off. How do I know that? I've been picked off a few times. I'll tell you later on about the fact that I came to a belief about guys in my life because they let me down. So I stopped trusting in guys and I just started trusting Lynn and my sons. I left myself extremely vulnerable. Sometime I'll tell you about that, but it's a dangerous thing when we get to that place where we've cut ourselves off and leave ourselves wide open to get picked off.

No. 4. To manipulate the self's decision-making capabilities and make him follow his shadow's messages. Alright, so you realize that this is where you need to go. You're going to move in this direction. I know what I need to do and the shadow is going to say, wrong way. What I'm going to get you to do is stop listening to your soul, stop listening to your spirit, stop even listening to your mind and just start doing what I tell you t do. Somehow or another I'm going to fulfill you.

Now what does all this mean? It means that if we just play on this level, if we just live here and we don't ever go to the other three parts of the core where the self has to make great choices, what we end up in trouble with is this. Your self, which tries to speak into the moment, which tries to say what choices you're going to make, if it's only listening to your mind and your body, the shadow and the supporting elements of chain mail and armor and the other things that God has provided around that, if that's all you listen to, you will end up being satisfied, not advancing to where you're supposed to be, but you'll always kind of live on this level. Guys, you're going to have to get to the next stage.

Next week when we get together, we're going to talk about that stage, the stage that comes from the soul, ultimately from the spirit. When you get all that together, it makes all the difference. So, when you go into the campfire, share what choices you've been making that are normal and hard and fun, but also start to share what is it that you've been listening to and what lies and what truths have you been gaining as

you've heard from each of the guys the steps that are all coming together to make good choices. Enjoy your campfire. We will see you next week, Trail 16. Thank you.