

Knights of the 21st Century

Trail 12 –

Now gentlemen, you're halfway through the journey. This is Trail 12 and if you get to this particular point as I mentioned last week, this is where we've hinged and we're now starting to move forward into what inspires us to change the lives and the world around us. I mean it gets pretty exciting from this point on as we start to move, I think with pretty strong momentum. Now they'll come a time when we're going to have to deal with some things that are painful in the next few weeks but right now, this is the stuff that gets us so focused. In fact, it's going to cause you to know a better sense of how you live. Maybe the easiest way to understand it is to sort of know my approach to life. I want to move. Sitting is the worst thing I could do, so when I have to go someplace, what I'll do is I'll jump in the car. I'll start driving and then I'll open the map or then I'll turn on the GPS. As long as I'm headed in the right direction, a few refinements here and there are fine. I'd rather go actually five miles in the wrong direction than sit and try to plan out where I'm going. It tells you a little bit about the weirdness behind me. That's the way I kind of approach life and that's actually the way I approach maps for the most part until I stop and I start thinking about me as a knight. When I think about me as a knight, you see

there's something bigger going on than just arbitrarily ante up in a direction. As a matter of fact, when it comes to being a knight, there's a map that has this particular point that you and I have to hit. There's this certain spot that if you hit it, it's going to make you as effective as you possibly can be. So suddenly when we think about this trail, we talk about the famous last words of men when I say, I don't need no map. Alright? A man don't need no map. We don't need no stinking map. We can handle this on our own. When you get to this part of the trial, I have to tell you, that when a man doesn't think he needs a map, he does. You and I as knights need maps. What we do when we need the map is we need to get an idea of the fact that there's a particular place on that map where the treasure of our life hits. It makes all the difference in the world. So join me as we look at why we need a map. A life map to hit the point that we're supposed to hit for us.

Follow me over here as we consider this particular paragraph. This paragraph is one that means an awful lot when I think in terms of the fact that I don't need a map. This is obviously a Roy paragraph, you know, feel the fact that we actually have to have a period in this one. We can't even just do it with commas. Here's the way it works. A knight needs to develop a life map that guides him, fulfills his calling or inner voice, and helps him keep away from the distractions of the forest. Knights are responsible for the creation of

their own internal map, one form of which is seen in the yearly development of the knight's plan. See, there's a plan that you and I are going to create to graduate this year. Now for you guys that have done Squire, you already know what it's like. You already have your dog tags from graduating, but if you haven't done Squire with us and this is your first year, your welcome obviously you discovered that you can join us in the midst of the journey and guys around you will help you understand anything you've missed. If you're going to graduate though, you're going to need to turn in a knighthood plan. Now what does that enable you to do? It's enable you actually to set up targets. It's actually enabling you to see where you're going and allows you to get a sense of where you've come, how far you've come.

I had that experience not too long ago. We have this huge family room. I love my family room. It's one of my favorite rooms in the house. It has cathedral ceiling, fireplace, my office overlooks it from sort of a balcony kind of thing, and it's where we do life. In fact, we have a living room which we never live in. We have a family room which we do life in. Every year, my favorite season of the year is Christmas, the day after Thanksgiving, we put all the kids in the care, we drive to the tree farm, chop down a tree. We got to get at least a ten footer because our ceiling is tall. We get this huge tree that sits in the middle of my family room. It is just

gorgeous. It takes me a couple days to put all the two thousand lights delicately placed and all the ornaments get placed on it, popcorn, cranberry. When the kids were little, we never let them decorate the front of the tree. They always hung the ornaments on the back, because you know how kids are. It was our tree. We loved it. It was really cool. Well this year that tree goes up. It's gorgeous. I come down about 4:00 in the morning to actually go teach Knights of the 21st Century to about three hundred fifty guys. As I walk into the kitchen, I looked into the family room and noticed the tree is not there which is not good, because it should be there. It's a big tree and I realized it actually hasn't left the premises. It's just changed its location from vertical to horizontal. As it's laying on the floor, I laughed to myself when I thought now how in the world did this happen. I know it wasn't the dog. I know it wasn't anything. I couldn't even figure out how it took place, but I go and I pick up the tree and I stick it back in the bucket and we have this big bucket with bricks and a spike. I mean it's a whole big deal, right? In fact it was so amazing, the tree actually picked up through the water, through the spikes and the whole board and everything came right up. The bucket was remaining intact, never spilled anything. I got this tree set up and I left to go and I left a note for Lynn, hey you'll notice there's ornaments all over the floor. The tree fell. And as I was driving, it occurred to me that sixteen years earlier, the same

event had occurred. It occurred at a different knighthood place in my life where I was far more of a spandex male than a knight and it had occurred at a time at that point when my temper would get lost. You see Josh and Joel were pretty young at the time. They were playing laser tag and they knocked over the tree. It fell on Joel and I remember Joel heard how mad I was. He could hear all the sounds I was making, all the grunting noise men make when they're made. I was using all their middle names, you know, I was mad. You could see the veins in my neck kind of mad and Joel doesn't want to die alone so he points to his brother. All I could see through the tree is his hand, hey dad. And I was so mad, I went outside. It was raining. God said you're going to be a jerk, I'll hose you down, you know, that kind of thing, and I remember that anger and I remember that had to calm in me before I could actually come in and deal with the kids. And while I was gone, they all had taken a vote. They'd all decided that dad was a jerk and I was. I came back in and as I was driving in this morning after the tree had fallen for the second time, sixteen years later, I realized I hadn't gotten mad. I realized that I actually wasn't the same man sixteen years earlier when the tree fell over. And I had no cause that I could find this time. I could point to a cause the last time but to be honest with you, pointing to the cause should have made it less of an issue because those were precious lives. Those were valuable. This is just kind of a weird

thing that just happened in the middle of the night. I wasn't mad. I don't think I would have known it if I hadn't stopped and remembered sixteen years earlier when the same thing happened and I wasn't, that I got angry then, not now. What, what a change. It's actually the direction of my life now that allows me to see where I'm going and what needs to happen to become the knight I'm designed to be. I only have a limited time here on earth before I enter eternity. I want to maximize that. I want to hit the point on the map that is absolutely what I'm designed to it. If you don't know what that map is, if you don't know what the point is, you're never going to know whether you're hitting it. I know that I haven't hit it. I'm still alive, right? But I also know that I'm closer to it because my responses are more knightly as in the trade.

There's a guy who was great at doing this. His name was Nehemiah. It's in your Knightly News there. Nehemiah is an interesting guy. He's a leader but he's a slave at this point. He's actually a servant for another king. He was like a secret service agent for another king. Nehemiah was one of those kind of guys that would get caught up in trying to take and care for the king on such a level that he was one of his king's favorite guys. Now he worked for the king. He tests the wine to make sure the king stays alive. Nobody can poison it. It's a secret service agent. He's a trusted guy. Nehemiah discovers that the nation of Israel which he came

from, he was a slave from Israel in captivity. He realized that the city of Jerusalem, its walls, the capital city of the nation of Israel, its walls were in disrepair, the structure. For over a hundred years they'd been that way and any city in that time without a wall, it's like defense without a wall, you cannot protect what's important. So Nehemiah took it on himself to go and deal with the wall. He asked the king for permission. The king found favor with him, gave him permission, not only gave him permission but gave him certain resources which actually accomplished the task, wanting him to be gone in the shorter time period as possible. Nehemiah will actually rebuild the wall with the help of people in about six weeks, a little actually less than six weeks. An amazing task because the wall is four and a half miles long. It's in its widest part fifteen feet, ten feet on the average. It has ten gates, multiple towers. This wall will be rebuilt over a period of time over those months by fifty-three different groups of people that he will all organize and get them moving. Nehemiah will do what couldn't have been done for hundreds of years. He'll do it in less than a year.

Now here's how he did it. One night in the middle of the night, he went out and he circled the entire city and looked at all the needs, put all the notes together and decided the best way to do it is to get people to repair the wall in front of the areas that are important to them. Many of them, at least eight different of those

fifty-three groups built right in front of their own homes. You'll build the strongest when you're building in front of your home and he set out a map and what couldn't be done in a hundred years was done in six months. What a man Nehemiah is. He shows us what it's like to say, hey famous last words. I don't need a map. It does not apply for a knight.

Let's look at some of the principles that need to go with this to help us understand. Roman numeral number one. The considerations in regards to a life map. Here's some considerations you need to take in regarding a life map. Number one. A man actively decides the direction of his next forest step prior to moving from his present position. You're going to actively decide which way you want to go. I want you to envision this. I want you to envision wherever you are. I'm assuming that you're going to be inside and maybe some of you are outside right now looking at this, but for the most part, the vast majority of us, we're looking at this inside. Now if you're looking at it inside, you have four walls around you for the most part or certainly four sort of directions, north, east, south, west. You know, that kind of thing. I want you to actually consider this. The first step of a life map is to decide which direction you want to head in. The first concept is to decide which way do I want to move, so you pick a wall. North, east, south west. You sort of pick it. But then know, as soon as you do that, that every step from

that moment on, once you select a direction, once you select a feel for where you need to go, every step needs to be taken with this same kind of consideration. Let's assume that there's land mines all over the place and every step you take has a potential pitfall. Every step you take can cause problems so be extremely careful in your step. Now, the first thing I want you to do is I want you as a man to stop for a few minutes and think what direction do you want to take your life in? You have to think about what's important to you. What are areas that you want to move towards. I don't own businesses anymore because I'm not great at running things. I'm good at communicating, so I have to walk away from being the boss, being the owner and move into the realm of using my skill in what I can do. I need to think in terms of what's important, what's important to my family, what's important to the community at large, what kind of legacy do I want to leave. So I've actually picked the wall, the direction of my life so I know which way to step and which way I want to go. Now I can think how I want to step. The step has to be taken into consideration. So when we say to you, the direction for that step is extremely important because you only have so many of them, don't waste them.

Look at number two. A man recognizes that expressing his good character is an important ingredient in each step he must take, make in the forest. Know that the step I take is going to be revealed

by my character and revealing my character, got it. In other words, the step I take, if it's about me, if it's about indulgence, if it's about all the things that I want to satisfy me, then I'm a spandex guy and that step I take will reveal that. It will also be taken because that's my character. But if your principles are in place. That's why we talk about life mapping. We talk about that after you have your principles thought through. If your principles are in place, if you're starting to make good choices with your core, if you start to find yourself using your armor and your chain mail well and now you're making good choices, it means that the step that you're about to take will be a well thought through step.

I cannot tell you the importance of this whole area of your life. When you start thinking every step is not just an existence step, some of you are doing jobs right now that you hate. I mean you absolutely hate. So every day is an existence step to get a paycheck, to buy one more toy, survive one more downturn, whatever it is, guys that's not living. It's just wandering about the map. It's just sort of existing. It's like you're in a desert just trying to live. Guys, God says I have an X on the map for you. I have a treasure. The treasure is not something you will find. The treasure is something you will be. You'll be it for a world in desperate need of a knight.

So, as we work through this, look at number three. The forest offers no guarantees and thus each step that is mapped out must be taken in faith. You're going to have to understand that just because you move towards the wall that you're supposed to move towards, just because you start to move in the right direction, does not mean the ground beneath you will hold you. The world has all kinds of problems so you start to do something and then all of a sudden you get hit with a tsunami and it just knocks you blindsided and you feel like you got to pick it back up. Your step is taken by faith believing that certain things are going to happen. You can't control everything. As a matter of fact, to be honest with you, you can't control most things. So what you're going to do in taking this step and I love this part of the Christian journey and I call this the Christian journey even more than the knighthood journey is that it isn't found in the X is from God. If you missed the fact that the X is from God, you and I will keep selecting X's that we hope for it. I actually believe there is one that is it and you're going to have a chance to find it. That step, that journey is one of the coolest journeys out there.

So you and I take a step of faith, believing that God will guide us to the X. Now I actually believe that you don't have to not know where the X is. I think you can know. I mean part of the journey is this. So I hope by now you sort of picked what area is part of your

heart, what wall you want to hit at. I want you to give enough issues into this that you go, well family is important, job's important, this is important, that's important, these are things that are important to me, and all of a sudden you're sort of picking a direction. Some of you, for example, might say this. I don't have children. I don't want children. That will dictated what wall you move to. Some of you will say, I don't ever want to get married. I am better off. I can accomplish more without a family around me. That picks what wall you go to. I guaranty you that when Lynn and I got married, it changed the wall I went to. When we had each child, it changed what wall we went to. When we had a grandchild, it changes the wall we go to. Every decision. Now, so when you kind of do that – now for me, to be honest with you, I picked a certain area, a certain direction to head. I've had that direction for a pretty long time. As I've mapped out my life, I'm moving closer and closer to the X that God designed for me. So what do you do. It's a faith step.

Look at the next point to help you understand it. The future steps of a knight often remains a mystery until the present step is fully complete. When Roy first introduced this concept to me, what I call the mystery step, I loved it. The joy of thinking this thing through is saying, okay, is there a step that I'm supposed to take? Yeah. Good. Now where will it lead me? Well it doesn't necessarily know what the next step is going to be, just take this one. See you

can only take one step at a time. The next step, the next, understanding that step might be revealed like you think in the one step. Give you a great example. You get this opportunity to change jobs. That's a big deal. You decide, you can't decide what's going to happen because you feel pretty secure in your job and you feel like everything's good, but this one it seems to be moving you closer to the wall that you want to move to. You don't know what's going to happen after you take that step. You just simply take it. If after all the wise decision making, using your core, you believe that's the way God wants you to move. See what happens with this? The mystery is going to be revealed after you take it. Now if you decide not to take it, if you don't take the step, that's not a problem because it may or may not be leading you in the right direction. The simple fact is that you won't know what would have happened if you had. So in order to have the next understanding of my life revealed, you are sooner or later going to have to take a step in a certain direction. The reason I say take a step is because I'm pretty sure where you are is not on the X. You haven't found X marks the spot yet. You haven't found your life purpose and map fulfilled at the complete level. In fact, you never will, right? It's part of our journey. It's what makes living so much fun. I love the fact that while I don't like to have maps when I drive somewhere, I do love to

have a map to tell me where my life is going and discover all that I'm supposed to be.

Look at the next one, number five. It says this. Each step and decision provides the knight with the feedback and information that he needs to take the next step. Everything is about getting feedback so when you're here, you've taken this faith step. You believe you're moving towards the wall you're supposed to move to. You believe you're going to the area you're supposed to go into. As you go here, here's what you discover. Now that I'm here, there's a new thing that's going to kind of be revealed and what's happening is how do I know where to go next. I've gotten all kinds of feedback because I'm now in a different location. I can see things a little bit clearer or not as clear. Maybe I have to go backwards. Maybe I have to go sideways but I still know where I'm trying to go. Sometimes when you take a step in the middle of a map like this which would to me indicate feeling like a desert, you might find that there is a rattle snake in front of you and you just can't go that way. You have to go this way. You might take a step and find out that there's real danger to your family. I talked to a lot of guys who have made decisions that have put their families at risk and they've had to back away from that decision and move to the right or to the left, the weight of a family. Other guys have put their own personal existence at risk because they've gotten too close to areas in their life that will take

them back into some pretty dangerous spandex world where their shadow is dominant.

Look at number six. Choices that open up one life options often close another, so that when you take a step, this is what is so important about life mapping. When you take a step understand that as you move it will shut certain doors. Let me explain that for you . I took a faith step along time ago to do a particular ministry involving the arts and traveling. It was designed at that point to be students, the focus of that ministry was. And when I took that step it closed some doors. It allowed some things from my past that were good things, pretty effective things to go away. But what it does is when that door closes, it's something cool about that. It's like I can't go back. The door is closed. Know that some steps you take will close doors. Now what does that mean? Well you know what? You might need to take a step and let me give you a simple one where your extended family, let's say your immediate, your parents but in your extended family and then some of your relatives on your dad's side, let say, they get you in trouble. You get around them, they tend to lead you down paths. They take you into old lifestyles. They just do some damage to you. You might need to cut that relationship off. Now you say I'm not going to show up at Thanksgiving. I can't play that game and when you make that choice and they close the door, you can't go back on Thanksgiving until they reopen the door and

you might not want to, but the simple fact is you can't. See there are decisions, they're life map decisions actually. They're not just arbitrary on the moment. They actually fit to where you're ultimately going. That's why it's so cool to know or so important to know where the X is on your map.

Look at number seven. Based on ongoing strengthening of his core, the knight develops a map that integrates the brain that thinks with the brain that feels. You know how we've been doing that. You know that basically you have to have – know that we have two sides of who we are. Now I mentioned this to you before, but I have an AA who handles my schedule. You know why she handles my schedule the way she does? She handles it because my brain that feels sometimes dominates my brain that thinks so I need to take both into account as I'm taking these steps. One of the things that we do in this whole process is knowing that we blend the two and sometimes I discovered where I am weak in one area, I connect to somebody who is strong in another. Lynn and I balance that out real well in each other. My life map has with it very clearly Lynn. My wife is part of the journey for me. It's part of where I go. It actually impacts my journey as well. For example, I don't care where we live. I could live anywhere in the world. Lynn loves Colorado. We will probably end up somewhere along the way having at least a place in Colorado if not living there. That's her, now that will impact my map,

but actually not the parts of the map that are important because I don't care where I live as long as I can get pretty quick to one of my grandkids, as long as I can be with my children, and as long as I can do the things that I'm designed to do, man I can just about do it anywhere. I think that's part of who we are, part of the journey. That which feels, that which thinks.

Look at number eight. A knight must develop clearly thought out short-term goals that help him to achieve the ultimate goal of his calling. I want you to start thinking about what are your goals. What are your short-term clear goals? Now you picked the wall.

Remember we're still just at the wall phase. We don't have the X yet. We know on the map, basically what I'm telling you is on the map you're heading towards the X. That's what you're doing. So as you go this way, know that it's short term goal that will tell you whether you're on the right track or not. Will they satisfy you? You know that thing that I was telling you about earlier that I left one ministry for and started another thing with students it was important to me. It taught me so many things but those goals were never completely accomplished so the way I wanted them to be accomplished and it set my direction a little bit differently and my goals are actually getting much more on target for what I was supposed to be doing so there's a direction change. Goals are what

are going to tell you whether or not you're getting the right feedback to know whether you're in the right direction.

Couple more points you want to consider. Number nine. Basic guidance is provided to keep the knight from wandering about when the forest is difficult. I love this idea that we are going to tend to wander as men. A lot of us do. We just kind of do life. We just kind of exist. We wander about. I really believe that some guidance will give you some just some clarity. Guidance from people, guidance from your map, just some narrow. So in other words if I pick the wall and I want to wander about, well I'm not going to go over that way. I picked the wall. It's over this way. I stay on target. I don't wander about and I think that's what helps by doing life mapping, saying this is what I believe I'm designed to do. It's where I come most alive.

Look at the next one, number 10. It never diminishes the knight's character, contradicts his principles nor causes him to harm others. It's really interesting is that when you and I get involved in this, a lot of times along the way, in fact I will tell you most of the times along the way, where you're going is a rescue mission. Where you're going might involve confrontation. It doesn't involve hurting people. It involves helping people and sometimes confrontation feels like they're being wounded because it's part of the journey. But you're going to find that this is going to be involved in others. And

everything about our life map will ultimately have something to do with others.

That's what number eleven is talking about. It is known by God and therefore knowable to those who fall Him. The simple fact is you and I can figure out where we're supposed to go because the God of the universe has helped us understand where we're supposed to go. The God of the universe understands something that we don't know. Do you know on every gravestone, I think there's a book called this, on every gravestone, there is your birth date on there, date of birth, and then there's your, if your dead, when you die. As a matter of fact if I go and find my parents' gravestones, both of their birth dates and their final day on earth are on that and in between there's a dash. It's interesting. If you read my parents' gravestone, you don't know anything about them other than their date of birth and their date of death. The dash is what God knows. Oh, God also knows the date of birth and date of death. He knows what's in between. He knows what's in between for you and I and when we connect with Him, He's going to guide us to make this map as noble and as clear as possible. I think sometimes we have to stop and realize what makes us up, who are we and who do we become that will ultimately affect where we go. I was thinking what would illustrate this the best and I thought about the movie "Star Trek". Now "Star Trek" I don't ever take you guys very often to

fantasy movies, but “Star Trek” is sort of the remake of the original “Star Trek” series that was the original one on TV before “Star Trek Generation 1, 2 3 and 27”. In it has James Kirk and Spock and all that kind of stuff. This takes them back to when they’re young and where I’m going to pick this up in your thinking for you is a scene where James Kirk is a young guy who has been now found to be at the training facility for all that are involved with Star Fleet and he’s about to face a particular test.

Let’s consider this scene together. The test is the Mohashu Mowaba test or some kind of test in which there’s no way to win. It’s been designed that no matter what you go through, you cannot possibly win it. James T. Kirk seems to take this one kind of lightly and doesn’t seem to be too bothered by it as he’s sitting in his chair saying we’re not going to put the shields up, we’re not going to fire torpedoes. We’re not doing all these stuff and all the other crew members are looking at him like what are you, crazy? And then suddenly at the last minute, James Kirk says prepare to fire their shields are down. And they say, well shields can’t be down. He goes, look again and here suddenly all the shields of the enemy vessels were down, they fire their _____ torpedoes and blow up the enemy and he beats the Mohashu Mowaba test. And when he does, when that happens, at that particular moment, everybody goes, how did he possibly beat your perfect test, Spock? Spock was

the designer of the test and he goes, he cheated. So there is a trial. There is sort of the Court of Appeals where all the leaders are there and here comes James T. Kirk and he challenges Spock in that encounter and he goes, isn't your test by the very nature a cheat, that there's no possible way to win it so the only way to do it is to cheat? And Spock said, but you can't cheat death. And Kirk seems to indicate, yes you can. As that scene comes to a close, I think the thing that I notice so clearly about that moment between those two guys back and forth, one guy who has a clear life map, everything is logical and clear and moves forward. Another guy who has a life map and says sometimes when you play by the rules, only by the rules, you cannot do what you were designed to do and there must be a balance between the two of them and later on in the movie you see that. See I think that so often, you and I need to understand are that we have life maps, but we have life maps with other people having life maps and we have to figure out a way how to bring knights together to make all this work.

Look at Roman numeral two. It's going to help you give some components to your knights' map. Here's what I want you to do. Number one. I want you to sign an assessment of value to the relationships within your forest. I want you to assign the value of relationships, that's in order to make this map. So now this is going to help you pick your wall, but I'm actually going to go much further

than that. See in my case, I picked the family. I would marry Lynn. I didn't do life well, I didn't think I would do life well alone, so thirty-five plus years ago I married Lynn. I, we also chose to have sons or children because we felt like we had something we wanted to offer them and so we've had four children and so in that process, knowing they would grow up and they would have families, we sort of picked a wall going in this direction, right? But now think about it though. I actually picked Lynn. It's like I put a dart board up on that wall. See I believe guys, that the X on the map is a dart board that includes every important thing that you are heading toward. You say well getting married was a long time ago. No, no, you have to understand. Getting married was the start. The completion is yet to be seen. The dart board of my life includes Lynn. I make love to one woman. I take care of one woman while I protect the hearts of all women. That's the issue. That's the focus of my existence. But it's not my only focus. There's boys involved. There's families involved. There's grandkids involved. There's a lot of other things involved in this focus. So this is the thing we have to think about. What do you value? Guys start thinking about your value. It will help you not only pick your wall, it will help you get a dart board up on the wall.

Look at number two. Number two under Roman numeral two is a need to choose how close to be to his extended family from a friendship perspective. How close am I going to be to my family?

You're going to have to decide. Do I have to draw into it or in essence do I follow what they already mapped out? Is the map part of my family's legacy or do I have to decide that I got to build a map a new way, away from my family's legacy. Do I have to find myself in essence breaking connection with them? You cannot pick a life map without considering the fact that your family is involved. You can't. You just can't ignore it. You have both history, you have present and you have future, all in that area.

Look at number three or the third part underneath this. A need to prioritize his personal goals in a way that assures he takes care of his children. I have a target. The target involves my travel. It involves me doing what we're doing right now. It involves a lot of things but it also involves my target, the care of my children. So they get high priority. I have a cell phone. We all do, but my cell phone is mostly on. Now to be honest with you right now when we're recording, it's not on but most of the time it's on. Why? Because Lynn and the boys have access to me 24/7/ Nobody else does to be really honest with you. Roy is one of my accountability partners. He's one of my best friends on earth. If Roy were to call me, he may or may not get a pick-up from me. Now more often than not, he will. But a lot of times he doesn't. Not because he's not a priority, not because he's unimportant, but he's not the care of my children or the care of Lynn. At that level, hey get high priority. You

have to decide guys, if you're going to have children and I know some of you have children and you abandoned them. I know some of you had children and you've chosen a different lifestyle. Some of you won't even acknowledge their existence just because you were sort of the sperm donor and you kind of backed out of it. Guys, you need to re-engage with them. Your involvement is very, very important. Now be careful how you re-engage. I re-engaged from a responsibility point of view and as much as they'll let you and as much as your extended family will let you, but you're going to have to engage. That's when you become part of this.

Look at the next one. A need, a need to love and support his children's mother. In this case it's Lynn. For you it's whoever your children's mother is. Now for many of us, it's one in the same. My children's mother is my wife. For some of you, for reasons, for a variety of answers, your wife is no longer your wife, never was your wife. Your children's mother is not necessarily yours. Let me speak to you guys that are married to your children's mother. Your job is to care for her. Let them see you love. Part of your journey, your life legacy will be them watching you love and care for and protect her. But for some of you because you've broken relationship for whatever reason with her, you need to make sure that in your children's mind, you honor her because she's a pillar in their thought process and if you tear down that pillar, you do damage. So what we have to do is

we have to make sure that we are caring for our children's mother whether she's still your wife or not. Now I know there's all kinds of complications with extended relationships and multiple marriages and I understand all that. Gentlemen, we as knights have to show a generation how to take care of what's important on our journey. If our journey is about us and our journey is about our accomplishment and we leave in our dust that which is valuable the relationships that count, guys, think of what we've done. What we've done is damage and we just left dusty bones in the map of life instead of valuable lives moving forward. Do you understand that my goal of my children is to grow way beyond me. The only way I can help them do that is to build strong launching pads that are higher up then where my launching pads were when I started. To keep them growing forward so they can keep having a better shot at becoming who they were designed to be in obtaining their life maps.

Look at the next point. A need to recognize that intimacy at its highest level demands the exclusivity of one man committed to a loving while loving one woman completely. Now we talked about this one so much, exclusivity, but I'm just going to say it one more time. Guys, your lack of loyalty to your wife and it might not be physical, it might be verbal, it might be emotional, it might be economic, your lack of loyalty to your wife does not go unnoticed. The opposite is true. Gentlemen, your loyalty to your wife does not go unnoticed.

The world craves it. It longs for it. Every time I treat Lynn with love and respect, other women notice and those that don't have it long for it and those who do have it go home and thank their husbands. Gentlemen, I believe that part of our life map, if you've chosen that area, now again, understand I know a bunch of us haven't chosen this area, if you've chosen this area, that part of your dart board where you're hitting in those relationships.

Look at the next one. A need to consciously be other oriented in the development of various friendships. Every friendship you have you need to be consciously otherly. See I actually believe that the point on the map that you and I are going to find as we move through our life map, it's going to involve other people and what their highest good is. What is good for them. So as we move in that direction, I want us to sometimes just stop and think, okay, how are we doing? Are we by the very root and nature of us, otherly in our emphasis? I don't want to get to the end of my life and find it all about me, right? It's all about, what does a knight do? He builds defenses so people can come and be safe or behind, behind him.

Next one. A need to set boundaries and to follow God's guidance and timing in relationship to the knight's pursuits. You and I need to think together what are the boundaries, what are the things that are going to help us to understand where we go with our lives. I think almost every leader I know that I respect from history are men

that have set boundaries well. Thomas Jefferson is an amazing leader, third President of the United States. He will die fifty years after the Declaration of Independence is signed, on that very day. He obviously is a signer because he's the writer, one of the authors of the Declaration of Independence. What you and I live by today that allows us – if you're an American, if you're part of our nation, it allows you that special freedom that's been ours. Thomas Jefferson was born into wealth and when his dad died, he received twelve, twenty-five hundred acres, tremendously wealthy man. But he did not exploit that wealth. He actually used that wealth and used it well as he got involved in both caring for the whole industry around him, then also being involved in trying to make a difference in our country. It's little known Thomas Jefferson had slaves but Thomas Jefferson also when he wrote the Declaration of Independence originally, had included within it sort of an emancipation proclamation like Lincoln had, Sort of included a freeing of the slaves who was rejected. It doesn't mean that Thomas Jefferson no longer owns slaves, but it did mean that he would treat his slaves hopefully differently and was his intent. Jefferson is trying to do certain things but the most important thing is Jefferson and his thought process would have – impact people all over the world. He didn't impact Handy. He didn't impact the French Revolution. I mean, what he would do wouldn't just create a whole bunch so when

he started to do this, here's what Thomas Jefferson thought through when he thought through his life map. Here's a quote from Thomas Jefferson. It says this. I did not consider it as any part of my charge to invent new ideas altogether and to offer no sentiment which had ever been expressed before. Thomas Jefferson when he was dealing with all this said I have to make sure that what I present, I present in such a way that is clear with ideals and understandings people can do so they can follow it. See when you and I build life maps, the whole goal is that others come behind and be able to take advantage of it and utilize it. And so when he created this, he created it with the impact of saying I want to make a difference in people's lives.

Therefore, there's a couple things we understand from that. Number two. Employment as it relates to his personal objectives. It provides a way to responsibly take care of his physical needs as well as his family. As you're setting your goal, know that what you do needs to pay bills. Know that as you set this moment towards employment, it has to pay bills, but guys, I don't want you just doing a job. It has to be moving you to the X of your life. Now maybe the greater emphasis for you is what you do on the weekends or the evenings or the time you spend with your family. Maybe that's your greater emphasis. I'm cool with whatever it is just make sure that as you set this direction, you understand that part of employment,

part of the work ethic allows you the freedom to care for those that need to be cared for within our sphere of influence and really even beyond that.

Go to the next part under employment. He expects a high work ethic from him along with serving mentality that can assist the knight in future employment opportunities. The better you handle this, the greater the impact you're going to have. You and I understand that more and more. If we just are workers and work with integrity, man your opportunities will exponentially grow till it gets to the point where you think it's important. I will always encourage you. If you're in a job that you're not comfortable with and you believe you would be better suited in your life map to another job, you begin to explore. Don't abandon if you have that responsibility to your family, to those behind you, to those around you. You begin to explore the possibilities.

Look at the next consideration. It provides a unique meeting to the knight's life. We are as I mentioned to you earlier, not human doings, we're human beings. But what we do adds a unique part to our life. Here's what it provides for. It provides for him opportunities for, I'll just fly through these, skill development. You want to work on what your good at, get involved in a job that helps you do that. Relationship contracts. What it allows you to do is build

certain things that build stronger relationships because you have some both economic and social and moral freedoms that go with it.

Next one. Core strengthening. It provides him an opportunity for core strengthening. This will help you become more of a man if you have to work in a community, in a tribe that will help you function well within the job that you have.

The last one. It provides an opportunity for personal stretching. Being part of a team will always stretch you, alright? Keeping those things in mind, let me give you one more area you want to consider in in this process. Community. Number three. Community and the environment in which he chooses to reside. There's a community that's the environment that you and I go live within. This isn't talking about family. This isn't the tribe. This is the community that goes beyond that. What am I going to do with that?

Look at this. There will be a diversity of social involvement opportunities that are part of the different locations in which he can choose to live. This is all about guys who you hang with his huge, both economically, socially, morally, ethically. These are your choices. I have several communities. I have the community in which I live in. I have the community in which my kids go to school and we get involved in. I have also a community at my church. I have a community within my employment. Those are things that where you

and I get involved, these are going to grow us and help us to get up to the next level. There will also be an impact he makes on the community in which he serves and lives. The very nature of what we do will cause us to impact the community that's around us. So if you're not just, if you're just existing, you're not going to impact. Everything about your life map is designed to impact.

Look at the next one. There will be a connection between the experiences of his past environment and the environment in which he presently lives. You're going to bring something into your community. So there's going to be an experience from the past and your experience into where you come. There's the dust on your feet from where you've walked before so where you come, you'll bring that with you. Bring my own learning environments and new possibilities. So wherever you step it's going to be making a difference. So on the journey you're making an impact. On the journey things are happening.

Let me give you some conclusion. Roman numeral three. Conclusions about one's life now. A knight must recognize his map's importance in his life in order to take responsibility for outlining the path and following it as his life plan. See I gave you some areas to think about there. Now what I want you to think about is this. My life plan, my life map, when freely associated with, freely developed, will cause me to hit the target, the dart board, the only thing I'm

supposed to it that will maximize the impact. What I recommend you do is literally look at where I am and what do I have to get rid of to narrow this focus. What do I have to stop doing that it just isn't going to get me there and keep working and working and working till you hit the target. I actually believe that before you leave this year, before you graduate you'll have a chance to know what your target is, what your X on the map is. I think that near the end of or pretty close to the end of the movie "Star Trek", there's this awesome experience that goes on there, where things have changed. Because of time travel, Kirk has run into Spock years later now. Spock is old. Spock is wise. Kirk and Spock had their whole life together even though Kirk is still young, Kirk is still young, Spock is _____. Spock tells him that he needs to go back, get on the ship and challenge him, Spock, when he was younger, challenge him by actually getting him removed from command because he's morally compromised because of the explosion of his own plan. When Spock tells him to do this, he goes now let me get this straight. You want me to go back sort of knowing what I know. I can't tell him that I know you, right? I'm going to come back and I'm going to cheat and take over because you're telling me to take over and that will be the best for this environment because of what you know. Spock says well I won't necessarily call it cheating, but you know what he says at that moment is yeah. You need to go back and Kirk does that and

he goes back and he causes Spock to admit that he has to step down as commander and let Kirk become the commander. When he does, history will change. Guys I actually believe that when you get about when you're supposed to get, I don't mean by cheating. I mean by clarity of who you are. Hitting the focus and nailing it. When we get there, you and I will make all the difference. So what do we do with our life map? I think what we end up doing is we do this. We stop and we say I need to pick a wall. I need to start heading for that wall and as I picked out that wall and start moving that way, I need to pick a dart board. And to pick that dart board, I got to start throwing my darts. You're going to find that you're going to get closer and closer to why you were born, what you were meant to do.

So follow us now, twelve more weeks. We're going to get there and discover I believe, not only how to make you the best knight you can be but how to have you hit the X. See you next week.