

## ***Knights of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century***

### **Trail 5 –**

It was at Princeton University's baccalaureate service and I think it was 2010, Jeff Bezos was there speaking. He's the founder of Amazon. As he was talking to the students there, he told a story from his life, a story that really hits home I think through the nature of somewhat where we need to go today. He was talking about when he was growing up, his grandparents had a ranch in Texas and he would go spend the summer there with them and it was probably about his tenth year of his life, he was hanging out with them and every once in awhile they would go in one of those old Airstream camper things that would go across the country with, people put these trailers on the back of their cars and do caravans around the nation. She his grandparents that summer were going on one and he jumped in the car with them and they took off with the Airstream and started to travel across with probably about three hundred other Airstream trailers. And as they were moving, Jeff would find himself always working that, he loved that. He was always working out different calculations on everything, so he could begin to understand how much gas mileage and everything else. He had learned somewhere that every puff of smoke somebody takes on a cigarette, they lose so many minutes on their life. He actually thought it was

probably about two minutes that he had heard. His grandmother was a smoker, so as she smoking in the car as they are driving, he starts calculating that basically you lose for every puff of the smoke that you take on a cigarette, you lose two minutes of your life. So as he calculated he, feeling very, very clever, says to his grandma, hey grandma do you know that I just figured it out that you probably have lost about nine years of your life. And he was waiting for her to go, wow you are just an amazing math whiz. How do you do all that, but instead she started to cry, I mean started to cry a lot. I mean he had never heard her cry before. His grandfather pulled the car over out of the Airstream and set down on the side of the road while the rest of the caravan continued to go buy. He got out of the car and he had never seen his grandfather mad and he couldn't tell whether his grandfather was mad or not and he came around and he had gotten Jeff out and they went back beside the Airstream and his grandfather said these words to him. He didn't know whether he was going to get hit. He didn't know what was going to happen. He had just never seen his grandfather quite like this. His grandfather got down on his knees, looked him right in eye and he said Jeff one day you'll learn that it's harder to be kind than it is to be clever. You know it's interesting but that moment, that moment in his life where he heard and understood that phrase, he realized that all of the things he was good at, all the things he was able to do, all the

things that kind of made him who he thought he was at that moment were overshadowed by his what we call shadow. And he realized at that moment that if he was ever going to become something, he was going to have to come out of the shadow that he was in, that he'd have to be a man that would live a little bit differently. At the age of ten, he began to think differently about his giftedness.

Guys we are doing a trail today that I think is so essential if we are going to understand who we are. It's on our dog tags. It's on the six parts of the core. It's about the shadow and it's this part that we're going to have to prioritize our battle. If you're going to do anything in your existence, the trail that we're on called prioritize your battles, the battle is about the shadow because if you don't deal with this one internally and ever come out from it, it will so drive who you are. It will so make you into something you don't want to be, that you will never know the freedom that you were designed to do. The choice that you get to make in letting your core be what it is designed to be will be connected to how well you fight this battle and how well you prioritize it.

Take a look at this phrase in here that I think is so key. It says this. In your trail number five, the first battle a warrior must fight takes place inside himself. He must fight against the shadow's involvement with his core. You and I need to know that we have to fight this battle that's deep within ourselves. It's this battle deep

within our very existence, and if we don't bite this battle deep within us, if you don't go to this battle at the heart of your core, you're going to be messed up. Look at the rest of the phrase. The shadow's goal is to destroy. What the shadow wants to do is destroy. It wants to destroy you. It wants to destroy those around you. It wants to destroy people that not only are your enemies but also people that are your friends. The very nature of the shadow is destruction. So, and it's inside of you, it's inside, it exists within you and so when you look at the core of who you are because of what we talked about yesterday. Remember what we said how that part of you the spirit died and the shadow came in. That shadow is destructive. The shadow is what gives death. And when we refer to the shadow, you think we refer to it almost as like it's a person. That's because it is. There's a being called Satan that represents the shadow. It's the source of the shadow on earth and that being has offered it and planted it because of our choice within us all. Now God didn't want us to live with according to the shadow, he wanted us to live in freedom.

There's a story in your Knightly News, you'll notice your Knightly News there, is a story of a man by the name of Aaron. Aaron is actually the brother of Moses. Moses as you know is that great leader of the nation of Israel that took them out of Egypt if you know the story. That's the Red Sea crossing with the dry land stuff

and the plagues and all that. Well Moses had this brother that, Aaron, that he brought along with him because Moses didn't feel he could speak well. He didn't feel he could represent God well. So when he brought Aaron with him, he decided that the best thing he could do is to entrust certain things to Aaron. And what he decided to do, he started to entrust some areas for him that allow him to take care of the people when Moses would be gone. Aaron becomes what is known as the high priest of the nation of Israel. Moses is up on a mountain with God. Moses is at a place where his shadow is really for the most part way overshadowed by the presence of God. Now his shadow is still in Moses, but man the warrior of God is just pouring out of Moses, because Moses is getting what we call the Ten Commandments. While he's gone, he's gone so long, for the people of Israel think he is dead. So they go to Aaron, the guy who is supposed to help Moses and say we need a God to follow here. So Aaron takes all their gold, puts it in the pot, melts it and makes a golden calf and they worship it. I mean they have this wild pagan, old time Egyptian kind of behavior thing going on at the base of the mountain where God is speaking the Ten Commandments into Moses' life. Moses hears this rumble. God actually talks about it. He says there's something going on in the camp. He comes down the mountain and he sees this unbelievable carnage of just so much of the shadow coming out of the shadows and just living in the

evilness of itself, because when the shadow is left through unrapid, it does destructive things. As he sees this happening, he stares in disbelief and he throws the Ten Commandments down on the ground and shatters them into pieces, because that shadow just wants it hidden so bad. He gets down to Aaron and he goes, what in the world happened? He goes, you know how the people are. Aaron said, it was the people's fault. They made me do it. As a matter of fact, they were pushing me so hard, I said give me your gold, I threw it in a pot and out came this golden calf. No golden calf came out. He formed it. Aaron is a man that was interesting. He was given a task of making a difference in the presence of God and he let his shadow dominate. If you don't win this battle, if you don't prioritize this particular battle in your life, you will through a whole bunch of stuff outside that you think is clever but it's not kind.

Let's walk through some of the issues of the shadow that we have to deal with that I think will free us up. Roman numeral one. The shadow limits the warrior's ultimate strength by. The whole thing is to not just make you destructive, but it's to limit your strength. It's going to limit your strength by the following areas. There's a number of areas you want to go through. Look at number one, the first two it limits the strength. By denying that problems exist that would call for its active intervention. If I can get you to be complacent, if I can get you to deny that a problem exists, if I can

get you to not care. Have you ever noticed that there are days when there are things going on all around you, not just in the world on the big picture, but in a very small world around you, and you just don't care. The shadow's job is to say, doesn't matter, just eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow you die. That's the nation of Israel and the plain below the mountain. It is what you and I do as a way of life.

Look at number two if we let the shadow dominate. The shadow is going to suggesting temporary, easier, more partial solutions. If you do get involved, you're going to get involved in a less full way, okay, a more temporary, a more partial solution. The shadow is saying I'm going to zap your strength. I'm going to take what you're designed to be. And by the way, you're going to need to fight against the shadow but you're not going to be able to beat it singlehandedly. We've talked about that and we'll talk about that some more today. But the shadow, what it's trying to do is cause you to say, you know what, at best I'll do a half of a job. I won't give the full effort. I'll give it as much as I can. When I was in school my whole goal was just to get out of school. So it wasn't to get an A, it was just to pass. What the shadow is driving me to do is that which is partial, that which isn't full.

It does something else that's very destructive. Look at number three. Emphasizing the pain and likely disappointment, pessimism

of trying hard and not completely succeeding. Perfectionism. Write those two words down. Pessimism which is that desire to say, you know what I try, it's not going to work and perfectionism which says, you know what, if I don't completely succeed, I'm not going to be happy. Do you know what the great struggle that a man has? He wonders if he's enough. Have you ever wondered about that as a man? Am I enough? Am I enough sexually? Am I enough as a leader? Am I enough in this? Am I enough in that? We're always wondering am I enough because we compare ourselves, right? My father was a man that as his life degenerated over a period of time, he was very pessimistic about who he could be. In fact, the older he got the greater this became and then he was a perfectionist throughout his life. So he was never enough and he never believed he could be enough. That's the shadow. It's the shadow's job all the time to convince you that what God made won't work, that the core of who you are is so dominated by this one area, the shadow that you need to get out from but the rest of your core just degenerates. You never become what you were designed to be.

Look at the next one. It says the ultimate strength of a warrior is knocked out by number four, suggesting he quit prematurely when it gets rough. Guys I want you to know that the whole idea of quitting is what the shadow is about. You are designed not to lose. You're actually designed to win. You and I are actually at a place in



our life where we are supposed to be victorious and I don't mean like you beat the opponent win, I mean do what you were designed to do, hit the ultimate of who you've been created to be as a knight, as a warrior and the shadow says, guess what, you are a loser. You're going to quit because you can't win. It drives us to that, it takes all the strength out of a man.

Look at number five. Try to convince him that it's someone else's problem. One of the great things we'll say, it's somebody else's fault. He did it. It's his fault. It's not my fault. If I can excuse what I do based off of my history growing up, what my parents did. Now what your parents did affects you. We'll talk about that in week eighteen, nineteen, twenty and twenty-one. The reality is that's true but the concept that you have to understand is that when say it's not my fault, that's the shadow speaking. Guys, at the bottom on your core is a choice that your self will make. You make choices. You can't blame it on somebody else. It's your choice and when you do that, you have to say, okay what am I doing? What am I creating? See, sometimes the shadow is driving us just to say it's somebody else's problem.

Number six. Creating internal conflicts and encouraging imbalanced behavior. If I can get you out of balance, I can knock you over. When you are imbalanced, you know anybody in sports will tell you about that, if I can encourage you into imbalanced

behavior, then all I have to do is knock you over. It's easy if your balance is harder. Everything is throwing us off our game. Ever notice that we tend to go to extremes, right. We either get to this point where we drink too much and then all of a sudden our behavior becomes imbalanced or now I won't drink at all because my behavior gets in me. You know how we always tend to go bang, bang, bang, bang. Now sometimes when you're an alcoholic, you got stop drinking. Sometimes when you're addicted to gambling, you just got to never ever buy a lottery ticket. But here's our problem, our problem is that we are so extreme oriented that we constantly find ourselves out of balance, let's take it in the positive way. If balance is to love one woman and love only that one woman, and love her well, then out of balance is you toy on the other side. So ultimately you become an adulterer and ultimately you become a user and that's the way it works. That's the shadow driving you all the time to that.

Look at number seven. The shadow is going to drive us to our, our strength away by supporting an isolation mentality. You know the whole idea of being isolated. When you write that word isolation down, I want you to understand that that is sort of the natural way men go. We tend to go it alone. We tend to say I don't need those stinking campfire. I can do this on my own. Okay, you do need a campfire. See, if you're ever going to come out of that shadow, if

you're ever going to get free from there, you're probably not going to do it alone. Number one, you're not going to do it without God. You can try, but you're not going to do it without God and two, you're probably not going to do it without men encouraging you up. See, isolation, the shadow drives you. You ever think about this, when we sin, we tend to sin all alone. In our darkness we tend to sin on the other side of the tunnel, right, where nobody can see us, because when you do what's wrong, when you do the things that you know are improper, you don't want to do it in a crowd. In a couple trails from now, we're going to be talking the kryptonite of a male which is sexuality and when we talk about it, we'll talk about masturbation and one of the things about masturbation is we tend to do that in the quietness in the hidden area. Why do we do it there, because in our minds we're thinking about someone improperly. It gets really, really tricky. We tend to sin in the darkness. Now I'm not going to – we're going to talk about masturbation and it's not necessarily a right or wrong concept. It's really just what you do with it from the inside becomes everything that which we hide in. What are you doing that's hiding things in you? What goes way down into the tunnel? What goes way hidden that nobody else knows about? Comments that you make about people that you don't put on facebook. I can't even believe some of the things people put on facebook, but the comments that you don't deep in the shadows,

isolated alone, that's the shadow's job, get you alone and in aloneness, in aloneness is where you and I do the greatest amount of damage both to us and then ultimately to those around us. We might be clever, we're not kind.

Look at the next one. The next one says bathing him, his ultimate strength will be removed by bathing him in self-pity, number eight, or depressive thoughts. Self-pity or depressive thoughts. I think you guys know this, we have about twelve hundred guys that take this material that you're taking right now, that we gather together in one location. Now there's a whole bunch of you guys all over the country and around the world, but we have just a group of guys, about twelve hundred guys at one location at LCBC, the church where I am on staff at. One of our guys this past year had Lou Gehrig's disease. The day I'm recording this, he's still alive but he does not expect to be around this time next year. It's interesting, he's supposed to wallow in self-pity but he doesn't. He's supposed to feel like his illness is debilitating, that it's all over. You know what? It is all over and unless something miraculous takes place, he will lose his ability to breathe and will die. But I watch him. He doesn't let his shadow dominate. Some of you have illnesses. Some of you have financial situations and they are debilitating to you. You can't move and your illness is just that your blood sugar's just a tiny bit high. Your illness is that your toe is bothering you. Your

illness is that your credit card debt is making it hard for you to stay up on your balances. See, be very careful that you understand that these things become overwhelming to us and we start to just wallow in sort of this depression that the shadow loves itself.

Look at the next one. Number nine. The shadow limits the warrior's ultimate strength by seeking pleasure as a primary motivation for decision-making. This is so important guys. Pleasure is what the shadow is selling. Pleasure, along with power and popularity, but really for a guy, we're pretty base, it boils down to pleasure. Most things in life are pleasurable. It's pleasurable to eat unless you eat too much. It's pleasurable to get rid of your food on most occasions and every once in awhile it's not, but for the most part, it's pleasurable to have sex, seven seconds, it's really pleasurable whatever it is for us. We have that pleasure. Things are pleasurable and there's nothing wrong with that. The problem is that we overindulge, right? We tend to overeat. What if things that were pleasurable were to become unpleasurable when we overdid them? Well in reality, they are, but we keep doing them anyway, over and over again. Why? The shadow is driving it. I don't know, I have never met a guy who loves a hangover, but I met a lot of guys who have had hangovers more than once which means that the pleasure of whatever they thought was happening before the hangover gets

overshadowed, gets overshadowed not by the hangover but by the desire for more pleasure. That's the way it works.

Look at number ten. The shadow limits a warrior's ultimate strength by choosing arrogance in a better than attitude. No good knight does a comparison game. No good knight looks at another knight and says I'm better than you, not a good knight. In fact every good knight looks at another knight and says I need you. Every good knight looks at a guy who isn't a knight yet and says I need a rescue, alright? You got to be very, very careful about this whole area. It's where you start to judge the character, the heart of a man. And there is a movie that came out in the last few years. It's called "Robin Hood" and this one was done with Russell Crowe. It's actually the story before Robin Hood becomes Robin Hood. It's actually as he is Robin Longstride and Robin Longstride, he is just a normal warrior with this army that's on a crusade. Richard the Lionhearted is the commander, the king, and they're all sort of following him on this crusade. In the middle of the night the scene that I want you to think about takes place. What's happening at that moment is that Robin is tricking some guys to get some food by playing his shell game. Little John comes up, thinks he's figured out the game, thinks that there is no pea hidden underneath the shells but in reality there is one, and a fight ensues. The King of England has decided he wants to go out among his troops and he is with

Loxley who is his sort of second command, a lord of a realm and they go walking among to find an honest man. When he comes this fight is taking place and he grabs these men, breaks them apart and he asks Robin Longstride, please speak honestly with him because Robin Longstride said, I'm the one who started the fight. It's on me. Big John said it was me, I'm the one who was also involved. And he goes, wow I got some honest men. Well tell me, tell me honestly what you think what's going on in our battle. You know what's interesting? All the other men you can tell saying don't be honest with the king, don't be honest with the king, but Robin, wanting to come out of the shadows says, yes sir, I'll be honest with you. What do you think of what's going on? He goes well I don't think that God is necessarily pleased. The King of England says, what do you mean? He said, and he named a certain battle at a certain place when they had all these people that had been captured. He said there was a woman in front of me and you asked them to kill them. When I looked up into the helplessness of their eyes, I realized that she looked at us, that she looked at me just before I killed her, with pity. You know why? Because she knew that at that moment we were Godless. The next scene is Robin locked I stocks along with Little John and several other people that are all locked in there and as they're all engaged in that moment and they're talking about it, Robin says that's it. I'm done. I'm following the king. As that

scene comes to an end, I think we're always amazed by what is it like for a man to be honest in a dishonest world. What's it like for a man to so come out of the shadows, and when Robin comes out of the shadows and he wants to be truthful, it's interesting that the world doesn't even respond well. You know why? Because I think for the most part the world likes the shadow more than truth.

Let's look at what else that the shadow does to us. Look at Roman numeral number two. The shadow's attempt to disrupt the warrior's personal growth and knows that, okay, the shadow is going to attempt to disrupt your personal growth. It knows certain things about us, alright, that it wants to work. Now remember, the shadow is a being. It's an enemy that has now permeated these concepts within us. Look at number one. A disintegration process followed by a reintegration process makes a warrior incredibly strong. Now I'm going to read that. That's a typical Roy thing. You know a much shorter sentence before he got done rewriting it here. A disintegration process followed by a reintegration process makes a warrior incredibly strong. What he wants to do, and this is what the shadow is working on all the time, remember now, the shadow is trying to take your growth and knows that if, if you become stronger, you're dangerous. So the shadow has to fight against that. You know what's interesting? We avoid pain, right. Not a bad idea. But when you have pain, make it worth it. When something degenerates



in you, use it to get stronger, to grow as a result of it. The shadow fights against it. Again, remember all the things we just talked about. All those things cause us to not want to respond well. Don't ever miss an opportunity to learn from pain, whatever that pain is, emotional or economic or physical. Don't miss that opportunity.

Look at number two. The shadow attempts to disrupt a warrior's personal growth and knows that a knight not only helps himself but makes a difference in the world. Why is the shadow fighting against you so much? Because the shadow knows that you can make a difference. The enemy, the one that creates the shadow knows that if you're let go, you start making choices to follow the spirit as part of all that you are, you start to use every part of your core, your body and your soul and your mind, and your self to follow in the spirit to make right choices, the shadow knows you're going to make a huge difference. So it's fighting against you at every level.

Look at number three. The shadow attempts to disrupt the warrior's personal growth and knows that a well developed knight will manifest the will, self-discipline and spiritual sensitivity to limit the shadow's influence. Imagine this, that you and I will limit the shadow's influence in us if we're let to run free and do what we're designed to be as opposed as what we've degenerated to be, spandex male versus knight. What the shadow knows is if he ever lets you get free, man you're going to make a huge difference and

so what it wants to do is this, it wants to limit, not be limited in our existence and I think this is what we have to understand. We have an enemy that's opposing us. If you limit that enemy's influence, that enemy's going to get more intense. It's going to get trickier. Fighting the shadow by the way, is not just done. Although it's your priority battle and it happens within, the attacks sort of come without too. The world, the flesh and the devil are three phrases that the Bible uses. Those things are fighting against you all the time.

Look at the next one. The shadow attempts to disrupt the warrior's personal growth and knows that positive relationships will be formed with others fulfilling life's purpose. Positive relationships will be formed with others. The big question we need to ask is who in the world do we hang out with, right? What kind of relationships are you having? Are you having positive relationships? Are you hanging around with people that drive you to the shadow? Have you ever seen a college movie that's anything from PG 13 to R that they come out with about four a year? I call them college movies because it's everything that guys should not be engaged in as a way of life happening and we're all watching it going yeah, that's us, that's what guys are. That's what we are. Who you hang out with is who you become. You and I are constantly making choices to hang around guys that act like spandex males and not act like knights.

The shadow wants you to make that choice. You and I have to think about who it is that we hang out with.

Look at the next one. The shadow attempts to disrupt the warrior's personal growth and knows that God is honored when the male allows his potential that reflects God's image within him as he pursues God's calling for his life. God's image, the reflection of God's image inside of us. The shadow is very much aware of the fact that if we reflect the image of God, He will speak to a world longing for God. The shadow can't do that, can't tolerate that. The enemy can't tolerate that, the world and its curse is in opposition to it. Remember the forest fights against us so what we need to understand is that there's a battle that engages when we go into this area.

Consider the next one. There's another thing the shadow knows. The shadow attempts to disrupt the warrior's personal growth and knows that a knight will naturally, the knight will naturally and here's a couple things that go with that - will naturally be a good example to children. I love this one. This is one of my favorite concepts. If you're a knight and you walk in a room, remember I talk about this when a man enters a room, when a man leaves the shadows and enters a room, because if you enter the room in a shadow, everybody backs off, but if you enter a room free from your shadow or having your shadow in control because you are

never completely free from it, as you have it under control, children will feel safe. You want to know how you're doing? Watch children's response. Now I'm not talking about pedophiles. I'm not talking about people who have learned to con kids. That's a whole different world. I'm talking about the natural response. Children have this natural innocence that pedophiles take advantage of, one of the most horrible crimes I can possibly imagine. When you enter a room though as a knight, you should make a huge difference and the children should feel safe in your presence. Isn't that the coolest thing? This what God naturally does.

Look at the next thing it says. A knight will naturally love his wife. We make love to one woman for the rest of our lives. Whatever has happened before now, we change from now going forward. I will naturally love her. I will make her feel valuable. When I won't spend a lot of time cutting her down. Women despise when we wound them like that. What we want to do when we walk into a room, a woman should feel loved. Now, by the way, I believe any woman should feel loved when you walk in a room. The difference is one woman should be longed for and desired in your mate and everybody else should feel safe and cared for and valued, not clever, kind.

Look at the next thing that happens. A knight will naturally mentor other males towards knighthood. You do not do this battle

alone, right? But you don't do it alone waiting for guys to pull you alone. You're never going to get out of the shadow if you wait for guys to pull you along. You have to look at guys and so value them and pull them along yourself. That's what a knight does. A knight becomes, and you'll see this as we walk through oracle next year, which is the whole concept of the wisdom of a knight, the principles of a knight. Then we'll walk through roundtable. Roundtable is when a group of knights are working together as a unit to accomplish great things. By the time you get to the fence, you're actually the knight where anybody behind you feels safe, anybody who's underneath you whether it's employees or whether it's a whole family plan, whatever it is that you have that ability to build the safety net in Christ to make a difference in everybody's life. When you get to that level, man, well that's just talking about that. You start mentoring.

Another thing that you're going to do naturally is this. A knight naturally will produce a movement for a positive culture change. We change the forest, the forest doesn't change us. A positive culture change. The world should be different because you and I exist in it. That becomes real exciting.

Look at number seven. On a daily basis, a knight actively seeks indications of the shadow's presence and utilizes various resources to deal with it, self-reflection, prayer, confession,

accountability, relationships, etc., etc. When my kids were growing up I used to tell them a story so as we consider this particular truth you just wrote down and there's a reflection I wanted my kids to have. There's a story about a world called Wondra and Wondra was a world where there was all kinds of enemies out and the guys were knights and they go off and explore all kinds of things, but whenever they were in trouble, I'd always tell them in Wondra, look for the lights. When you find the lights, head towards it, because the light in Wondra was always good. That's what this is all about. Look for the existence of one who doesn't have a shadow. That's God. That's Jesus Christ.

Number eight. God offers a way of dealing with the underlying moral implications and negative influence of the shadow's existence. Alright, this is what God has a way. He has a way of dealing with His shadow. Just so you know, God's offered a way for you out of the shadow. You want to get out of the tunnel into the light, God's offered that way. Here's what He's done. It's all happened through Christ. It is basically, I'm going to give you a very quick statement of what we believe. You don't have to believe this. I'm just telling you have I no other way to get out of the shadow but this. I don't know how else to help you. The shadow presence exists in all men. Apart from this, I don't know how to get you free, alright? So here's

what we believe. Christ's death removes sin's barrier between God and mankind. Christ's death removes the barrier.

Look at the second one. Walk as an example of Christ's, walk as an example of a shadow free living. Christ will show you how to do what we're talking about. It's not theory. It was function in Christ.

Three. Christ's forgiveness encourages us to try again. I know you've messed up. I know in the darkness you've done things you don't want to talk about. Christ's forgiveness will allow you to move forward and try again to get free from the shadow.

The next one. Christ's love inspires us to respond in kind to others. People should feel different when you walk in the room. Christ's love inspires kindness. It is easier to be clever than it is to be kind.

Now judgment. Christ's judgment taught us how to think wisely about the offerings of the forest. Christ will teach us not to get captivated by things in the forest that cannot satisfy us. I talk about a warrior every time. There was a warrior that was part of the Sioux nation. His name is Sitting Bull. Sitting Bull is a very interesting man. Sitting Bull was a man that actually in my opinion came out of the shadows pretty well. Now, there's not a whole lot known about his spiritual training. There's no indication that he got free in Christ. But there is some interesting indication that he fought against the

shadow. Sitting Bull became the head of his tribe and was responsible for what took place at the battle with Custer. Sitting Bull brought three other parts of the Sioux nation together and those four tribes attacked Custer and beat him. What Sitting Bull was though, he hated fighting. He hated war. If you push him in a corner. If you make him, he would fight, but he hated. In fact, he would fight barehanded because he didn't think it was fair to use a weapon in destroying another opponent and he also felt like if he destroyed another opponent without a weapon, they'd realize how powerful or how scary it was. Sitting Bull was always a man of high morality. He was picked actually as the head of his tribe when everybody else was trying to side between him and one other guy, they'd do this little test and they would say if we took your wife away, how would you react. They told this one guy this other man had stolen his wife and that man tried to kill that other man. When the same thing was told of Sitting Bull, he went and got supplies for his wife and gave it to her so she would be cared for because he thought in terms of her highest good if she didn't love him, there must be somebody else. And for the good for the tribe and although morally we sometimes in our culture question it, in their culture that was a very high act of character. Sitting Bull cared about people. He actually had become part of the Wild West Show with Bill Hickok, and he made a lot of money, in that day, fifty dollars a week. And he gave it all away to



people in need. He couldn't believe all the people struggling with alcohol, all the people struggling with a lot of junk in their lives as he would hit these towns and see white men doing certain things. But throughout his life, Sitting Bull found himself spending more and more time dealing with issues that were his nation being wounded by the white men. Sitting Bull decided that he would be a moral man throughout it all, but he would be a moral man with a real conscience and I have a sense that Sitting Bull tried to fight through his shadow. Listen to this quote by Sitting Bull regarding who he is, who his people is. I'll put it on the screen for you, it's this. Is it wrong for me to love my own? Is it wicked for me because my skin is red, because I'm Sioux, because I was born where my father lived, because I would die for my people and my country? God made me an Indian. Here's a guy definitely trying to come out of his shadow and make a difference in the forest around him. There's an interesting part of this man as a warrior. A tremendous amount of respect for a man who gets this understanding, this clarity.

Let me show you a couple of things that I think will help us understand what the shadow cannot do. Roman numeral three. The shadow cannot defeat a warrior who wins the war against the shadow inside attack on him. If you win, if you win this war, then the other wars – prioritize your battles – the other wars will work out. This is so key. How are you going to win this war? It's going to

have to be in Christ. I don't know any other way to do it. But you have to win this war. This is the war that you win. Now does the shadow ever go away? No. When I am tired, I am the most vulnerable. When I have gone way too hard is when I am most, have the greatest tendency to let the shadow dominate and I just kind of don't bring out the rest of the core and just let it kind of exist inside of me. That shadow is there even though Christ has rescued me, the reality is that it exists.

Look at the next one. The shadow cannot defeat a warrior who develops strength that is contrary to the shadow's desires. If you become a strong man in the freedom of your spirit, the shadow cannot fight against that. It becomes very powerful.

Number three. The shadow cannot defeat a warrior who seeks to achieve the next step in his manhood calling. When you begin to realize there's more for me, there's more for me to do, I have more things to accomplish in my lifetime. All of a sudden the shadow gets knocked down because you don't want to get fooled around with taking care of those petty little dark things you do. You want to get free to accomplish what you're designed to do.

Number four. The shadow cannot defeat a warrior who offers leadership to those who struggle with their own shadows. If you're going to move forward, the shadow cannot, what does he do, he's going to fight you on every level. I actually believe that some of the

stuff that my family goes through is because of some of the battles that I've chosen to engage in and there are days when I absolutely despise watching my family get shot at because of what I'm doing. I think my friends get shot at. I think that our team of guys that work together to do what we call Knights of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century get shot at. I believe that's part of it. I believe that you're going to be a leader, it's going to happen but he can't defeat you if the shadow doesn't win if you let all the parts of your core work effectively in that area.

Look at the next one. The shadow cannot defeat a warrior who relies on assistance outside of himself such as friends, relatives and God to deal with his constant opponent. You're going to have to have a whole bevy of things around you. Friends. You're going to have to have everything that possibly can have and obviously the most important thing is a relationship with God.

Jeff Bezos when he was finishing up his talk, his baccalaureate talk at Princeton made these statements. I want you to listen to these statements. These are some powerful, powerful statements. I'm going to read to you about eight or nine of them. It's going to kind of tell us the difference between a man who chooses his shadow versus a man who chooses to be a knight. He didn't know he was talking about this, but that's what he was talking about. Will inertia should be your guide or will you follow your passions? Will the forest drive you or will you follow what you're designed to

be? Will you follow dogma or will you be original? Will you be what everybody else does? Will you be a lemming or will you be original? This is words that a knight versus spandex male versus a shadow follower versus a knight. Will you choose a life of ease or a life of service and adventure? Guys if that doesn't get you excited saying that's what I want, I don't want these, I want that, then you probably aren't moving towards knighthood. That's the key. Will you wilt under criticism or will you follow your convictions? This stuff. Will you bluff it out when you're wrong or will you apologize? Man, this guy could have taught this course and be careful here, he might be here next year. Will you guard your heart against rejection or will you act, and I love this, when you fall in love. When you fall that – when you find that love, will you act on it or will you just try to protect yourself? We'll talk about armor and how we try to protect ourself. Will you play it safe or will you be a little bit swashbuckling? That's a term we like. When it's tough, will you give up or will you be relentless? Will you be a cynic or will you be a builder? Those are all knight statements, right? Shadow, knight, shadow, knight. This is the last one. Will you be clever at the expense of others or will you be kind?

There's a statement that I absolutely love. It takes place in that movie I mentioned to earlier in Robin Hood. I want you to think about this particular scene. What's happening is that Robin has now

taken on the identity of Sir Robert Loxley who was killed in battle. He used it to get passage sort of on a ship and now he's been under his, the care of Sir Robert Loxley's father, Sir Walter Loxley. He's blind, but he knows that he's not his son. But he so needs somebody to lead his people that he embraces Robin as his son. And there's this amazing scene where he says to him, I want you to know about who you are. You see Robin Longstride thought his father was a coward but he was taken to a journey to understand that his father was a great man, not a coward at all. Thomas Longstride was a man that made the huge difference and his had his handprint put in concrete, his father's hand right next to Robin's little hand when he was a child, and Robin's remembering this. And as he remember this, he remembers what his father wrote. Rise and rise again as lambs become lions. You know what that statement is that he's making right there, he's saying I need you to rise up now and be who you were designed to be and then at that moment, Sir Loxley takes Robin Longstride and embraces him as a son and says these words, go. Now when that took place, when that go comes, he says I need you to rise and rise again. I know you've lived in the shadows. I know you feel like a failure but in light of who your dad is, in light of who you can be, I need you to rise and rise again and let the lambs, those who have just been following away become

lions and leave. So I say to you gentlemen, go, go. Be a warrior, a knight of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. See you next week.