

Knights of the 21st Century

Trail 11 –

Gentlemen, welcome. Welcome to Trail 11. This trail is an amazingly important trail. It's actually where everything starts to hinge now and we start to do things that you can't possibly imagine that you can do. This is where we take and we move you beyond anything you think you can be moved. We actually begin to move the structure of who you are and put you in a position where you will begin to inspire others. Everything about us is about moving those who come behind us, building something greater than ourselves. There is something about this area of our lives that I think when we grab it, when we grab this hinge that if I had to pick one thing that's important for us as men, it's to learn how to be inspiring and inspire others. When we are inspirational, when we have others that are coming behind us and they feel like because of us we can get there, it gets so encouraging. When you put your principles together, and when you start to move forward, you will find that those behind you will not only follow, they will follow with anticipation and excitement.

It reminds me of a movie "Invictus". It's a true story that was done about the 1995 World Cup when South Africa actually won the World Cup. Nelson Mandela is now the President of the nation. Everything is changed in a partite, but everything is under a lot of

attention as well. Nelson Mandela asks that the captain of the Springboks Team, a man by the name of Francois Pienaar, and meet with him, the President meeting with the captain of the Rugby Team. Think about that as you consider this particular scene. What happens here is there is Mandela welcoming in Francois and Francois has no idea why he's there. Mandela is extremely gracious and fixes his tea for him and talks about the pressure of the job he's under and Francois is thinking about his day job, says what about that, and he goes no, no, talk about being the captain of the Springboks, how important it is what you do. And then he asks a question. How do you inspire your men? What do you do that causes them to do far more than they can believe possible. To succeed beyond their expectations. Their conversation continues and as it continues about, it becomes very apparent that Nelson Mandela sees that Francois has an exceptionally important job to do. He talks about in his own life, the things that inspire him and Francois talks about the things that he uses to inspire the team and when they're all being silent coming into the stadium and then just before they get there, they put music on together that all rallies them into moving as one unit and going beyond themselves and everything about the scene is about this, how do I inspire you to succeed beyond your expectations? Believe it or not, that's not my job. It's the job of every knight and that's what we're going to look

at when we consider what it means to be a man of steel. So we're actually going to look at in this trail, the return of the man of steel. We're actually going to take it to another level. It's going to be at this point, we're going to start thinking, we as men, we as knights are going to come and finish up what we're designed to do. There's a whole structure to be built. There's a whole thing to be accomplished. It's in process. It's not done. It's going to move steel because you might add a new beam and understand something a little bit clearer, but you're going to build something that others can come under and be protected in. You're going to build something that's going to make all the difference.

Now in order to do that, I want to think about what we've learned so far. What are the eight principles we've looked at and then what are the principles that we're going to look at today? We're going to look at seven today. Let's review the eight. Now the easiest way to do that is, I want you to take your workbook, your notebook that you've been using and you go to the back of the book, almost near the end, you're probably about an eighth of an inch away from the end, go to Appendix B-1 and Appendix B-2, Appendix B-1 and B-2. I want to read for you just the opening statements of each of the principles we just went over last week. Now I want you to be here because the principles, the statement we made is right there, but then you'll see underneath it a paragraph written by Roy

so he can explain what the statement means. There's a bunch of those. I just wanted you to be aware of those paragraphs. I'm always letting you guys know that for some of you, you think in terms of short sentences and for some, you think in terms of more information. Roy is clearly a more information guy. I'm a short information guy but the reality is if you're sitting here, some of you guys that are long paragraph guys say, thank goodness Roy's here and for you short paragraph guys, not short guys; that's a whole other issue. For you guys, I want you to know that you can sit here and just look and review the principles that we've worked through. Here they are.

Principle 1. Males are born while men are forged. You can put knight after every time you see the word man.

A knight is responsible for all of his choices. Principle 2.

Principle 3. A man's world is constantly in motion, always in motion. You got to be aware.

Principle 4. Men are amazing and every man is of infinite worth.

Principle 5. Men do whatever it takes. Those things that are hard, not easy, right?

Principle 6. A man is dedicated to continuous learning, to move forward.

Principle 7. Only the true you will get you through. Get to know who you are and move on.

And Principle 8. A man shapes the forest more than the forest shapes the man.

If you turn the page over, it has the next principles. We actually want you to go back though to the area of your book where you're going to go to Trail No. 11, the man of steel returns. And when you go there, here's what I want you to look at. I want you to look at Principle No. 9. Principle No. 9. The best way for a man to predict his future is for a man to create it. The best way to protect your future is to create it, to get involved in making a difference. It's the structure that you get to build. It is the hinge that we're going to look at from now on that you say, okay now how do I do that. Now guys, here's the situation that you have to understand. You as a leader will never be effective if you don't learn to inspire others, to come under what you build and help you build it greater. You'll never get there. You'll discover that inspiration is so key what you do, guys you'll either inspire others to follow or you're going to die alone. It's the way it works and any level of your tribe, remember we talked about all levels from your immediate family all the way out, at any one of these levels, you and I have the opportunity to stop for a few minutes and say, okay, who is coming behind me and am I inspiring them?

You start with this principle, Principle 9. It's the whole idea of saying, well I need to get involved in creating my future. I got to get involved in helping others see it. So you ask yourself a key question like this, number one. List three things that you like about your life. List three things you like about your life. Now, when I say list three things, go ahead and list three things you like about your life. Don't take a lot of time to think about it. Just go ahead and write down three things you like about your life and you may not write sex, sex, sex. You can't do that, okay, you gotta – you can put sex down if you want but you can't put it three times, alright? Three things you like about your life, things that you enjoy. Just write those down. Three things. By now you should have written one. No pressure, take your time. And now have written two, okay. Again, I don't want – you're not getting this right or wrong, just three things you like about your life. Okay, alright? Got a couple things down.

Let me share with you mine. My trust in God, my family and what I do. Those are the three things that I love about my life. I love my relationship with God. I love my relationship with my family, especially my relationship with Lynn. And I really enjoy, I got to tell you, I enjoy what I do. About eighty percent of the things I do in my jobs, I enjoy. It's pretty high. I remember a time when it was probably about ten or twenty percent, so I like what I do, alright? I

don't know what you wrote down, but that's the things you like. You see, if you're going to create something you need to get a good sense of things you enjoy. That's part of it.

Now, let's do number two. Number two says list three things that you don't – underline don't – like about your life. What are three things you don't like about your life? Write those down. Three things that you don't do it. By the way, this is a pretty cool thing to do as a way of life. Three things you like about your life, three things you don't like about your life. Okay by now you should have at least two. Write one more.

I don't like the fact that my grandson at this point is five hours away from me. I don't like that. He needs to be much closer so I can completely spoil him every day instead of just on occasions when we get to visit him. I don't like the fact that I'm not as intimate with God in certain ways of hearing from Him as I used to be. That sounds really weird. I sort of unpacked that along the way as we're together. I don't like that and so I'm changing that. That's actually I'm creating something different. I don't like the pain that my wife had to grow through growing up. Those are things I don't like. They're just part of my perspective in all that.

Look at number three. I know you've written other things. Three, previous choices created the opportunity for all six of these answers. Previous choices created the opportunity for all six of

these answers. I want you to go back for a minute and say previous choices, not necessarily your previous choices. In most cases they're your previous choices, but in my case, the things I don't like, my son living where he is a choice that my son and his career and his wife have made. So his location in distance to me based off of their choice. Lynn's past had not a whole lot to do with me although I learned a lot about how to become a better husband, so there's a few things that I've done that have wounded her along the way, but a lot of her past happened way before we even met, right? Choices. But my relationship with God, we used to have this ability, He would kind of guide 24/7, I had this real good thing. Something's out of whack in my area of my life right now, and I'm involved in that. It isn't God. God isn't making a choice not to be involved with me. It's something that I got to get refocused on, alright?

When I think about the things I do like, the things I really enjoy, my choices are all over this. I married into my family. I choose to have a relationship with God. I choose to do what I do. I love to do what I do. So you just understand that you're connected to those through choices. Most of them are yours but some are others. Now this is where creating comes in. This is where you get to inspire not only yourself to get excited about moving forward. You get to create the opportunity to help others.

Look at number four. A man takes ownership for all of his choices and the outcomes. Alright, outcomes becomes really important here. If you're going to take ownership of your choice, you also have to take ownership of the outcome. This is what we don't always do. We take ownership of the choice, say okay, it's happened, but you also have to take ownership of the outcome and here's what I'm saying. We tend to think of that as negative. This is what's happened as a result of my bad choice. What if you start making good choices or what if you have made good choices. What are you creating? A man creates his future best when he starts to make good choices. It's what happens. It's allowing us to so lock into all the parts of the core, follow and make that leadership move. Now I believe that when you and I start making good choices and create that environment, we start to inspire others to do the same. I believe that most people begin to follow us because they see in us a series of choices. They go, wow, that works. I get excited about that. We start building a structure. The crane starts moving where our structure is now not only imposing enough that others begin to notice it, they actually start saying, what if I come underneath the protection of it? What if I start to learn how to build within it? What if it teaches me how to grow? I think that's what it's all about. I think it was _____ about. We certainly know that, right? I'm going to be involved in creating my future. Now that is

not in any way putting down God as the God and the master of everything, the creator and the sustainer of life. It means that you're joining him instead of blaming your life not working out the way you want it and blaming Him for it. Why don't you join Him and start to create what you were designed to create. Inspire. Inspire others to join you or you're going to die alone.

Look at the next principle. The next principle is Principle No., well let me give you one more. I'm sorry on Principle No. 9 before we go to the next one. A man's future should include choices that express his values and assist him in reaching his potential and fulfilling his calling. You and I are going to have to put all of our parts of us together to do this, all the parts of who we are, are going to have to go into these choices. So your voice comes into this, obviously your core, and what you want to do is you're going to stay on it. Stay on track. When you adjust, you adjust, but you'd be in a target. Next week we're going to begin talking about what it's like to really get a target laid out for your life. What's it like to start to really say this is my target. I think at this point, when guys start to ask, let me ask you a question about your job. How do you feel about your job? Is your job moving you towards what you're designed to be? We're going to spend a lot of time talking about that concept. Is what you do causing you to come closer to who you were made to be? If you're not, maybe you need to step back and

think about this, because if you're spending all your time not creating that which gives you fulfillment and after awhile you're making choices to remain in something that will ultimately leave you in danger. I don't recommend you quit your job. I don't recommend you run, not in today's economy. But I do think you need to think in terms of where do I need to go along this way. We'll talk a lot more about that next one.

Look at Trail No. 10. Trail 10. A man accepts that to live is to be challenged through the crisis and hardship. A man accepts that to live is to be challenged through crisis and hardship. You need to understand that the world, the flesh, the devil are in opposition, alright? We understand that? Therefore, know that there's going to be challenges to life that a man expects life to be hard. When my son had his tumor removed two years ago, we thought cancer was done. When it returned this past Christmas, we were reminded that life is hard. When he had the cancer the first time, he only had to have radiation. This time, a year of chemo. There is nothing worse than watching worse somebody you love get poisoned in the process of trying to heal them, alright? Life is hard. You lose people you love. Life is hard. You lose jobs. Life is hard and until you understand that it's hard, you'll never get to the point where you say, so I'll be challenged by it as opposed to defeated by it. See so often guys, especially if you're a pessimist, you go oh, well it was

me. I can't fix this. This always happens to me, I just want to break. And Lynn and I have said that. If I went through the history of our family in the last three or four years, there is like one hit after another. Bang, bang, bang, bang. And we have looked at each other and said we could just use a break. The question is, however, do we rise to the challenge or do we let ourselves get buried by it.

Look at the principles that go with Principle No. 10. Number one. He must acknowledge, manage and grieve lost relationships in order to discover and develop other relationships. You got to realize that you gave yourself chance to grieve. You got to give yourself a chance to realize that you've lost something that's important to you. When you do Oracle with us next year, we'll actually talk about the things that you grieve over. There's different things throughout life that we grieve over, and a knight learns to deal with that. If you don't deal with it, it will weigh on you heavily. It's really funny because I'm struggling with Caleb's cancer enough that things are bothering me that didn't used to bother me. So I'm realizing that I have to grieve, not Caleb's mortality. I think we're going to get through this. I'm sort of grieving the fact that my son is going through this suffering and it impacts everything. So do I rise to the challenge or does it bury me?

Look at number two. It says he is not surprised when the crisis occurs because he prepares for it. He's not surprised when

something takes place. If you ever watch a natural disaster take place in the news and the news reports on it, inevitably they're going to start talking about preparation for the next natural disaster. What kind of food stores do you have or where do you go if a tornado comes or what happens when you see the water rush out knowing a tsunami is coming and where do you go and you start talking about preparation. There's actually good truth to that. What we're saying is, okay life is hard. Learn, prepare. Now that has a lot of levels to it. Guys we talk about this all the time. You're going to die. So do you have a will? Do you have your finances in order so your family can exist beyond you? Have you taken care of that? Do they know where all the paperwork is? I mean those are things, just simple preparation things. When you start to have that attitude about that, you start to expand it on all kinds of levels. You start to prepare for the stuff because life is hard. A knight knows that life is hard.

I think maybe knights, we know it even normally because the normal knight outfit, the normal knight suit includes chain mail which is about eighty pounds and armor which is about eighty pounds. If you can walk around with about one hundred eighty pounds, trust me, walking around doing battle, swinging a sword with a hundred sixty pounds on you is hard. You need to know that we don't have things that visible to see, but they're on us. There's

responsibilities, there's weight, there's a culture, there's a world and you and I need to understand that we have to rise to those challenges.

Look at number three. He does not expect to win in every crisis he encounters. He doesn't expect to grow as a result of it. That statement is so strong, that concept of the win/win. Guys, you have to understand that if your goal in life is to have a win/win and you're in a world that doesn't let you win, it fights against you, you're going to be in trouble. I have a good friend of mine who is a win/win guy. I mean everything is about a win. If he doesn't get a win, he gets defeated. He sort of believes there's a perfect world out there. It's not a perfect world. We have an enemy who is trying to destroy us, a world that's cursed and fighting against us and our flesh and our shadow who is forever giving us a hard time. In that process, in this world that we live in, we find that if you live by the attitude of you always got to have a win, you're in trouble. You got to deal with it from a growth point of view. This friend I mentioned, every time he loses, he feels like he's been defeated and instead of growing, he pouts. He feels like life isn't worth living. Guys, you got to be so careful of that.

Now that principle is going to give way to another one and in order to understand it, you're going to need to understand the Knightly News that's in there for you, about Uriah. He's actually a

man I used his name before because when I told you the story about Nathan and King David and Uriah, Nathan and Uriah were the knights and David was just the spandex male. It's a story of Uriah who is married to Bathsheba who is off at war. While he's off at war, David sleeps with Uriah's wife, has sex with her and gets her pregnant. He brings Uriah back, David brings him back from the front to get a report on the battle and then in hopes that he'll go home and sleep with his wife. And Uriah is a man of high integrity, so he doesn't sleep with his wife. He goes and he kind of sleeps at the bottom of the, where the temple guards would be, where the guards to the palace would be and David says, well why don't you sleep with your wife? And he gives some answer and then he says to him, well here, I'll get you drunk and Uriah gets drunk the next night under David's influence and still doesn't go home and sleep with his wife. And so David, frustrated, sends him off to war, sends him back, but this time he goes back with orders to have him killed. Uriah actually is going to die for doing the right thing. But before you go, whoa, whoa, you got to go whoa, whoa, whoa, David's a jerk, but you don't go Uriah's a jerk. You go Uriah's a man of high integrity. How do we know that? Listen to this quote. It's found in your Knightly News about Uriah that Uriah actually says to David. Here, let me read it for you. It says as follows: "The arc and the enemies of God of Israel and Judah are living intense." That's this

arc of the covenant where God dwells and Juab, that's the commander that's in charge, "and my master's men are camping in open fields. How could I go home to wine and dine and sleep with my wife." The weird part about that from the book of 2 Samuel 11, verse 11, is that he is saying I am a man who will do the right thing, even though I have every right to go home and sleep with my wife, but I won't because of the honorable thing what's going on in the battle front. David, on the other hand, to show you a man without principle, he looking at the exact same circumstances, his men are off on the front, the arc of the covenant of God is out in the front, he says, I'll go home and sleep with your wife. The contrast is staggering. The thing I want you to know about Uriah is Uriah understands Principle No. 11.

Look at Principle 11. It says this. A man never stands alone unless he's taking a stand. A man never stands alone unless he's taking a stand. I want you to understand guys this is so key about us. There are so many guys that have done so much damage for five minutes of pleasure. As I told you before a thimble full of sperm. There are actually guys in prison right now with that moment. A man with no integrity sleeping with another man's wife against a man with great integrity who won't even go home which is his right to be with his wife and chooses instead to do the right thing and care for his men and the battles at hand. Guys, the contrast is staggering.

Guys, there's a world that wants to misuse sexuality and you choose not to because you're a knight. You stand alone in a world that doesn't let you stand alone.

Here are some principles to help you understand Principle No. 10. One, a man consciously surrounds himself with other knights. Guys, get involved with having men around you that are knightly. The world's fighting against you. There's pressure from within, from your own being, Satan is fighting against you. Guys, have warriors alongside of you. That's what standing is about – doing the noble thing. So don't hang out with guys that are misusing areas and hope that you can handle it. Be very careful about who you hang out with.

Look at number two. A man may have to temporarily stand alone for truth. A man might have to temporarily stand alone, even with guys he thinks he's standing with. There was a time in my life, I was a pastor in Vermont and it was a small church. We had grown to about three hundred people and what was happening in that church was amazing stuff, but there was a pressure from the group that had started the church to have us return to the way we used to be. I had a group of elders who said they would stand with me if we do the stand against us. On a certain day through a certain loophole in the by-laws of the church, I got voted out as an elder, as a leader in the church. I had five other elders. I went back to the back room and all

five had said we'll stand with you, and one by one, they folded. I will never forget the feeling standing alone there that day. Now at that point in my life, to be honest with you, I probably wasn't strong enough to figure out how to stand up that way. But guys you're going to have to learn to stand alone, especially for a temporary time period. You're not designed to be alone all the time.

Remember, when you advance, you're not going to be alone. When you're deserted, you're not going to be alone forever. There is a moment, there was a moment in Christ's life where all, all twelve of his disciples, one had actually betrayed him, another one was denying him and all of them took off running. It's that moment. You have to understand those moments come. You have to be prepared to temporarily stand alone. Then the only time you have to do that.

Look at number three. A man evaluates his relationships according to the way he is positively or negatively influenced by the people around him. A knight needs to be a man who is evaluating his relationships to see whether they're moving and in which way, right? All of us have relationships, so always be evaluating which way are they sliding? Which way are they going? My five guys, four guys that make a difference in my life used to be five. There's a reason there's four. It's really important that we have this opportunity to stop for a few minutes and evaluate what's going on and what's sliding from one direction to another. And guys, I'll be

really honest with you. I've been, guys in guys' life where they had to cut me off so where I wasn't effective and I was pulling people down. So we all run into those realms, a man, a knight who is expiring is very, very careful what he does in this area.

Alright, look at Principle 12. A man knows when to say I was wrong and humbly faces his errors. A man knows when to say he's wrong and humbly faces the errors of his way. You know, I have to be honest with you, I have sons who will tell you that I know how to say I'm wrong. They've seen me do enough wrong over the years. They've heard me say I'm sorry. They've heard me stop the car, pull it over to the side of the road, get them eyeball to eyeball and say that dad was wrong. They've seen me in a number of situations. I actually didn't do too bad with that one. That was not too hard for me to do. This principle has actually been around for me, maybe because I've been such a screw-up for so long that it just became kind of natural. What was interesting for me is I just didn't arbitrarily say I was sorry and then keep going. Every time I said I was sorry, it was with a resolve to inspire rightness now and change the course of direction.

Look at principle one that goes with Principle 12. A knight proactively searches his core to determine which parts need improvement. Do not be afraid to proactively search your core. Pull it out. Look deep within you. How are you doing with your

instincts? How are you doing with your body? How are you doing with your mind? Are you using not just the warrior, but are you using the king and the lover and the friend? Are you taking advantage of all that you are? Are you letting your soul cry out? Are you looking to see what your soul is longing for and tend to follow it because it will take you ultimately to God? Are you connecting to him? Are you realizing the shadow was too influential at that particular point? Are you making decisions based off as your self makes the call, as you make the choice, are you making it because you evaluated it? Don't be afraid to do self-evaluation. And sometimes when you do self-evaluation, you're going to start with or end with the phrase, I was wrong. I was wrong. And sometimes you have to go to somebody and say, I was wrong. Most of the time if you don't use it just loosely, most of the time when you tell somebody you were wrong and ask their forgiveness, most of the time they give it. Most of the time they receive it. Not always. You don't do it to get. You do it to give but don't be afraid necessarily to go in that area.

Look at the next part of that principle, Principle 12. A strong core allows a knight to own his bad choices and correct them appropriately. Owning your mistakes is just a much a part of saying my choices, I'm the sum total of my choices. This is my own your mistakes. If you were to hang out with me, you would hear from me

the mistakes I've made in my life. There's mistakes that I've done that have done damage, that I don't want to ever do again. As a matter of fact, if I would ever mentor somebody, they're going to know my mistakes so they can avoid those same pitfalls in the same area.

Look at number three. A knight gives us his perfectionism which allows him to quickly correct a poor, poor choice. One of the things that we have to understand is perfectionism causes us to say I can't be wrong. I got to be right, so you deny that you're wrong and all you're doing is that's just adding up wrongs. It's like adding rocks to your pants. It's like putting more and more rocks in your pockets. It's like adding weight to everything you do. You're just going to have to stop and say I'm not perfect and I don't have to demand it. And a lot of us get that way because we felt like our parents pushed us real hard towards perfection. We're going to deal in a few weeks with wounds, wounds we got from our families. And some of you are going to find that some of the wounds you got, one of them is you expect so much from yourself, because your parents expected a lot from you. I want you to inspire people to go beyond what they can expect. Don't put expectation on them. Let them put it on themselves. Inspire to exceed expectations, but don't, be careful not to get caught up in misusing this whole are.

There's a guy from history, a warrior named Ginkgos Khan and to be honest with you, he was a real warriors. He lived a lot of years ago. In his sixty-five years of life, he did a lot of damage but he also did a lot of amazing things too. He was a man actually after his family died, he was left homeless once his father died. He had to fight for everything. But he was a man who was tremendously creative. I mean he invented war machines that we still use to this day that tell us all kinds of principles of pulleys and levies and he worked on having what we would now call like a pony express to keep the information highway open. Ginkgos Khan was just one of those guys that was always working on I got to see the world in which I'm conquering, so he was working on mapping and scouting and he actually also was a man who divided for probably the first time that we can tell in clear written history, he divided his men from tens to fifties to hundreds to thousands to, you know divisions, what we still use today all the way up to battalions. He would do that. Now there was evidence of that in the Roman and other worlds, but Ginkgos Khan was so much a part of this guy who was fighting against and doing certain things that taught us how battles should be engaged.

Here's a statement from Ginkgos Khan. I'll put it on the screen for you. The merit of action lies in finishing it to the end. Ginkgos Khan is an amazing guy who says, you know what, I've learned how

to keep trying. I got to keep fighting. The problem is Ginkgos Khan was only a one principle kind of man. See, there are fifteen principles. Let me tell you a couple other things about Ginkgos Khan. If you surrendered to him, he was merciful. In fact he would unite with you, but if you didn't he would destroy you. There was one city one time where he was sieging and they were not giving way, so he took all the captured soldiers he had received from that city and forced them into the moat and let them drown and then their army marched across their bodies to get across moat. Ruthless. A man who says you got to finish it to the end is not a bad principle, except for when you're a bad man and the other principles aren't locked in. Guys we're looking at fifteen principles, not just one.

Look at the next principle, it's Principle No. 14, 13. A man does not always get it right the first time, but keeps on trying until he does. When I say fourteen or thirteen, a man does not always get it right the first time. He keeps trying until he gets it right. Guys you're not going to always get it right. You're just not. Get used to that. That's the whole perfection thing we were talking about. Here's what I want you to think through.

Number one. The journey from boyhood to manhood brings with it some significant detour, scars and mistakes in judgments. One of the things that you can't afford is to ignore your past. In order for you to get things correct, in order for you to move forward,

you need to take a look at the journey that's brought you to where you are. There is a journey and it's not without scars. It's not without damage and so I think what happens is you know that you blew it the first time. Some of you if I were to take this book right here and I were to close it and say you're life is over, then yeah, everything in the book is damaging. But what if everything from here back is done but these are all pages you can write in? What if that was the case? Well that's giving yourself a second opportunity. See I believe that God is a God of second chances. I think that a knight has a chance to rework where he's been and guys, every single one of us is messed up. Every single one of us has wounded somebody we care greatly about.

Number two. To achieve manhood, a man has to learn to pick himself up, readjust his course, and take the next step to manhood. To achieve knighthood, to get what you need to do, you're going to have to readjust. You're going to have step up. You're going to have to make this happen. I remember distinctly after my dad had stopped trusting God. My dad got caught up in a problem. It was basically this. He was trying to do the right thing in a wrong world. Now that doesn't sound like a problem. The problem was he was doing it now on his own strength because he was disconnected from God. If you can understand what that means to him, it means that he's looking for acceptance from a world that's fighting against him.

So he does the right thing in a business. His boss asks him to do something unethical and he does the right thing. I love that. It's great. It's a great example, stand alone right. The problem is he's not connected to his other principles. Like Ginkgos Khan, one principle boy. So he stands alone and the boss fires him and my father gets destroyed. It destroyed him. Back, to be honest with you, I can remember the day. I can remember everything about him. His whole demeanor changed. His whole possibility changed. He lost his view of who he was, who he could be. Why? Because he had become a principle guy. He wasn't becoming the knight he was supposed to be. He had gotten caught up in this journey that was so rough. It was a sad day as I watched my dad from that point on begin to deteriorate because he believed that his experience defined him. Guys, you have more principles than that. When you mess up, you get a second chance. Go ahead. You need to connect with every part. These are fifteen principles that go together. They are extremely important.

Look at the next part of this. Number three. A man's imperfect boyhood history enables him to reach out and graciously encourage other males towards knighthood. What you've gone through, you go through to help other guys.

Look at the next one. The major characteristics of a knight are persistence, perseverance and personhood. Persistence has to

do with past. Past actions. Perseverance has to do with future drive. Personhood has to do with the current value. When you understand those characteristics, you have to take a look at the whole. Just look it as the whole. It's a journey. The book is not closed. If you're breathing today, the book isn't closed. You get to write a new page today.

Principle No. 14. A man lives by his principles. A man lives by his principles. That means all of them. He knows what they are. These are the steel beams in your life carefully placed to make the structure which you are going to inspire others to follow, that you're going to inspire others to come under. This is where you begin to build and we would ultimately call the defense of the man. This is the defense that keeps others safe. Not you. Those who come behind you. This is what inspires people to greatness. It's when you start to live by your principles. Men who live by principles change the world. Men who live by right principles change the world for the good. You hear the difference? Men who live by principles change the world. They do. Genghis Khan changed the world as you and I know it. He conquered most of Eurasia. But the key is to get to that place where you make all the difference in the world based on it's rooted on this change. The change that says what kind of man are you makes a difference and what kind of world you make.

Number one under Principle 14. The internalization of his principles means that for the knight to go against his code or principle is to violate himself. If you go against your code, it's going to violate yourself. It's almost like you murder yourself, not commit suicide. I mean destroy you.

Look at number two. People are attracted to a stable and principled knight and will want to model him. If you want to inspire, be a man of principles.

Number three. A man studies himself and the forest and he will add new life principles. Knowing that vision will leak in your life, you will find certain things to add in that will keep you strong, keep you focused, keep you inspiring. This gives way to Principle No. 15.

Principle 15 reads this way. A man submits to authority beyond himself. I got to tell you. You can't leave these out. My dad left this one out. A man submits to a principle beyond himself. If you leave God out of the equation, if you leave something bigger than us, if I'm the principle maker, it's all about me, I will tend to be making principles rooted in my shadow. My shadow is dominate apart from God, apart from the spirit. So keep these things in mind.

Number one. The forest if filled with rules and regulations and governing influences. Understand that there are already things that already exist. There are things that already exist around us that a

knight can live within. Speed limits are great examples. There are issues that we can live within a body of governance. Knights should learn to do that, which means, gentlemen, that we are not going to do criminal action and if you've done criminal action up to this moment, that page gets closed and you move forward.

Two. A knight chooses to cooperate and follow authority figures when their suggestions are not immoral. A knight is a good worker under a boss. If he's not asking you to do something immoral and he makes us desire, you demonstrate there is greater authority than yours, because there's a greater God who is over it all, and you respond, even though it might not be the direction you would go in. If it's not immoral, you follow leadership.

Three. A knight works within the forest system to change its rules and regulations for the good of others. You and I are going to change the world but we're not going to do it illegally. We're going to do it legally. We're going to do it within the guidelines that we can do that will not damage the world around us. Now what does all this have to do with God? Where is this taking us? See, when you and I understand authority, we understand the authority bigger than us, the only way we can really be comfortable is not to judge one man versus another man. Do I trust that man more than I trust this man? Do I trust you more than I trust me? It's do I trust God? And God says, I deal with the forest. I'm the one that works it this way.

So that brings us to the fourth point. A man choosing to submit to God places himself under His authority and follows Him unconditionally, unconditionally. In a world that we know, that builds a great structure as a knight, and makes a difference, that leaves a legacy right after God, that world is going to have to have a deep soul connection to our God.

I believe all fifteen principles we just walked through when followed will inspire you to do amazing things, but in order for you to do amazing things, in order for others to be inspired and follow you, you and I will have to learn the art, the joy of being a man of principles.

So, here we are at the end of Trail No. 11. I believe it's a hinge. I believe we're turning. I believe the terrain of our life is moving and steel is coming into place that will cause you to become a man, a knight, a great inspiration. Go. Change the world around you, the forest as you know it by having principles that are centered and principles of God and principles of knighthood.

Thanks for joining me. See you next week.