

Knights of the 21st Century

Trail 18

Here we are Trail 18 guys and usually at this point in our journey with our guys at LCBC, we're right around Super Bowl time. So whenever we're around Super Bowl time, I try to show something to the guys movie-wise that's going to reflect the Super Bowl and so I found this kind of cool chicky kind of football flick called "The Blind Side" and I we showed it to them this year and as I got thinking about us being together here, I thought even though we're not, you might not be watching this around Super Bowl time, this particular movie fits extremely well with what we're talking about. The movie is basically about a guy by the name of Michael Orr who now plays for the Ravens and it's his story, it's his journey, and like all movies there's stuff that are very true in it and stuff that are not so much true. The story is a powerful story about John and LeAnn Tooey who take Michael into their house along with their daughter Collins and S.J. their son and it's kind of his journey and how he gets involved.

And I was reflecting on this particular scene. In fact, I want to you to think about this scene with me. It's a scene where Michael is walking down the road at night near the school. It's cold. He has no jacket on. They're, the Tooeys are living after some kind of performance by S.J. as an Indian Chief or something like that and

as they're leaving, LeAnn notices Michael walking past and asks who he is, this big huge guy that is, as he walks past them, and she says who is that guy and he goes, oh, that's Mikey. He's a new guy here and where's he going? They don't know and so she can't figure it out and she asks, hey Mike where you going? And goes I'm going to the gym. So they pull out and they leave and as they're leaving she says, stop the car and she said go back and they go back and there's no way he's going to the gym at night. It's the beginning of Thanksgiving break. The gym is closed. The school is closed. She gets out of the car and she says where' you going? He tells her and she goes, what's going on here. And don't you lie to me and Michael looks down. She goes, do you have any place to stay tonight and he just kind of looks down and she says, come on, come with me and so she takes him to the car and he gets in the car and Sean says to S.J., I seen this look in your mom's face before. Something's about to happen here and Michael is brought into their home. She kind of makes up a bed for him in the middle of the night. This is a guy they don't have any idea who he is, any clue about him, other than he's an awful big high school student. They leave him on the sofa throughout the night, pillows and blankets and in the morning as LeAnn's getting ready to come down, she says now I don't know whether the house is going to be robbed. I don't know what's going to go on and if you hear a scream, call the

insurance company as she goes downstairs. And when she gets there, Michael, the sofa is all, the blankets are all nice and neatly folded and there's no Michael in the house and she sees him walking down the driveway in the cold morning and she comes out and she gets him and she says, Michael, where are you going? Where are you going to spend Thanksgiving? And he says I don't know. And she says, come spend it with us. And as that scene kind of comes to the end, I realize the whole time I'm watching this scene with Michael, Michael has been so wounded in his life and is so much into the cover-up of his life, so much hiding things in his life that he doesn't want people to know that it's in essence, it's like Michael has put on something to protect himself. Bad armor. Armor that he has that's designed to keep somebody from knowing whatever the truth of Michael's story is.

I don't know about you, but I have put on bad armor in many occasions in my life. When that bad armor goes on, you can tell immediately it's not going to really protect you from something you try to protect yourself from. As a matter of fact, the problem is what you're trying to protect yourself from is just the wrong thing. It's like this. It's like you're trying to protect something inside of you that's bad, like you're hiding it from someone else. When I was struggling with pornography, when I was a kid and I would go into the drugstore near my cousin's house, because we could walk to that

drugstore, when we would go there and we would wait till nobody was looking so we could look at a Playboy magazine, I was putting on that armor. And when I would cheat in high school because I hadn't studied and I really wanted a good grade and I knew my parents would be happy and that's what made me feel like I was valuable, although I didn't do it physically, I actually took on and put on that armor to hide the shadow within me. So when I get married and I walk into girls' lives and ended up walking into Lynn's life, there's some things I've been hiding about my past, about who I am, about my struggle with pornography, about the cons that I had been running in people's lives and I don't think I knew it, at least I wouldn't have called it this, but I was putting on bad armor. Bad armor is what you and I put on to keep God away from finding out the truth about us. Now we think He probably knows it. It's what we put on to keep people away from finding the truth about us. This isn't protecting us from anything. It's trying to keep somebody out from dealing with what's destroying us from within.

Trail 17, 18 is called bad armor. Trail 18 is the one that we stop and we say, how did we get in the habit of putting on stuff to keep that want to help out like LeAnn wanting to help Michael and keep people that want to take care of us and guide us to be all that we can be like good mentors and good parents or good friends and we keep them out, but the thing that scares me the most about that

armor, that armor is actually there to protect the shadow, protect the sin, protect the things within us that are wrong, and it really is designed to keep God out. So what we're going to do is we're going to walk through and just check to see what kind of armor we've been wearing, because while most armors we talked about last trail is good armor, designed to give you time so that you can be safe so that you can rescue who you're supposed to rescue, you have that armor that has a whole other impact. So there, walk with me as we go through Trail No. 18.

As you consider this concept, this truth about armor, listen to Roman numeral one. The shadow weakens a male's core in causing him to compartmentalize himself and limit his self awareness. In order to understand bad armor, you have to understand what the shadow does. What we want to do with the shadow, what the shadow wants to do is it wants to hide something for us. What the shadow wants us to do is to compartmentalize the stuff that's bad and let it kind of permeate like yeast in a dough and grow within the whole being. That's the shadow's whole plan. So if you can protect it, it can flourish. That's what it's trying to do.

Some other couple things about the shadow just by way of review, that will help you understand what it is that bad armor is protecting. Number one. He keeps himself from recognizing and dealing with both personal and forest issues. What this is, is it

keeps you from recognizing both personal and things around you that you should be recognizing as danger but instead you're embracing them. It's almost like a distraction. It's almost like if I was in a military movement and I demonstrated over here with an army, so I'm watching over here while the rest of the army is sneaking around behind me, that's what's going on with the shadow. When we put on bad armor in essence, here's what you're allowing it to be doing. We're allowing it to distract us. There it is, coming right at us. We're distracting, we're buying it while the whole time we know that damage is coming in the back. The weird part about the shadow is even though we know it destroys, even though we know it hurts things and we know it hurts people, we somehow let it exist. In fact, we go one step further. We protect it with that armor.

Look at number two. He ignores feedback which slows his growth, learning and ability to change. One of the things that you and I have to understand is that when feedback seems to pop up a lot when we talk around about here. Every once in awhile I realize there's certain words that Roy absolutely loves. I don't know whether it has something to do with being a psychologist or something to do about background, but the word feedback, I'll bet you if you go through all the trails, you're going to find the word feedback about seven or eight times. Now I'm not necessarily a big feedback boy. I'm like a full speed head guy, let's go do it. We'll

figure it out as we go. So it's taken me awhile for a couple years of relationship with Roy to realize how extremely important feedback is. Let me show what that means with regard to the shadow and bad armor. I want you to think about somebody that you've hurt, somebody that you have wounded. Not somebody that's wounded you, somebody that you've wounded. Somebody that you've hurt. Just think about it. You don't have to say the name out loud. You don't have to go and point to somebody in the room. Just, I want you to think about somebody you've hurt. Now in order for you to know you hurt them, one of two things took place. Either you did some reflection or they told you, or somebody is identified. Right? You either stopped and reflected or somebody told you. This shadow loves the fact that you hurt somebody. The shadow doesn't want you to think about it so when you put on armor against God convicting about people sharing, about you reflecting to think through what's going on, when you put on bad armor, you know what you do? You let the shadow dominate and that person goes on being wounded, never being dealt with by who we are.

Look at number three. He becomes fearful, developing prejudices regarding those who are different from him. He becomes very, very fearful. See, what happens is I start to live like everybody's against me when I begin to realize that I'm protecting myself from God, from those who want to help. In the scene with

Michael as he's walking down the road and he's just kind of shivering away there, and they ask if he has a place to stay and he lies and says, yeah, I have the gym, and I guess probably he is going to stay in the gym. Maybe it isn't an overwhelmingly lie, but really he has no place to stay, if he could even get in there. As he's shivering there, it's because he's fearful. It really is. He's fearful that he's going to be found out that he has no place to live. He's fearful that he's going to be found out, that he's been rejected enough in his life or his failure of his mom, failure of males in his life, have been so significant that he's fearful that if he's found out, he'll be kicked out. He fearful if he's found out, he'll be moved yet another time. Guys, everything about the shadow is driving fear, this worrying about things that may or may not take place, driven that will just kind of permeate your thought pattern all the time and you and I believe it or not, put bad armor around us to protect us from thinking that way.

Number four takes us to another level. Here's where number four goes. He thinks he already knows what others are thinking and therefore stops listening. He thinks he knows what others are thinking and therefore he ends up stopping listening. This is sort of like a fantasy that we develop. While we're protecting this shadow, we develop this fantasy inside of us about what we think the real

world is. Understand, the shadow is a liar, so you buy into the fantasy, you start to destroy.

Number five, consider this one. He isolates himself from much needed support system. He isolates himself. That's what we do. Now understand everything about bad armor, in fact everything about armor is to get something safe, the core inside of you safe, right? So as you move toward bad armor, here's what takes place. We get caught up in this idea, this concept of I'm all alone. Bad armor is this thing that causes me to move away from what is safe into that which is isolated. If you're going to ever get picked off at battle, if a warrior is every going to not fulfill what he's designed to fulfill, it's going to happen at this place. You and I when we are alone, are the easiest to get picked up. Whether you watch that in the animal kingdom or whether you watch that in the world of military, alone is bad and with the enemy, who is trying to destroy you safely and with that shadow deep inside of you, it's trying to get you alone. So when you armor it, guess what you do? You get this false sense. Now look at the armor behind me. That armor isn't going to protect anything. It's rusted. It's beat up. It's even hard to move and yet we get this false sense that I'm okay. That's what the shadow is driving us to do, so when you understand that, you say now why in the world would I armor myself? To protect that. I think sometimes because we've gone through enough in our life, enough

experiences and we're actually going to talk about this for the next four weeks, enough experiences that cause us to say, maybe I'm safer just with me. No you're actually safer with God taking your life and moving it to where it's designed to be and fulfilling you, but we put on armor against Him.

Look at the next one. Number six. He becomes insensitive and stops hearing the needs of others. He becomes insensitive and stops hearing the needs of others. Obviously you know where this is going to go right? We're not going to be otherly. A knight is designed to be otherly. A warrior is designed to be otherly. He's protecting people. Not you. You're self protecting. Now self protecting is very healthy when we talked about it the other day when we said in Trail 17 get on good armor, to give yourself time to protect others. This is not that. This is putting on bad armor so you can live always in self protection. I'll be honest with you, every spandex male has some type of armor on and it's this. It's bad armor. It's the stuff that just is self protecting and not aware of the needs of others.

Number seven. He devalues people and uses them. He devalues people and uses them. You can see where this is going, right? If I'm going to let the shadow dominate what the shadow wants me to do, I start doing. If the shadow wants to destroy, if the shadow uses, I will use. That's the way it works. Consider what

happens as we get this thing building. You see it's building to a momentum point. You're protecting the wrong thing, guys. I have to be honest with you, I spent much of my life in bad armor. I mean way after I met Christ when I was fifteen, when my spirit came alive, I still kept on putting bad armor on. And there are days when I'm very tired. There are days when I'm just a little on edge. There's days when my anger seems to be rising. There's days when I feel like injustices happen and I slip back into that bad armor and I start protecting the things that will destroy me and others.

That's why number eight is so important. He hides his hurts and ignores his needs for healing. He hides his hurts and ignores his needs for healing. What happens to me when I start doing this guys, when I get to this kind of attitude, then I start not dealing with anything. It's almost like this, I know I have a fatal illness, but I'll just ignore it and hope it goes away. I know that my marriage is in trouble, but I'll ignore it and hope it goes away. I know I am overspending my credit limit, but I'll just ignore it and hope it goes away. I know but I'll stick my head in the sand and ignore what's going on around me. That's what the shadow is driving us to do. Bad armor is protecting that.

Number nine. He desires to sin, ignoring any potential consequences so that temporary pleasure can be pursued. He's going to not sweat the consequences. Now guys, bad armor

protecting a bad thing from a good God will have consequences. I'll repeat that. Bad armor protecting a bad thing from a good God will have consequences. Basically it means this. I will do things that I will regret. Everything I've done in my life, now you have to hear this word because everything is a word I don't use very often anymore. Everything that I've done that has been protected by bad armor I regret. Everything, because everything I did had consequences, in my own personal life, in the lives of those I loved around me, in the forest at heart. It had an impact. Those behind me became vulnerable. Those in front of me got shot in the back. I mean there was so many things that happened when I had bad armor on guys. You and I need to take a look at this old crusty armor behind me and say I don't want that. I don't want that involved in my life because if you remove that armor and you stop protecting that which is destructive, things will change.

There's one more point you need to understand before we're going to take a pretty cool test together. Number ten say this. He tries to block God's call to service which brings significance to his life. He tries to block that which he's designed to do which is going to bring great life significance for him. Here's basically this. Remember we have an X. That X is the inner voice of our lives that God is calling us to. God is on the X calling us to Him, right? And that's where fulfillment is. That's where fullness is. Bad armor

blocks all of that. You will spend your life unfulfilled. So if you find yourself right now extremely unfulfilled in your life, I'm going to submit to you that you're living in bad armor. You are protecting the very thing that is destroying you. Because I value you and because I've watched the impact of what happens in my own life and in other men's lives when they protect the wrong thing, I'm going to give you a test in a few minutes to see if you have bad armor around. And that test is just between you and God. It's just between you all alone. It's not something I'm going to ask you to show anybody or do anything with. I'm not even going to ask you necessarily to share your answers in the campfire. You may or may not. That's your choice. But I am going to ask you to take a test. Now in order to take the test, I want you to think about the Knightly News guide that's in front of you. In the book, there's this name Zophar. Zophar is actually a guy that if you try to find him in the Bible, it will be pretty hard because he's only mentioned in two chapters, in the Book of Job and the Book of Job is about a man by the name of Job. A man by the name of Job who Satan goes to God and says, you got a good guy over here, but he wouldn't be so good if you didn't protect him with your armor. You see Job was making great armor choices and he was the kind of man that dwells in the presence of God. So Satan comes and says, if I can just get that armor off of him, I'd show you what kind of man he was. God goes, he's that kind

of man inside his core. So here, go ahead and Satan took shot after shot after shot and the shots were pretty horrible at Job. In the middle of one of the shots, Zophar walks up to him and says, this must be Job because you've done something wrong. You've done something sinful. You must have bad armor. There's only, no other possible explanation and Job says, I don't know what I've done. I might have, but as far as I know everything I've done I've confessed before God. I can't think of anything that I've done that's brought this on. Later on in the Book of Job, so far we'll come back to him again. Job has a bunch of friends that are trying to console him. They don't know about this meeting that took place between God and Satan. They're just observing what's around them and they keep coming to the conclusion that bad things only happen when you do bad things. I got to be honest with you guys. Bad things happen more often when you try to do the right than when you try to do the wrong. Now you will cause bad things all the time when you try to do the wrong, when you protect the shadow. But I'll tell you bad things happening to you. The more you move towards your X, the greater the forest will fight against you. The more you move towards your inner voice, the greater your battle is going to be. Well here's Job and Zophar is speaking into his life and he keeps saying, bad armor, bad armor, bad armor. The only reason you can be here is you've been protecting sin in your life that so far is wrong. You

know how you know the difference between a man who has bad armor or good armor? You take the kind of test that we're going to look at right now.

Let's take a look at the test. It's just going to be several questions. And you're going to write yes, no, maybe. Alright. So you'll either put a Y, you'll put an N or you'll put an M. Yes, this is true of me. No it's not true of me. Maybe it's true of me. I'm not sure or I'm changing. It used to be, it's not, you know. So I'd rather you not use maybe, but I know the way we are as guys. Yes or no, we're not always that black and white. So from time to time in one of the questions I'm going to ask you, one of the statements I'm going to ask you to evaluate, you're going to put a yes, you might put a maybe on it, alright. Yes, no, maybe. Here we go. Take your workbooks.

Roman numeral two. The male uses his armor in an unhealthy manner to inhibit God's attempts at guidance. The male is going to use this armor in a healthy way to keep God out from guiding him. Now here's what I want to make sure you understand. Bad armor, the armor behind me is different than the armor I had next to me last week. The armor last week was good armor. This armor is bad. Good armor gives me time, protects the core while the core gets time to be strong to do what it needs to do to become the knight we're supposed to be. Bad armor is that armor that I put on against

God. Now it will also be against those around you who are trying to help you. It will also be against yourself. But really the biggest issue of bad armor is I've in essence said the enemy is God. He's trying to stop the shadow from being dominated in me. I'm going to fight against that. So here's how you find out whether that's true or not. We're going to walk through these things. It will be about fifteen questions or fifteen statements that you and I will evaluate. Here's the first one.

Number one. He numbs himself with drugs and/or alcohol. If you numb yourself with drugs or alcohol as a way of life, you're numbing something. Numbing means you have this pain you're kind of trying to cover over. Remember bad armor covers that which is destructive. If you numb yourself from time to time, more regularly with drugs or alcohol, if that's part of your current pattern of certainly within your recent days pattern, you're going to put a yes or you're going to put a no. Maybe on that one is pretty tricky. Pretty hard to write a maybe on that one. You either are or you're not. Yes or no.

Number two, he rationalizes his behavior without good reason. He rationalizes his behavior. Do you find yourself giving excuses for why you do what you do? So when you do something that isn't proper and you give an excuse for it. It's not their fault. My reason for doing it is this. Whatever. If you're doing that, you put a yes.

Put a no if you're not. Put a maybe if you know what, yeah, maybe I do. I'm not sure. Like some of it, see where we're going? Right?

Number three. He gets angry and yells at people and objects. He gets angry and yells at people and objects. Now I probably need to let you know that I am a person that every once in awhile I explode at objects. I'm going to confess to you this is like a really embarrassing thing. I'm forever turning off lights in our house. My sons feel it's their obligation to keep our house completely lit as if it's the daylight time so every room in the house has lights on no matter where they go, no matter how hard I work. They're forever turning on lights. So I'm forever turning them off. One night I was the last one to get into bed. I had just gone to the laundry room to get some food for our dog. I was filling the dog's dish and as I'm coming out, I'm turning off lights. Now I've already turned off every other light in the house on my way to the laundry room, so now I just turned off the last light. I'm in complete darkness and somewhere between the time I walked past the kitchen and reentered it, the kitchen chair decided to move itself. And it moved itself to a location that my now bare feet, because I was on the way to bed, would be available and my toe right next to my baby toe collided with the chair. I exploded. I explained to the chair that it should spend the rest of its eternity in hell. I said damn you chair, I just go, go crazy on the chair. And the chair is going, wow, wow so sorry, right? And

then I grabbed it and set it in its right spot, slamming it down as if I'll teach you. It's a chair. So needless to say when it comes to armor protecting stupid things in my life like that, I got a yes on this one. You find yourself exploding and yelling at objects and people. If so, you're going to put a yes on this. If not, put no.

Look at the next one. He puts stress, number four, on his body by not dealing with the issues at hand. He puts stress on his body by not dealing with things. In other words there's a pressure that you're under but you're not dealing with it. That just kind of, we've been talking about that. So do you find yourself not dealing with things you should be dealing with. You're putting it off. Are you the kind of person that on April 15th, you just go, hey wait a minute. I should probably do my taxes. Well then you're putting yourself under a lot of stress, a lot of pressure, so in every area of your life. What are you doing with that? Are you always delaying, whatever? Yes, no, maybe.

Look at number five. He overemphasizes the sexual world. Real or fantasize which allows him to cover up his sense of inadequacy. He's going, you and I are going to emphasize this sexual world that we're involved which is really a cover up thing. Now whether or not you think your involvement with emphasizing sexuality is a cover up or not for your inadequacy, and it is, whether or not you believe this, do you over emphasize this? This has been

one that I would have said yes to a long time ago. I don't say yes to it anymore. I don't even have a maybe here. This is one that's sort of been changing as I've understood knighthood clearer and clearer. If we would go back to sex and the kryptonite of a man, of every knight, we understand that we can deal with this thing very, very differently. How are you doing with sexuality? Are you having trouble with the internet? Are you having trouble looking at women when they walk by and undressing them mentally? How are you doing in your struggle with same sex relationships? How are you doing in your struggles with whatever it is you're struggling with? How are you in that process? Yes, no, maybe.

Look at number six. He medicates using food. He medicates using food. Alright, now right about now, I'm going this is the stupidest test I've ever taken. That's a dumb question. No I don't medicate using food. I just eat when I'm feeling sad, tired, damned. By the way, I will struggle the most with eating when I'm tired, when I've had a long day and I say I deserve. I deserve, it's always funny. It's peanut butter. My mom when I came home from school, I always got peanut butter crackers. She was a great mom, started this whole journey in my life. It's not her fault. It's mine, but I come home and I go aw, peanut butter. I mean think about it. It's nuts. That has to be healthy. Um, and it's and it's nuts and it must be healthy and so, you know, yeah, I medicate with food. It's a yes.

That's armor put on to protect something that is not healthy. It's destructive. So do you medicate with food?

Number seven. He uses entertainment, especially sports to escape internal and external messages. So we talk about a variety of things with escape. Remember, you got to pick this up. A lot of things about bad armor is protecting you from things you want to not deal with. You want to escape from it. Okay, bad armor. So if you think that through, how does sports affect that? Yes or no.

Next one. He overworks giving himself the sense of false affirmation. He overworks giving himself a sense of just whatever it is, false stuff that makes you feel better than you are. I tend to overwork. There are weeks when I'm working sixty, seventy hours per week and I've changed a lot in this area. This has been an area that I'm changing in. This is actually my only maybe. A yes I tend to do that. I used to tend to do it so much more that it's, this gets am M for me. Um, but overworking is when you're so, guys you're thinking its noble. The problem is when you're overworking, you're draining you, the core of who you are and you're pulling yourself away from people that are valuable. So it's almost like I'm protecting something that I shouldn't be protecting. It's bad armor protecting me by thinking some way or another if I just work enough, that I'll be affirmed. Somewhere if I work enough, my dad will finally like me. Somewhere if I work enough, my boss will finally like me.

Somewhere if I work enough, I will make enough money so somebody will start liking me. Be very careful on this one. Alright, that's the shadow giving you a lie.

Look at the next one. The next one says, number nine. He uses his intellect for detailed memorization or trivial knowledge in order to avoid more personally challenging insight. He's going to in other words use your intellect, you'll kind of grow and this will be what will cause you to feel better about you and it's just becoming the trivia king. Now this is so far for me. This has never been a yes. The, soon as the word intellect goes into this, I went yeah, this is not about me. That's not what I do. That's not the way I am. But for some of you guys, you are on your twenty-seventh degree, for some of you guys, you are the trivia of sports hero. Some of you people when you go to the sports bar or the regular bar, when you get involved in those trivia games, you are ticking each time. Nothing wrong with knowledge. It's what you're trying to get from that knowledge. Are you protecting that which makes you feel like you're something because of what you know and not what, you are not something because of what you know. Your core has six parts, six. So you just don't, it's a matter of knowledge, alright.

Look at the next one, number ten. He uses fantasy as a substitute for real life effort. He uses fantasy as a substitute for real life effort. When I was a kid growing up in church, I hated

church when I was a kid. The church I'm part of right now, LCBC, I love what we do. We use all kinds of technological stuff and drama and our music is amazing and I just love our experience. It's probably the coolest thing. My children loved it from when they were in their early ages. In fact in our church at every level we are meeting kids and students and adults where they're at. It's kind of a cool journey. But when I grew up going to church, it was one of the most boring places in the world. I'm not a great athlete but in my fantasy mind I am one of the best hockey goalies in the history of hockey goalies. And I remember as a kid sitting in church just envisioning, because we would play street hockey a lot and I loved being a goalie and I would envision one save after another after another. Now I didn't fulfill them later on. I tried but I had this vision. It's a fantasy. Now guys, there's the bad armor protects you from reality. That's what it's trying to do. So be careful of this whole fantasy world.

Look at the next one. Eleven. He projects his struggles onto others. That is really going to the blame game. He projects his struggles onto others. It's where you and I begin to blame others for what goes on. It's that opportunity where we say it must be their fault that this happened. It must be their fault that this decision has been made. Now understand that's pushing people away as you let that which is bad develop inside of you. Because if you don't take

responsibility for you, you don't end up at the bottom of your dog tag says, a knight is the sum total of his choices. The choice comes from him walking through the core making decisions. We sit there and say, no it's your fault. It's not my fault. I'm not responsible. Yes you are. So if your armor is protecting that which caused you to blame others then you're going to get into trouble, right?

Watch the next one. The next one says this. He blames, number twelve, others for his lack of responsibility. If I'm blaming others for my struggles, I'm putting it on them, then the next thing I do is I say, okay, I would be more responsible if it wasn't for my mom. I'd be more responsible if it wasn't for my boss. My boss is a micromanager. Be very, very careful about transferring responsibility. It's on you. It's not on somebody else.

Look at number thirteen. He feels inadequate and acts needy around others. He feels inadequate and acts needs around others. I have a friend of mine who when he gets hurt, he whines. Now we're talking a friend of mine, you've been living for a little while. This is not like an eight year old. It isn't like a four year old. This is an adult male and he whines. He gets pouty and he whines and, and I will tell you that that reminded me of me years ago. I used to do that all the time. There is nothing less appealing to the world, less appealing to a woman than a whiny man. It's just ugly. It's just ugly. Do you find yourself doing that? Do you find yourself getting

involved in that particular area of your life where just sort of whining behavior, pouting. Look at me, look at me, look at me, look at me. It's all about how unfair it is for me. When you do that man, you're putting on the wrong kind of armor.

Look at the next one. He parties continually to avoid dealing with his lack of success. He parties continually. In other words, he parties to be just about anything you want it to be. He parties continuously to deal with his lack of success. If you find yourself - now understand, there's two parts to this. There's why I do what I do, what I'm doing and why I do it. What I'm doing is partying. Why I do it is because I don't feel successful any other way, so let's not deal with it. Most guys in our culture right now as I told you fraternities seem to go on not just from college age, eighteen to twenty-two, but in this generation up through thirty and beyond, it's like a perpetual kind of fraternity. And as a result of that, during, in that generation, in that age group women are out making more money, more education, better jobs, by literally very measurable percentages from her male counterpart. It's not a shot at women. I'm excited about their growth, success. I get, it's a shot at men. They just sit there and go I'm partying to cover up my lack of success.

The last one. He develops compulsive behaviors, fifteen, or reactions which allow him to avoid the internal weaknesses he really

feels. He develops certain behaviors, certain things that allow him to cover up. They're compulsive things. You're always straightening up. You're always cleaning your car. You're always doing certain things that somehow or another gives you this false bravado.

Everything about the shadow is about what is false. Alright.

Here's what I want you to do. I want you to score yourself. You should have yes, no, yes, no, yes, no, maybe, whatever. I want you to score yourself. If you add up all your yeses and this is not going to take you very long, so take a second, just go through. Alright so you would note how many yeses you have, how many nos you have at this point and what maybes you have. Um, I want to ask you to do this. Slide the maybes in with the yeses, just slide them in with the yeses, because a maybe means that sometimes you do. Um you might want to pull them apart later on but right now for the sake of being, put the maybes in with the yeses. Alright. Every yes, every maybe sort of means I am protecting that which is destructive. Every no means I'm not. If you have less than five yeses and maybes, so five or less, basically I can tell you that you probably are living in good armor far more than you're living in bad armor. If you have between ten, you have ten or less, between ten and six yeses or maybes, I will tell you that you are protecting the shadow. What you're doing right now is you're protecting that which is destructive for yourself. You're protecting that which you are

leaning on that is destroying you. And if you have from fifteen to eleven yeses and nos, I will tell you that not only are you protecting the shadow, you are protecting yourself from God. You're protecting yourself from God. Now what do we do with that? How do we handle that? Well you got to be honest.

A warrior from history that you know the name immediately. He's a French warrior. His name is Napoleon Bonaparte, lived between the 17th and 18th Century. It was interesting. He ran a coupe when he was thirty years old, became the Emperor from that coupe five years later. Was ruthless in his battle techniques. He conquered so much of the world, fought in everywhere. In fact his army will end up getting in trouble, his waterloo will occur when he attacks Russia and goes too far and then within a short period of time his army will be demoralized. He'll end up in prison in a British prison, how he'll spend out the rest of his life. Napoleon Bonaparte was an interesting warrior. He was an interesting warrior because I believe he protected his shadow. I believe he fought with armor against God. I believe that he was constantly elevated who he was in a very damaging and destructive way. Now he has a quote that tells you why I believe that. Here's his quote from Napoleon Bonaparte. "Men are more easily governed through their vices than through their virtues." Men are more easily governed through their vices than through their virtues. Guys, that's actually a true

statement. It is easier to govern a man who is weak, who is protecting the wrong thing, who is easily swayed. It's very hard to govern a knight because a knight is to a higher calling, right? Bonaparte knew that if he could let his men live in their shadow, he could control them better than if they lived in their knighthood. Now to be honest with you, great generals have learned the opposite ultimately, but in his life, in his direction, that's the way he went. Learn from him. What are you guarding? Bad armor.

Now let's give you a couple things that will help you get through this. The knight, Roman numeral three, uses his armor for good and diligently evaluates himself for the misuse of it. What I think a knight's going to do is say, I have to understand that I have good armor available and I have to vigilantly evaluate myself. Every once in awhile, I can tell that Roy wrote something because I am so dyslexic when I read it, I go, man one's that's valiant, vigilant. It's one of those things and I get caught up in these sometimes, and it's really interesting because at a certain point I can immediately put on bad armor and protect this area of my life that man, I just, I can't remember. I'm the _____ guy, right? I'm a guy who strives after what I've been designed to do, as I've been designed to do it. And I want to grow in that area. I want to become but I think sometimes we have to evaluate. We have to stop and evaluate who we are, what armor we're using. And you know what's interest, to

resist armor when you feel like it's the safer thing to do even though it's going to protect that which is destructive for you, is a hard thing to do. You have to resist bad armor. Here's how you do it.

Number one. He must be courageous and get to know the deepest truths about himself. He must be courageous and get to know the deepest truths about himself. Don't be afraid to go deep inside yourself and find out who you are. Be courageous. It's very, very powerful. So when you put on good armor, put on good armor to give yourself time to discover who you are because the choices you make from your core make all the difference.

Number two. He holds himself to a high standard that demands acting with internal strength. He holds himself to a high standard that demands acting with internal strength. You're going to expect yourself not to dominate, be dominated by the shadow. When you look at the core, you're going to let your spirit beat the shadow. You're going to understand that you can be so much more than what you've been protecting. You protect the shadow. So you're going to begin to move that way. It's a very courageous act, very strong act.

Number three. He applies his armor appropriately, aware that pressures can cause him to use it in unhealthy spandex male ways that are within him. You're going to use this armor appropriately. We have good armor. We're going to take it and put on that good

armor in an appropriate way. So you place your good armor on you. You don't put on bad armor. Bad armor protects that which is destroying you. Good armor gives you time so you can not only survive but make a difference for those behind you.

Look at the last one. He knows that the proper use of armor is a skill that will help him fulfill his calling. The proper use of armor is a skill that will help him fulfill his calling. What that means is that as we move over to, and I think it's so powerful, if we move towards what we're designed, our inner voice, the calling of God, your good armor will get you there. Bad armor, however, will keep you wandering about searching for the X, missing the call.

In "Blind Side" before we get to the end of the movie, but in this kind of pivotal part, obviously Michael Orr is this huge guy. He's just big. They think he should play football and he actually wants to play football but he has to learn how. Because there's a problem Michael Orr has. You know what his problem is? He really is just a nice guy so he doesn't over block. He under blocks. He doesn't do all that he could do as a left tackle and so he's a disappointment to everybody. He's this huge guy not turning out to be the football player he wants and one day at a practice, LeAnn Tooley comes in and takes over. Think about this scene as you watch her engage. Suddenly you'll watch as Michael fails time and time again and Burt the coach is so frustrated, shaking him and

saying, come on, you got to – you hold here. You don't hold out here or you're going to get penalized for this. You can't grab a horse car and pull the guy down and here's what you need to do. So LeAnn walks across the field, taps Burt on the butt and says, you'll thank me for this later. Walks back out on the field and goes to Michael, says Michael, remember how when I was in trouble on a street somewhere that you and I were walking in and it was a dangerous place and you had my back and you had told me to stay close to you and nothing would happen to me. Remember that? Yep. Michael, see this guy right here. He's your quarterback. He's me. You protect him like you protect me. And she walks over and she grabs this halfback and she pulls him by the face mask and she says ump a lumpa right here, this guy is your running back. He's SJ. Remember in the car accident, you stuck your arm out to protect SJ from the airbag? Yeah. He's SJ. You protect him. She goes, see all these guys on this team, they're your family. You protect them. He goes well what about Mr. Tooey and Collins. Yeah they're on the team too. You protect them all. You got it. You going to protect the family? Yeah Michael, okay, go have fun. And she walks off the field and as she walking off the field and all the guys are watching her walk off the field, she says to Burt the coach, hey Burt, you need to get to know your players. All of his life men have failed him. He doesn't get excited about somebody getting into his face.

He gets excited about protective instincts. He scored very high in that area. The next thing you know Michael becomes this amazing star as a football player and ends up in the NFL.

Guys, I think sometimes we have to stop and realize that bad armor has caused us to miss who we are. So when you walk through that, you think about that scene, here's the way you want to end it. Here's the way you really want to think about it. You got to get to know about really protects a man. You got to get to know what really makes him come alive. Inside good armor you'll find it out, inside of bad armor you'll be destroying yourself and others. So, let's choose good armor, not bad armor. See you next week.