

Knights of the 21st Century

Trail 24

Gentlemen way to go. Trail 24. Over these last twenty-four weeks, you've done some amazing things. You put on your armor. You understood where your chain mail is. You have your core intact. You turned in your knighthood plan. You are ready to graduate. You found your personal X. You know where you're supposed to be heading. You felt the call of God. All of those things come together right here because you know that you're in a war and in every war there are battles, and in every battle there are battle maps. Those maps are from a perspective greater than the warriors. Those maps are the generals. Those maps are the ones given by the ones that have seen the whole picture. Somewhere on every battle map, on some battle map somewhere your X is. Somewhere where you are designed to go will fit something bigger than us.

For the next few minutes together, we're going to start to talk about strategies in our life that are going to help us understand where we fit in a much bigger picture, not just globally, cosmically from God where He is looking at the battles. You see there are battles everywhere guys. There are battles because we're at war. We're at war with the world that cursed the forest that fights against us an enemy that's trying to destroy us and shadows that are rotting

us from within and destroying that which is important. We are at war guys. Now up until now I've been building you and me into sort of personal fighting units. That we would be warriors, the clarity of the knight would be the kind of guy that's going to move forward and accomplish what we're designed to do. That's what we've been working on and way to go. With your knighthood plan put in, with you saying, okay, here's where I am. Now I want to expand something.

Remember how we talked about when you had an inner voice and you were called to an X? Well you also have this inner voice that is called to an X because there's a god calling you to the X. He is seeing something bigger than you because He's meeting you at the X. Guys on this battle map, maybe your X would have been, if you lived back then during that particular battle. Maybe there's another battle map that you can't see yet that your X is on that what you're called to do, what you're designed to do fits something bigger.

For a few minutes I want you to start thinking about this. I want you to start thinking about what's the bigger thing in my life. What's the bigger longing of my life? What is it that I desire in my life? Tell me about it guys. I will tell you that there's some things for me that are bigger than me that are going on. What we're doing right now is bigger than me. The movement of the Knights of the 21st

Century is it can't be done by me. There's a team of guys who are creating what you're experiencing right now. It's bigger than me. It's bigger than all of us. It actually starts to become I'm a player and something bigger and guess who knows what that battle plan is? Guess who knows?

Trail 24 we call battle plan because what we're going to do is we're going to get in touch with God and see what he's seeing and get the bigger picture. Now how are you going to do that? You have to find out, what are you part of or what are you being called to that's bigger than just your X that your X will impact but it's bigger than you can imagine. Tell me the longing of your heart that is more noble than you actually feel you're able to dream. Dream beyond your wildest dream, not for a retirement house in the Hamptons somewhere, not so you can live off your existence in a rocking chair but you can go out with guns blazing. You can go out as a warrior as you were designed to go out and accomplish things way beyond what you thought you were able to accomplish, not in your strength but being part of a bigger movement of guys. Where did that fit?

For me there are two areas. As we've been walking through this, we've been walking through these areas in some ways that I think sometimes maybe you've been getting a glimpse. Let me give you mine to. Now it can be more than that. These are just the two that really call me. Number one, I've always wanted to communicate

you know and now it's become to communicate to men. That is so much a part of what I am and the movement of Knights of the 21st Century moves right into that. The other is I have a tremendous desire to see people, meet my Savior Jesus Christ and get their spirits alive. Both the Knights of the 21st Century and the church that I'm part of, LCBC is part of that. Knights of the 21st Century started as a small movement of guys, a couple hundred guys and now it's growing to what you're experiencing now. LCBC did the same way. First time I ever came in contact with LCBC, the church I'm part of, it was about two hundred fifty people. Less than twenty years ago. We're now well over ten thousand people, growing dramatically, all because it's part of a larger movement of connecting people's hearts to Christ. Now when those two things come together in my life, I go wow. I'm part of something bigger. I can't possibly do either of those things. In fact I don't lead either of them. David Ashcraft leads our church at LCBC, amazing visionary. One of the best visionaries I've ever met and Roy Smith who has written the Knights of the 21st Century material that I have the opportunity to create and present to you, that stuff that he's done is part of a much larger vision. He is not only a visionary, but while David has a passion for people that need to come to know Christ, Roy has this passion for people at every level of especially the hurting and wounded people to move them forward and those two

passions kind of come together on a much bigger level. I'm part of something bigger than me, but actually to be honest with you, those two guys I just mentioned are part of something bigger than them. They are also part of a battle plan. The map you see behind me, the map that's there. You need to understand there are maps like that throughout history and there are maps like that right now where the battles are raging that God's calling you to.

Here's what I want you to do. I want you to actually just for ten seconds, fifteen second max, I want you to think what is it that you could be part of that's bigger than you, greater than you, more noble than you. It will involve helping people. It will involve making a difference in life. It might be spiritual. It might not be. I don't know where you're at. I don't know what your journey is but it will have something to do where you go, wow, there's something I would like to be part of that makes all the difference. It might be meeting a needy person's desire. It might be caring for somebody that nobody else cares for. It might be leading the upper crust of people to a higher level of thinking so they become more noble. I don't know what it is. I want you just for fifteen seconds to do that. So right now, fifteen seconds, dream bigger than you X. Dream bigger than who you've been to this point in your life starting to connect with the battle maps of God. Fifteen seconds.

That's actually very courageous what you just did, just to spend these few minutes in silence thinking beyond anything that you have been to this moment. That's awesome. I actually have a statement that's on my office wall that is my statement that I would have created in those fifteen seconds. It's not important to bore you with my statement, but it's there on a number of places in my life. These are the things that I know that if I'm ever, this is going to happen, it's going to be a movement way beyond anything I could ever be part of. Will I arrive there? You know what, it doesn't really, really matter because it's not my battle, right. It's what God's doing in the world. I'm just an X on it. I'm just a spot on the map. My X might combine with your X and together we create something. I know in my life that's happened time and time again. From even as simple as the production that you're experiencing right now, had a group of people come together to pull that off to where we get to the place in our lives where we don't even orchestrate and organize it. We just run into it, sort of experience it. All of a sudden everybody else shows up at the same place, same time because one person suggested that everybody so that, you know. This is movement bigger than God.

Now, there's some strategy involved in this. There's some strategy that you're going to have to know to keep your focus on a

much bigger, broader level than how you think. So let's walk through that strategy together.

Here's some helpful thoughts and strategies that are part of a warrior's arsenal. These will help you by the way. These strategies are going to help you guys. As you write down the word strategy, know that, I want you to think about your X. I want you to think about your battle map that's bigger. I want you to think the targets that you're aiming to, but let's say that you get really good and you hit the dartboard of your life. You hit the X. You go to right where God's calling you to go. May I tell you that when you get there, you're going to immediately see something much bigger than the target, much bigger than the dartboard, much bigger than the X. You see I don't think it ends at the X guys. So the strategies we want to put in place will help you get to your X so you don't miss what you're designed to do, but I think when you arrive at your X, you're going to see something so much bigger. So here's what you have to take a look at. Couple strategy points.

Number one, any behavior that is helpful to the achievement of a goal on a particular occasion may not necessarily be helpful in achieving another goal at another time. You need to understand what's been affected up until that point. Now that very long Roy sentence needs to be understood as basically this. There are ruts that you and I get into and just because we were in this rut and it

worked last time does not necessarily mean it's going to work this time. Guys, you need to be willing in your strategy to start to look for new alternatives because guys, it's bigger than us. You start to head towards your X and you get bumped off course. You might have to find another way in.

Number two. Any plan that is chosen has two benefits. It leads to the goal and provides feedback. Anything you and I do as moving forward in our plan is going to lead to two different wings. One, it's moving towards the X. Now let's say as you go to move towards the X you get hit and you get knocked off course. The battle was bigger than you thought it was. You didn't see that one coming. In fact, what hit you had nothing to do with where you were going. It just knocked you off. That's feedback. That feedback will give you some insight. Feedback, goal. Feedback, goal. That's why you turned in a knighthood plan. It was to help you think in terms of where your target on your X. Remember though, when you arrive at the X there's a bigger battle map. You're just one dot on the overall plan. You're not being used. One of the most exciting things about you understand your knighthood, you're not being used. You're making a difference. Being used you feel like, what good is it? Making a difference means there's every good. It's worth everything.

Look at number three. Positive strategy involves making a choice between several behavior options. Several different options

that are involved in our life. You have that opportunity in any strategy. If you're going to look at what kind of actions you're going to take that are different this time than last time. This one might be very cerebral. It might be very emotional. This one might be just almost reactionary. You have to almost let your quick instincts and genetics just kind of take over. Maybe this one all it means is you sit down and you reflect for a few minutes. Keep understanding that your strategies will alter. Your strategies are going to move a little bit. Why are you having strategies? Because what you're trying to do is hit your X. Why are you trying to hit your X? Because as you do you join God in the bigger battle map, the bigger battle plan that's before us.

Next one to consider is this. A positive strategy often involves a delay of gratification. A positive strategy often involves a delay of gratification. So often in our life I think that we do something that we don't see the outcome of. A great example of that right now is my son going through chemotherapy. Chemotherapy in some form or another is killing something by its very nature. Hopefully the cancer if there are any cancer cells left in Caleb. I know the tumor has been removed but if there are any cancer cells left, hopefully that's what it's doing. Now the problem is that it looks like, it feels like he's just getting sicker. It looks like and feels like what should be coming from this, the benefit feels like it's not happening. Guys, sometimes

it doesn't feel good to do what we're doing. Sometimes gratification gets delayed. In fact, sometimes this side of eternity you never know.

Let's say, I have, one of my sons is struggling right now in his walk with God and as a result of that his core is a little messed up. Amazing guy. One of my favorite people on earth but he's struggling through something. Let's say right now I fall over dead and I never see him become all that I long for him to become. The desire of my heart as I'm moving doesn't happen in my lifetime. It doesn't mean it won't happen. It just means that I might have missed them. And you know what, I think sometimes we have to be confident in our strategy to say, you know what, if I never make the X, I'm okay with that. If life gets cut short, I'm okay, I'm sort of planning for in essence but get there, but I'm also planning to cover it if I don't. That's part of the journey. It's going to make you a major part of the map that God is creating for the battle that you and I are facing.

Look at the next one. Most successful strategies require a shift in thinking from me to we, team, in order to be achieved. In order for you to have a good strategy, you're going to have to be willing to shift from we, from me to a team concept.

I give you each week, this is the last one, twenty-four warriors. I saved actually one of my favorites for the last one. His name is George Patton. I don't know why he's my favorite. Maybe because

one of the first movies I can remember seeing as a kid, military movie besides "Dirty Dozen" in a theater was Patton. Patton was this kind of confusing fowl moth tough leader. Patton was a tough leader. Remember I mentioned McArthur last time? McArthur, his troops were sort of slovenly in their care. Patton made his tank commanders wear ties and be clean shaven in battle. Patton's a very different guy. He'll live sixty years of his life. He'll die in 1945. He'll actually die after the end of the Second World War, not in combat, but in a kind of freak car accident where his neck is broken. Patton is an interesting leader. He was kind of a frail kid growing up. As a matter of fact, I think it was his aunt and maybe his mom, a few people, read to him Bible stories of great warriors and things from Greek mythology just to try to toughen him up a little bit. He was just kind of this frail kid. As a result of that, he developed something. I want to read for you something he developed. These are some characteristics of his life. He said these are the characters of a warrior he wanted to have. Strength of character, steadiness of purpose, acceptance of responsibility, energy, good health and strength. Those four things drove him. Strength of character, steadiness of purpose, acceptance of responsibility, energy, good health and strength. To be honest with you guys, that is actually a very key part of who he became. It almost sounds like when you read through that, doesn't it. You're looking at those

strength of character things and all that. It almost sounds like he rejects passivity, accepts responsibility, leads courageous and lives for God's reward. I mean that sort of has that kind of mentality. He competed in the Olympics in the pentathlon and I think there's six or something like that. Um so this frail kid starts to really grow. He's dyslexic and as a result of that had trouble reading so he would draw everything out for his men. Battle maps, way of life for him. Draw everything out. Was a student of war, knew what he was doing, knew the battles to be fought. He has a quote that I want to put up for you that will maybe give you that insight into the kind of man General Patton was. Don't tell people how to do things. Tell them what to do and let them surprise you with the results. Don't tell people how to do things. Tell them what to do. Let them surprise you with the results. It's interesting, here's what he said. At one time he was sitting with his men and they're all I guess in a mess tent or something and they're his key leaders. He says you wonder how we're going to lead gentlemen? And he takes a spaghetti noodle a single noodle and he drops it on a plate. And he gets behind it and he starts to push it and all it just becomes is this massive spaghetti noodle, right. He goes we will never lead from behind. We will always lead from the front and then he grabs the noodle and he pulls it and he goes straight. Powerful, powerful thing. What he's saying is guys, I'm going to tell you what to do. I'm

going to give you the freedom to do it but you're going to know what you're going to do. You're going to see the map. You're going to see the vision. You're going to see beyond your moment so you can call your men up to it. Guys this is what this is all about today. Developing strategy that's bigger than us, global, cosmic, beyond our world. Letting us see what God sees and us joining it. As you get involved in this, guys, you will start to lead. You'll start to lead with courage. You'll get up every morning with greater purpose. You'll get excited about it. Patton was great about getting his men to go way beyond. You know the Battle of the Bulge. The Battle of the Bulge was actually created because he had to get the best stone which was under siege and he moved his men a hundred miles in I can't remember what it was. I'm blanking out right now, but it was like three days. It was just unbelievable. The amount of stuff he moved overnight to rescue. It takes that kind of strength and courage when you get up in the morning and you realize that my destiny today is to be a Knight of the 21st Century, a warrior with clarity, because when I get to my X or as I move to my X, I'm getting to a much bigger battle plan. And by the way, that's just one battle map. There are many battle maps. My X may be on there. My X might not be on that one. It might be on a different one because there are many fronts being fought on the whole war that you and I are part of.

Look at the next part of strategy. Understanding it goes like this. A strategy, number six, should prepare one for the possibility of unknown hurdles. Anticipate the fact that the forest will keep dropping trees in your way. Anticipate that unknown hurdles are going to come your way. So if you feel good today physically, you might not tomorrow. If things emotionally and socially are going well for you, they might not tomorrow. Guys, if economically you feel like you're in a good place, they might not tomorrow. If your past hasn't caught up with you, it might tomorrow. There's certain things that are consequences from things we've done, right. Guys be prepared for hurdles. Start to anticipate those hurdles. As a matter of fact, wise men not only anticipate them, but they make sure they make provisions for them. Guys if you have some things from your past that you've done that are wrong, and you're just kind of hiding out hoping that you never get caught, as simple as let's say you haven't paid your taxes and you're sort of hoping you don't get caught, maybe you need to go back and deal with it. A wise man on his way to his X doesn't want to give a hurdle that he's created. There's going to be a lot of hurdles that you have nothing to do with or come in your life. Take a look at the ones you have created. Now be wise in that. Use your core. Make good decisions in that decision making process so you know what to do and not to do, because as you walk through the past you and I need to make sure that we're

not allowing hurdles that we've created to stop us on the mission that we now have.

Look at the next one, number seven. Few strategies go completely as planned which requires the ability to adjust and not personalize the detours. Few strategies are going to not go the way you want. So you're moving towards your X. You believe you're being obedient to God. Don't get personal about it when it doesn't work right. Don't think that God's rejecting you. Don't think that you screwed up. Don't think that you're not valuable. Don't believe the lie of the detour. Sometimes the detour is just teaching you another way. Sometimes you're moving in the wrong direction. Sometimes it's that you have an enemy that's fighting against you. Don't personalize it. Get up and keep going. Remember, remember we talked about warriors. Falling and fleeing, warriors are not engaged in the battle. When you get hit and all you want to do is just give up, you got to get back up guys. Don't personalize it. It's not personal. The God of the universe will not leave you. He will not forsake you if you've connected to Him through Christ. His longing is to love you and be with you whether you have connected with Him through Christ or not. His desire is for you to be all that you're designed to be. You've fulfilled not only your X but be part of a greater cosmic thing, the God of the universe.

Number eight. At one strategic level an approach may be successful and yet the knight understands that in any given strategy can also have limitations. You can overuse certain strategies. One of the struggles that we face is this. Sometimes guys you have to understand that you see this one thing working once. It might not work a second time. You sometimes, it's something you have nothing to do with that's taking place here. It's like a detour but sometimes it's the fact that I got to look at this differently.

In your Knightly News, there's a guy by the name of Caleb. He's actually my favorite guy in the Bible other than Jesus. Not just because my son, my third son Caleb is struggling with cancer. His name is Caleb which his name means the bold one. His verse is from Caleb. Caleb had a different spirit and followed God wholeheartedly. It isn't just because of that. The man Caleb absolutely amazes me. That probably is the man I wish I was. I think Caleb of anybody knows where his X falls on the battle map in his life. I think he clearly knew. He followed God wholeheartedly. He's forty years of age. He's a leader of the tribe of Judah. He, there are twelve tribes in the nation of Israel. Twelve leaders go into the land to explore the land that God is giving the nation of Israel after pulling out of Egypt. Of the men that go in there, two of them, Joshua and Caleb say we can do this. This is what God's called us to do. Ten men see all the problems, big cities, giants, all kinds of

issues and they say we can't do this. The nation of Israel follows the ten, not Caleb and Joshua. So for forty years, God says you don't want to go in, I'll let you wander in the wilderness. It's interesting. If you don't want to follow God, God will let you not follow God. He'll let you live in some pretty miserable situations. Well what happened for the Nation of Israel is they wandered for forty years. All of those ten men and all the men who voted with them so the ten men, but all the guys who followed them, over the forty years will die in the wilderness. Two men will survive. One is Joshua. He will lead the nation of Israel in to that land. And then five years after that, so they, forty years later they go into the land and for the next five years conquer the land. Five years into that the story of the Knightly News that you have in front of you is Caleb going to Joshua and saying, I'm asking you now for the land that I've asked for. I'm asking you on behalf of my people, the Tribe of Judah that we can have Hebron, the hill country, where all of the enemy by the way is the strongest in it's fortification, where all the giants are. He says, give me that land. I'm as strong now as I was forty-five years ago. I've never lost vision. Give me my land. Now he didn't say it in a nasty way. He said it with confidence. He knew what his X was. Joshua at age five years of age takes on the toughest opponents and wins the land. It says on five different occasions, Joshua, Caleb followed God wholeheartedly. Followed God wholeheartedly.

That's your X guys. That's being on target, responding to your inner voice the call and when you do that guys, regardless of what happens, and if it doesn't work the way you thought it was going to go, when you get the land forty years ago, forty-five years later, go get it again. Come at it in a different way, different attitude. I actually believe gentlemen that Caleb is a great example of what a Knight of the 21st Century looks like, strong and willing to take on some difficult things. Phenomenal strategy.

Let's look at another strategic point, number nine in the journey. Strategic point number nine. A strategy needs a clear plan, with short-term objectives and an end goal that should be written out before it's attempted. You need to have a strategic plan. There are two parts to mine, alright. You need to have goals. That's what you just did with your knighthood plans. You had goals, short-term goals. We call them smart goals. These are goals that I can measure. These are goals that I can make sure I'm hitting, alright. That's how you know. That's how you're going to get feedback. Without that it won't work, alright. So I sort of know where I'm going with my X. But you also need to know not only where you're trying to get through with your X, you need to try to know where it fits in the bigger thing. I actually believe that I have my X pretty well figured out. Now God can change it and give me clarity, but I think I have my X pretty much figured out. I'm pretty excited because I'm

actually doing about eighty percent of what I long to do. Excited about my life.

Now here's the thing I don't know. Number one, I don't know how many days I have to live so I don't know whether I get to a hundred percent. That's one. Two, I don't know if I ever really hit on the X. But three, to be honest with you, my statement, my goal, my end game is actually bigger than my X. I believe that when I get to the X in my life I will be able to see far bigger. I think there's movements involved. I think that are lives change. I actually believe that there's a call on my personal life that God's given me to do something bigger than I thought I could do. So I want, I believe He has that for you guys. I actually believe that there's something bigger going on than you can possibly imagine. That's why spandex males keep settling for life when we have so much more to live. There's a battle going on guys. May this is yours. Maybe there's another one but there is one that's yours and when you hit it, you're going to see something bigger and greater than you could ever imagine.

Look at the next one. Number ten. A strategic plan must have some proper amount, the proper amount of external resources in order to reach its completion. Underline the word internal. External resources. As you underline that word external, you underline it because guys you probably number one can't go it alone. Two, if

you're under resourced, almost every major military battle took place, if you want to knock the end game out of the opponent, knock off his supply line. This battle is in jeopardy if the supply line is being cut. You and I need to make sure we're resourced properly. So part of your getting ready for the journey is filling your backpack effectively, making sure that you have the supplies you're going to need, making sure that those that are following with you will have the same thing. The higher level of leadership you have, the more that follow, the greater the need for resources. So as we go through that, and I know when we say resources we think of economic but there's so many other kinds of resources that are needed to accomplish what you're able to do. Where we are technically, we can do things today that we couldn't have done fifty years ago. What we're experiencing right now has some resources that have taken place that didn't exist certainly a century ago, even a decade ago as we move forward together, alright. Get resources.

Look at the next one. Good strategies begin with a courageous first step. Good strategies are going to begin with a creative nature that will cause you to be willing to move. That first step is the hardest step. So you know, you took it twenty-four weeks ago or whenever you joined us here in the journey here of warrior or if you've been squire two years ago. Whenever you entered this with us and you took that step, that was courageous. Now when you

take that first step in every journey you make, now what we've been doing over this last year is getting us focused on where we need to head, be courageous in taking that step because if you took the step in. Now you got to take the step across. You're moving towards the battle map of your life. You're moving towards what you were designed to do. That each step is courageous. Keep that in mind in your strategy.

Look at number twelve. Good strategies have specific time requirements for completion. Good strategies have specific time requirements for completion. They might be because of you resources have a limit. You might have days of your life have a limit. IT might be that in order for me to know that I'm going where I need to go, I need to set sort of a time goal. There are certain things that are natural limits. There are certain things that are supernatural limits. There are certain things that we can anticipate. I want you to stop for a few moments and just kind of say, what is my time frame for this. Maybe it's driven by economics. Maybe it's driven by God's call on your heart.

March 25, 1987 I had an interesting encounter with God. I've only had two of these in my whole life. An on March 25, 1987 God spoke some things into my X, my call. In other words in essence the inner voice that I have that's been driving me, God's call pulling me. On this occasion He kind of guided me through some truth that I

hadn't see before that moment. March 25, 1987. That's a long time ago. You want to know something? Some of what I was understanding that day is still coming about today. Now I can give you a starting date. I can't necessarily give you an ending date but in light of some of the things that he was asking me to think about and do, I needed to set some time goals along the way. And over these decades certain things have been happening and certain things have been experiment and certain things have been all but looking at towards the X in my life. Guys it gets exciting when you can look back and say, wow I went from here to here during that time. From here to here and acknowledge it certainly wasn't a straight line. But that journey is moving me towards the X, the call. It gets pretty exciting when you think about that.

Look at the next one, number thirteen. Good strategies including big picture thinking as well as focus on specific details. You're going to have two parts to this. Good strategies. If you're going to have good strategy in your life, you'll have the big picture. Now to be honest with you, as big as we can possibly get is the battle map. That's a big as we can possibly get. We can't get the war map. The battle map. You got to get as much big picture thinking as you can have. But you also need to have very specific steps along the way because if all you have is big picture, it's sort of like, I never, I see sort of where I want to go but I have absolutely

no idea how to get there. So there's a combination of both sides to this coin as you move forward.

Number fourteen. Good strategies do not include taking needless risks. Good strategies do not include taking needless risks. So often in our lives, guys, we have to understand that if I'm going to have a strategic way of thinking, needless risk will jeopardize the mission. Needless risks will jeopardize those behind me.

In the movie "Gettysburg", "Gettysburg" is actually a movie that was done from a book called "Killer Angels". In that movie "Gettysburg" there's this moment in the history of the battle. Gettysburg is a true story. Basically it's a three day war, a three day battle that took place in a town in Pennsylvania called Gettysburg. It's one of the most famous battles of the Civil War. It's when the troops from the south are trying to break the back of the north and the north is trying to cut the supply lines off from the south and at this point actually north is pretty much on full defenses. There's been win after win after win after win by the south. The Battle of Gettysburg, the north arrives first, finds the high ground, holds the high ground and as a result of that, by day two the high ground is pretty much in place held by the north. And if you know anything about battling, if you know anything about war, high ground is key. There is a part of the movie where on day two the forces of Maine, a

squadron from Maine is at the end of a long line of hills and it's actually called Little Round Top where they are and in this line of hills that they're at, the main squadron is asked to hold the line. Under the leadership of Colonel Chamberlain, Joshua Chamberlain, they're asked to make that line not move because if it moves, they're at the end of the line, the south will go around. Let me have you think about this particular scene. Chamberlain is speaking to his men and he goes, guys, as the guys from Tennessee and the guys from Arkansas, those divisions that are from the south are coming, if they get around and behind us, they will break the back of us as soldiers. We can't be surrounded. If we get surrounded, we will probably lose and to be honest with you, I think if we lose this battle, we lose the war. It's a pretty powerful moment. He said we are the flank. It means nobody can get around us. We have to hold this line. A couple of his leaders say it seems like all the fighting is going on down that way at the front door. We're at the back door. It's not going to come to us. Chamberlain very wisely says, no, no, the terrain there is open and it's steep. It will be impossible to breach the lines down there. No, they're going to keep coming up here through the woods and eventually they're going to get to us and when they do gentlemen, we are the flank. You can't give in. There was an urgency that he had in his voice. There were a bunch of men that were fighting down the way, no fighting going on where

they were, but you get this sense at that moment that Chamberlain knew that the battle and the strategic way of thinking that he had to have at that moment was absolutely key and something much bigger than a battle on a hill in the central part of Pennsylvania. As you come out of that scene and you get the sense of urgency, we are the flank, can I tell you something guys? We are the flank just so you know. For this generation, for this time in history, the war of the forest against the movement of God. The war of an enemy against the God of the universe, the war within of our shadows against what's going on around us is raging and we are the flank. We, Knights of the 21st Century. I believe that it's our job along with other guys being moved all over by God all over the world join in to a much bigger movement, hold the flank. How strategic are you in your thinking?

Look at this. A couple more things to look at. The next one says, number fifteen, good strategies are flexible and can be adjusted or changed. Good strategies are flexible and can be adjusted or changed. Know that if we're going to do this right, you're going to have to have strong, clear, strategic thinking, but you have to also be willing to adjust. You'll see that later on in the Battle of Gettysburg.

Twenty, sixteen. Good strategies require the knight to demonstrate self-awareness and self-discipline. Enough said about that. I think we've been talking about this, this whole journey.

Number seventeen. A great strategy sometimes needs to trump a good strategy in order to achieve the best goals. A great strategy is going to be required here sometimes guys. You might have had up until this moment a good strategy. God's going to take you to the next level, a great strategy. A great strategy, sometimes guys you feel like you're pretty comfortable where you are, be looking for the next level. Always move in toward the X towards the bigger plan, the battle map.

Number eighteen. Sometimes the best approach is to throw out a well thought through strategy. Obviously if you're willing to give your good strategy trumped by a great strategy, you have to be willing to let go of the other one.

Number nineteen. Temptation can short circuit the best plans. So a warrior must learn to say no. Temptations can short circuit the best plans so you're going to have to learn to personally say no, which means this. Your shadow is going to work against you all the time. Your armor is on, your chain mail's pretty good and the shadow is just eating away at you. Learn to say no to desires. How do you do that? Pull the cord out, walk through, think it out, make a

good choice based off your spirit, your soul, your mind, your body, the shadow, alright.

Look at the next one. Successful teams strategies rely on excellent communication. If you're going to do this well guys, you're going to have to stay in communication. You're going to have to take a break now, twenty-four weeks. You have campfires, right. Keep meeting together. Get together once a week for breakfast, once a month. Still talk to each other. Call each other up. Make sure that we're all in the same thing. You know, the guys that are in your campfire, they have Xs too. Some of them might be on your battle map. Some of them might be on another battle map but boy I'll tell you by checking with each other and making sure that you're doing okay, you need to be open and talking, and the bigger your kind of movement gets, the better your communication lines tend to be. So don't abandon what you've been doing on a regular basis at your campfire.

Look at number twenty-one. Many great strategies fulfill a knight's calling through the sacrifice of his needs for the greater good. Many great strategies fulfill a knight's calling through the sacrifice of his needs for the greater good. I think I want to challenge you to stop thinking about retirement. I want to challenge you to stop thinking about the good life. I want to challenge you to stop thinking about the toys. Now again, nothing wrong, nothing

wrong with retiring, nothing wrong with the good life, nothing wrong with toys. I just want you to stop making that the driving point of your life. If they come, fine. But if your battle is going to get bigger than you. If you're one X on a bigger battle map, then I think we have to think in terms of what a difference we're going to make in our own personal sacrifices. Good knights as you well know are about others, not about themselves. In essence, make sure that everybody else eats before you eat, make sure everybody else is cared for before you're cared for and by everybody else, those who are underneath your protection, not the whole world, just those who are underneath your protection. God's dealing with the world. You and I deal with the world around us, good strategy.

Look at the next one. Twenty-two. Diverse voices in the planning stages of any strategic strategy assure that varied viewpoints contribute to the end results. Guys you're going to need to have a variety of people giving you input as you plan your strategies. Run your strategies by each other. Why do I want you to share your knighthood plan with each other? To get input from each other. You need that. My mentors know what my strategies are. They're the guys, the guys that hold me accountable. They're the ones that are going to ask the tough questions. Lynn knows what my strategies are and certainly God knows what my strategies are as we lay them out, alright?

A couple more. Twenty=three. Strategic celebrations assist in motivating the knight to achieve difficult goals. Learn to celebrate. Learn to celebrate, so celebrate the battles, the battles are tough enough. Have great moments of celebration. You do that for your children, you do that in your marriage. We do it at Knights of the 21st Century in our group at LCBC. We do a graduate. We celebrate our guys' accomplishment. Learn to celebrate guys. Celebrating will give you sort of footholds in this pretty difficult climb. You can have personal. You can have big ones. Celebrate milestones. Certainly celebrate milestones in your children's lives.

Look at the next one. Good strategists, twenty-four, have personal and insightful self-strategies to minimize their internal conflicts. There are all kinds of battles you're going to deal with. You're going to have your own internal ones that are a kind of going on inside of the armor, inside of the chain mail within your core. These strategies that go on, nobody else has to see. They might appreciate and wonder about and ask about them, but these are the things that keep you going when everybody else wants to quit. These are the things that keep you going for the bigger movement when you feel like everybody around you can barely breathe. These are the truths that hold you. May I tell you one that holds me? This one holds me. God will never give me more than I'm able to handle. It's true. He says. He says He'll never leave me or forsake me. Do

you know what that means in the middle of the moments when I feel like I can't go any further and I feel like I'm alone? Internal strategies will help you through interesting battles.

Look at the next one. This is the last one. A successful strategy maintains high values throughout which allows for goal completion. It's going to maintain high values through which are going to allow your goal completion. What does that mean? High values, God's values, the values of God, the values that are important to Him. Everything I'm just talking about, just so you understand is, I'm not you getting to be what you hoped you would be. This is you getting to be what God made you to be as part of the bigger battle. This is that magic moment guys when you all of a sudden realize I have the right armor on. My chain mail is good. My core is intact. My decisions are solid. When I use a weapon, I use it deliberately. When you're in that full mode, guys, when you are doing what a Knight of the 21st Century is designed to do and you're heading towards your X, God's calling you there, you realize that you're fitting into something bigger and all of a sudden it explodes and you see more than you ever thought was possible.

Such a moment happens in the movie "Gettysburg". At the end of that second day. It's actually about the middle part of the movie, at the end of that second day, they have been battling as the south, the groups from Arkansas and Tennessee have been rushing up the

hill and rushing up the hill, tremendous amount of casualties being inflicted on both sides but especially the south. It's running up hills with trees around them but being shot at by guys who are hidden behind rocks at the top of the hill. As the men of Maine keep firing down, and the south keeps coming they run out of ammunition. The south seems to have more supplies and more men. The men of Maine are down to their last round of ammunition. For the most part in any battle as they rush up, they have time between the time they fire and then reload two shots. They're all down to their last couple shots. Half their men are down. A good portion of them are wounded. They're having a meeting. Imagine this scene if you would. Chamberlain is there with his men. They've all been bloodied and hurt and watched guys they care about taken out. Their forces are cut in half when Chamberlain says to his men, gentlemen, what do we have? They tell him what kind of supplies we have left, not enough for yet another attack. We can handle maybe one more time and that will be it. They say, we need to withdraw. We need to flee. And Chamberlain goes, that's not an option. We can't. Remember we are the flank. We're going to have to stand here. Sir, we, we have nothing to fight with. We'll die. Chamberlain thinks for a moment and then says, gentlemen, we'll charge. They got to be tired. If we're tired, they're tired. They got to be low on energy. We'll charge. You mean sir, we will go at them leaving

these rocks and security, we'll do that? Yeah, as a matter of fact as we pull back, remember when we pulled back guys, we bought the flank here. We couldn't, we had to refuse the flank so we brought the men back so we make like an L and as the army came around as they kept on having to fight us as we hold the flank so they couldn't get behind us. We're going to swing it down like a door this time guys. And when you get down to this level, we'll swing down to those men. You can see it in all their eyes. It sounds like a death trap. It sounds like an act of a desperate man, but to be honest with you, it's an act of a desperate man, because he has come to the place where he knows, where he knows that something bigger than him is there. So when he yells fix bayonets and all the men pull their bayonets and put them on the end of their rifle, they know they're leaving the security of the moment. They know the desperate hour of this moment, and when he turns to the bugler and says charge and the bugler blows charge and the men start coming down, you are aware that you are watching something so magnificent, so much bigger that history will be altered forever as we saw.

The clarity of a knight is the warrior who gets to such a place that he gets to see beyond his X to the bigger battle. Gentlemen, thank you for the journey. Thank you for the courage. Let's go together and accomplish more than we ever thought possible. God bless you. See you at Oracle.