

Knights of the 21st Century

Trail 23

Gentlemen here we are. We're just about two weeks away from this being complete. What a journey we've been on as warriors together, discovering what it means to think clearly as a knight. Now I got to tell you that the next two weeks become very, very focused for us as we say, okay, where do we go? This week really is about you and I knowing that we are ready to do what we need to do. Um, one of the ways we get a chance to measure that within each group that you get together is by turning in what we call a knighthood plan. In order to graduate, in order to get to the place where you can get your dog tags and in order to get to the place where you say, okay, I've completed the journey, ah, we actually ask each guy to turn in a knighthood plan. Now for some of you writing is easy, analyzing is what you do in your job and for maybe the vast majority of us, doing that is not necessarily natural. So we're asking you to go really, really far in saying this. Are you ready to be a knight of the 21st century? Are you ready to take steps in that direction? The knighthood plan is basically that. It's taking the opportunity for you to set some goals in motion, some plans in mind to say, okay, here are the steps I'm going to take to get me there. In your book in the Appendix starting on page four are three different knighthood plans that we recommend you take a look at. The first one is kind of the

expanded version. You guys that want to take some in depth looks in writing about where you've come from, where you are, where you're going. You fill that out over several pages. There's another one that works you just through your core, the six items of the core, the decisions that you're going to make through that area. That's the one I tend to use when I write my knighthood plan. Ah, the last one is just setting some goals. Ten clear kind of goals written out, but whatever one you use, they will all have, here's where I am, here's where I need to go, and here's the step I'm going to take in getting it. They get specifics and dates in mind and all that. So we want you to turn this in next week so before we actually begin our last trail, we want you to turn in your knighthood plan. Now when you bring this in, we want you to bring in two copies. One copy you just turn it in so whoever is the leader of what, your gathering of guys, they will be the only one or whoever they agree to and you all agree to will be the one that will read the knighthood plan. It's sort of a sacred thing. We don't just pass it around. It's private information, but they will read it. They will read it and say this guy desires to be a knight. Now you can't flunk it. Nobody's going to say, well you didn't have enough knighthood concepts in here. It's just allowing you for a few minutes to say, I am, this is where I'm going to go and the guy goes, this is awesome. He's making some steps. But I want you to have two copies because I also want you then to take the

other copy, share it with the guys in your campfire, tell them a little bit about your journey where you're going so they can kind of hold you accountable and then keep that and put it in a prominent spot somewhere. For me, I have one in my office right overlooking my computer so when I need to check some things. I have another one in my office in my home, just to kind of remind me, where am I going with my knighthood plan. So next week, coming back, come back with our knighthood plan. It will set you up for graduation.

Now we do certain graduations in our, with our people, with our twelve hundred guys. You might do a different form of graduation, so it might just be turning in your knighthood plan, shaking each other's hand, and saying way to go. Some groups get dog tags. Some groups choose not to buy the dog tags. Again, that's up to everybody else, but it kind of is an acknowledgement of this is where I'm at so that you're ready for the next phase which will be Oracle, which we'll do next year which I think you'll be amazed at the wisdom of a knight issues.

Now in light of that though, keep this in mind. We have guys that I've been with for a lot of years. I've been, we've been doing this for six years. Six thousand guys have done it with us personally on a journey and then a bunch of guys have done it like you're doing it, through DVD and other directions that we've been involved in. When I watch these guys over the years, I've been amazed at what

I've seen them become as they've made choices as a knight, as a squire and then a warrior. As they start to move forward, they kind of overwhelm me in who they are.

I was thinking about this guy the other day. His name is Ted who his wife years ago, maybe about five years ago got sick and tired of whatever, however he was living. He was actually a really good spandex male. As a matter of fact he could have been our poster boy for it. And actually his body is in very good shape so he actually would have looked pretty good in spandex but he was one of those guys that was just all about himself. He was the center of his universe and everywhere he went, women had to respond to him. So ultimately his wife got exhausted watching this and seeing this and began to build our own world apart from him. About two years ago, three years ago now actually, we met, this guy and I and he joined us in the journey towards real true knighthood, towards manhood. To be honest with you, I told you he was a poster boy for spandex male. Now he'd be a poster boy for a knight. The guy is phenomenal. But I want you to understand something. He was married for awhile and he was a spandex male for a pretty long time of his life. He has done everything, and I don't use that word lightly. I think he's done everything right in caring for, protecting and trying to honor his wife who is now his former wife, because although he's changed, she can't, and she sees it. She's admitted that she's seen

it. She's just now so afraid to enter that world. She knows what she went through in other worlds but is afraid to enter this new world and so while their marriage is probably not going to get reconciled, she'll tell you, tell me, these are one of the men that she admires the most. Some of the guys that I admire the most. I think this actually works. I think we can change, guys when we get this together in our lives.

I was thinking about a guy I told you about a couple weeks ago, a couple trails back. I told you about a guy that had Lou Gehrig's Disease that probably will not be with us next year to graduate with Oracle. This is a guy who has grabbed hold of knighthood and man, has personified it. He is at the point where transcendency moving onto eternity through death doesn't scare him at all. Every guy that knows him, I'm not kidding, every guy that knows him that's in our Knight's program is using the language goes, do you want to see a knight? Go look at this guy and just for the sake of propriety, I'll tell you his name is Robert although it's a different name. And they'll say look at Robert. That's a knight. Guys just like you and I that have gone the extra mile.

The other day I was in my office and a lady stopped in to see me and she was telling me about her husband. She actually had a question. Her name was for this argument, Brenda and she said, I found out that my husband did something four years ago, that what

he did four years ago was an immoral thing. She had not known until just recently. Something surfaced that brought that out. She had gone to him. He confessed it immediately. He asked for her forgiveness. It was something that was not on the high level of immorality that you and I might measure it at, but it was on enough of a level that it had a wound, Brenda. She said, and here's her problem. Listen to this. He's not that man anymore, she said. Not only do I forgive him, it's almost like that guy was a different guy and this guy that I'm living with now is so very, very differently that I just can't even put them together. Am I a fool? Am I an idiot? Am I believing something that I shouldn't believe because look what he did four years ago, but I don't even see him as capable of that today. I smiled and I said to her, you know what? You're probably okay with him. I know, I know the group of guys he's with and I know the decisions he's made. I've watched how he confessed immediately and asked for forgiveness. I watched how it's not a pattern that is any way frequented in his life. He's a guy that had gotten to the place like Robert and like Ted to where he was, he was so ready to do what he was designed to do as a knight. It was as if he was battle ready. It's like he had come to the place where when you look at him, you go, the armor is on. You look at him and you go, this chain mail is good chain mail. You look at him and go his core seems to be strong and so when he's handed a weapon and

he's ready for the battle and the sheath comes off, you're not afraid at what may happen with him. Every one of these guys years ago, when the sheath came off or whatever weapon they were using, their wives, the people around them were afraid because they didn't know how these spandex males would handle them. But today, sheath or unsheath? People feel confident when they're in that place.

This is Trail No. 23, battle ready. This is where I think you are. I think what you and I are ready to go through. Listen to this statement about what it means to be battle ready. A knight makes choices in every battle he faces in life which requires a moment to moment awareness of what is happening both on the inside as well as on the outside of him. When you think about being battle ready, here's what it means. It means that before you unsheathe your weapon, whether that weapon be sexuality, whether that weapon be a word you use, whether that weapon be that which you need to use to change the course of wrong in a world that seems to be degenerating in a forest that needs altering, whenever you use that weapon, how well are you at making choices and looking on the inside, looking on the outside, and how are you doing with that? Everything about this trail is just to say how good are you at stopping before you act to make a choice so that when you act it's

deliberate. When you act it's not reactionary. It's been thought through.

In this past year, 2011 when we're going this, there's a guy by the name of Joel Northrop who is young man who is a sophomore in high school in Iowa. He's a wrestler. My sons are wrestlers. Everything about wrestlers I can tell you drives to one moment. It's state or national championships. State in high school, national championships in college. You build everything to it. This young man by the name of Joel Northrop as was reported was an excellent hundred and twelve pounder. He's a sophomore. He had a record as a sophomore of thirty-five and four. You can't get much better as a wrestler than that. He's made it to the highest goal of his existence. A sophomore at State's. It's as high of a level as you can get to. The very first round his opponent, and if you've ever seen anything about wrestling, it's in brackets, very much like you would if you were watching basketball during March madness. There's brackets that you just keep going down through until you get to the final match. This young man was ranked pretty high. Thirty-five and four is a pretty good record. His first opponent was a young lady by the name of Casey Heckleman. In order to be a national level or a state level wrestler, Casey Heckleman had to be an amazing wrestler. In fact in Iowa's case, this year they had two young ladies that made the state's. First time ever in the history of

Iowa. In the world of wrestling, so you understand, there's about two hundred thousand male wrestlers in the United States in the high school junior high level. There's about six thousand females. There's a lot of different reasons why men and women don't wrestle. Some of it's just obvious and some of it is because of the difference in the way body weight is distributed. It tends to be to the advantage of the young man, and the woman it makes it harder for her to engage. But there's also all kinds of questions that came with this. My sons dealt with those questions when they would wrestle. Joel Northrop made an interesting decision. Joel Northrop is a young man who had to look inside and out regarding his first match and he chose to withdraw. He chose to forfeit. Now he didn't withdraw from the competition. He will actually lose his first round and go to the loser's bracket and have to wrestle back up. He chose to do it because he chose not to wrestle a young lady. Now listen to why. Here's what he says. Wrestling is a combat sport and it can get violent at times. As a matter of conscience and my faith, I do not believe that it is appropriate for a boy to engage a girl in this manner. It is unfortunate that I've been place in a situation but, and not seen in most other high school sports in Iowa. It's unfortunate that I've ended up here. Now so you understand, he had nothing but praise for Casey and her accomplishments and what she's done with her record. I think it was twenty and thirteen. He had nothing but

accolades to give in her direction. As a matter of fact, Casey's father had nothing but praise coming back. It would be discovered that with Joel Northrop his faith, all the parts of his core came into a decision that he had made way before he walked into that arena in Iowa. That decision caused him to make what some would call a bad one and some would call a good one. No matter what, I will call a noble one. What he decided to do was sacrifice. He sacrificed for the good of what he thought would be the young lady. Now so you understand, Casey wanted to wrestle him. That's why she was there. So, but she will even tell you and the other young lady both say they admired him for his choice although they wish he would wrestle them, they appreciated the character of a young man who knew what he wanted to do. I do too. In fact I greatly appreciate the character of a man like that.

How do you get there? How do you get to the place in your life where you make choices that are hard, extraordinary for a sophomore in high school? I think you get there by understanding how your core works, getting there to understand everything that goes into the final decision making. So we're going to walk through that together a little bit.

Take your notebooks and look at Trail No. 23. Roman numeral one. The warrior does not respond like a spandex male regarding his responsibilities. The warrior does not respond like a spandex

male regarding his responsibilities. Guys, there are opportunities all the time as men for you to walk into a room and be threatening. There are opportunities all the time because as a man you have some physical strength, as a man you have some power, as a man you have certain things that people notice. You and I have an obligation to handle this correctly so whenever we move into a room, does the room get tense because they don't know how you're going to respond or do they say you're a responsible man? Well the way to do that is escape the gravitational pull of a spandex male and become a knight, a warrior.

Look at number one. Spandex males choose to react rather than reflect. Spandex males, guys that you don't want to be are reactionary. Reactionary are interesting things. Reactionaries are guys that you go, wait a minute. I don't know what's going to come out of him this time. I don't know what to expect from him. Some of it's driven by the crowd he hangs out with. Some of it's driven by the substances he's involved with. Some of it's just involved with the fact that it's all about him. Some of it's because he's never thought about anything, not thought anything through. A good knight learns to reflect. Why are you going to reflect? Because your armor is giving you protection so you make sure that you have truth in your chain mail, right beliefs so then you make core decisions. Remember the self, the part of the core that decides. Have you

checked with all parts of the core? Are they intact and do you know what you need to do as the next step? Spandex males don't know that.

Look at number two. Spandex males choose to take the easiest route available rather than the best route. Spandex males are always looking for the easy way, not the best way. I sometimes get so nervous about this because when I see a Joel Northrop, I go well that's not the easiest way. You've now just lost the championship and you have to wrestle back for third at best. It's not the easiest way, but it might be the best way, certainly for Joel. In his mind it is.

There's a great movie that came out a couple years ago called "Sherlock Holmes" and in that movie, Sherlock Holmes played by Robert Downy, Jr. is an amazing character. He's a guy that you discover as the movie goes on, and the movie's kind of a darkish kind of movie. For the longest time you think it involves like this supernatural evil stuff going on around, when really all it is, is a series of cons. But at a certain place in the movie Sherlock Holmes is just bored so he ends up in this arena where he's sort of street fighting a guy but it's in an arena where everybody's betting on who is going to win. And this guy he's fighting with, I think his name is Doak or something huge, he's just some huge bulk of a guy and Sherlock Holmes is fighting with him and sort of toying with him. At

a certain point though, he gets cold cocked by this guy because he was looking the other way and as he turned, the guy just nailed him. Sherlock Holmes says to him, actually he's okay but he says to him, okay that's enough. Let's stop here. He starts to walk away and the guy spits in the back of his head. Alright. When you think about this scene, here he is in the middle of this big fight, being cold cocked, he just got spit on. At that point something triggers inside Sherlock Holmes. But the movie does something very profound at that moment. He thinks through all of his next steps. He thinks through the distraction. He thinks through the first punch. He thinks through the block. He thinks through the next one. There's a bunch to the solarplexes. He goes all the way to the kick and he describes all the damage he's about to inflict in the guy's body. The recovery time which will be weeks. The emotional recovery time which will be half a year as a jaw gets broken and his ribs get broken. Now as all that sort of played out and you're watching it happen in the scene, suddenly then it goes to live action and in about ten seconds Doak laying on the floor and the match is over.

As you think about that scene, as you consider that scene, I want you to think that whether you're into violence or not, or whether you go wow that was just not where I'm at, as you think about it, here's what he's doing. He's pulling out his dog tag. He's

walking through the parts of his core and he's thinking through all of his decisions and its ramifications. Nothing, nothing is spandex about that moment. It's what we do as knights and say I'm going to fight and if I choose to fight, if I'm going to use this weapon, I'm going to use it effectively and I know the ramifications of my decisions. Get it?

Look at number three. Number three. It says this. Spandex males think of themselves rather than of others. Spandex males then to think of themselves rather than others. What happens is you got to be careful with a guy with a weapon who is thinking about himself, right? That means that I don't care about you. I don't care whether you bleed. I don't care about the consequences. Remember I talked about sexuality. I think that so often weapons like this sort of remind us of some _____ and sexual and I think often with these weapons guys, we've wounded and damaged people and not cared that we did it. Isn't that interesting? Person after person.

Do you remember when we first started I said that in our culture, in the U.S. culture, the average male has had 20.8 partners in their lifetime. Didn't care. Didn't care if it wounded. Didn't care. It left somebody not feeling safe. Alright. Knights don't do you. You are a knight. You're not a spandex male.

Look at number four. Spandex males are first to go with the flow of the crowd. Because they don't want to make decisions, they will do what is popular. They will follow what other people do. So when you get to your Knightly News and you see the name of a guy by Daniel, you realize that Daniel is going to be a different guy, right? Because we're moving this from what a knight does from what a spandex male does, right. We're going to talk about knights, a warrior. Daniel's an interesting guy. He's a captain. As a Captain Daniel finds himself under the control of somebody else. He's a slave. Now he is actually extremely intelligent. He's in very good shape. He has three other friends that are in the same category so in their being slaves they are put in the King's court to ultimately be trained to be the King's advisors, to be the guys that will take care of the King. Daniel is asked to do something in the King's court. Now remember now, he's a slave and he's getting the best treatment of all slaves. But he's asked to eat food that as a Jewish young man is not something he should be eating and so he asks the ones in charge if he could eat vegetables and water instead of wine and the food prepared by the King. The guy in charge likes Daniel. He's a very affable guy. He likes him and he goes, I'd love to say yes, but man if you look bad, if you get physically in bad shape as a result of this, the King's coming after me and Daniel does something very, very wise. He pulls out his dog tag. He thinks through his core and

he goes let's do an experiment. Let's do an experiment. Me and my friends will eat our food, vegetables and water. By the way, that is just a tough choice for me. I'm really glad I wasn't hanging out with Daniel at that particular point. Vegetables and water. Let's do it for ten days. If at the end of ten days we look worse then the other guys, then we'll eat that food but if at the end of ten days we look better than, please don't ask us to eat that food. Let us eat the food we desire. At the end of ten days, they looked better. At the end of ten days, they were allowed to eat the food they desired. He didn't say I won't do it. He just said let's do an experiment. Well thought through, knighthood like behavior. A warrior who has learned to handle the weapon of being a warrior with clarity, clarify of a knight.

So let's take a look of those areas as warriors that we have to look at. Look at Roman numeral number two. The warrior responds properly regarding his responsibilities by listening to his core, listening to his core. So what we're going to do is we're going to take and be responsible by listening to this. Now I keep referring to the dog tags because we wear our dog tags to remind us of our core within it. Every year you get another set of dog tags. They'll have a different color out here, but the information on the back is going to remain the same year after year after year because it's all about our cores. She'll have the armor to protect it, the chain mail to protect I and the decision making we make through our core. So let's take

quick review of our core, because I think what happens is whenever you find yourself in a situation where you want to react you feel like you need to pull out a weapon, you're battle ready. I mean you're ready. You've been armed. You have the swords. You have the spears. You have all the stuff you need. You feel like its' time to use a weapon. You'd better be making good choices because you have the freedom.

Remember when I talked about when I was a kid and I was changing from being a child to an adult and all of a sudden what was a sword that was made of cardboard now becomes a real sword and I had to be responsible with that, this is all about knighthood. It's about you saying I got these weapons. Am I going to be responsible? You give me a generation of men that use the weapons of their lives responsibly and we will change the world. Guaranty you. As a matter of fact when you come back next week, we talk about the trail, I'm going to get you to think way beyond your X on the map. I'm going to get you to think about the big map. I'm going to get you to think about what globally God is doing. And when you get to that one, guys, it's not trivial at all. This is not something you play with. It's something you use to make a difference. So let's take a look.

We're going to look first of all at our core. In looking at our core, we look at this. One, our bodies. The brain that feels sends

emotional feedback to him about the battles he faces on a daily basis. The brain that feels let him know what it is that he's feeling that's causing him to need to pull out a weapon. You need to be aware of that area. There's another part of the body we talked about. The brain that thinks analyzes the objectives of these battles. I have this thing that's coming into me and I feel like okay, I have this experience. I'm receiving this input. The brain that feels registers it. The brain that thinks analyzes it. So I know that I'm just going to be cautious. Guys, this is the end of reaction. If you just let your body, let the two sides of the brain function well, you're going to start to do things out of the reactionary.

Look at the next part of the body. It's genetics. Genetics set guidelines regarding the ways his limits and his strengths affect the battle. Your genetics are going to be your guideline centers, alright? So as you think about this, the genetics tell you what you can and cannot do. You see, if you're not good with a weapon, a certain weapon, then you don't use it. I have, I have less than stellar, stellar genetics in some areas that I might want to do. My genetics limit to what I can and cannot do so when I'm in a battle, my genetics, the things I cannot change, the things that are rooted inside of me, that are part of who I am, make me up in my size, how I look, where, you know all those kind of things. Those things come together to let me know what I can and cannot accomplish. Your

genetics will tell you what kind of athlete you're going to be. Your genetics are going to tell you whether you are natural or whether you have to work at it, you know.

Look at the next one. Instincts create initial reactions that need to be considered and controlled in the battle. Instincts, instincts are the area that's part of the body, alright? You're going to have to learn to control these. If you think about this, and this I think will help you to understand. The shadow is trying to make you do destructive things. If the instinct is under the shadow control, you will react and destroy. So your body needs to be considered. You act as though your instincts are genetics, your brain that thinks, your brain that feels. Think this through before you make a move. If you're battle ready, you'll have time. Your armor is giving you protection time, your chain mail is causing you to say I'd be safe for a second or two while think this process through and your self is checking through everything.

Look at the next one. His soul maintains the clarity of his life themes and called during the battle. His soul maintains clarity. The clarity of the knight really is actually found interestingly enough in the whole being but that soul is what's going to give you values, principles. It's going to drive you to God, higher living, higher focus. Your soul is going to make sure that you're operating within your values so your reaction is connected to your values.

Your soul is going to take you to an interesting place. His mind organizes behavioral, number three, patterns for several possible action scenarios. Your mind is going to cause you to say, now has my soul which longs for a bigger picture affected all the key areas that I will pull from, from my mind? Now my mind has four shelves that I pull from. They are as follows. There is the king shelf. The king is moral code in battle. This is the lines by which you hold, the principles of your life. Your moral code. A warrior without a king is a gang member. King is what causes us to say, I don't just arbitrarily do things. I do them based off of values and codes.

Second one. Warrior is called to protect himself and others. Warrior is called to protect himself and others. Everything about knighthood is first for you to be safe enough for you to do your job of protecting others. We will build, if you stay with us from Squire to Warrior to Oracle to Roundtable to Defense, when you get to Defense, you will understand that everybody that comes underneath you will be safe, by its very design. Safe as far as you can make them safe, not necessarily that nothing will ever happen. In the realm of possibilities when you walk in the room, you are the one that everybody goes, ah glad they're here. You're the one that feels about that moment. They're the ones that feel good about that moment when you walk in. That's warrior understood.

Look at the next one. Friend. His respect for life and the need for loyal friends in battle. I love the picture that's behind me. You're going to need friends. Guys behind you. The picture behind me is a single warrior ready for battle. I cannot make any other warrior ready for battle. I can only make me. However, if I come out and I'm ready for battle and there's no one else there, I am probably going to lose. Friends are a wise man who has found other guys who have stepped up and become warriors who will stand with them. Remember? Standing, standing to become aggressive and advance.

Look at the next one. Lover. His clear willingness to sacrifice himself for those he is committed to in life. Clear willingness to sacrifice himself is what a lover is. If you are in the military, you already get that. If you are in the military, you understand what that means. You've already said I will sacrifice my life for those behind. That's the nature of that kind of an area. I believe every guy who enters the military has someone behind that he loves that he's protecting. It's not just a cause. It's not just an ideal. It's a person. Lover. Alright. How's your mind intact?

Douglas McArthur is a warrior. Remember throughout all these twenty-three weeks, trails together, we've been talking about warriors. Douglas McArthur was a great warrior in the First World War and the Second World War. He's actually one of I think it's thirty-five hundred medal of honors have been given out in the

whole history of the United States. He received one of them. Amazing man. He was not an overly disciplinary kind of leader. He was actually, allowed his troops to be kind of a little more rag tag. He was very flamboyant. His father was a general. He was a general. He was a guy that kept his word. He says to the Philippines Islands, I will return in the Phillipino people believed him and he did. He was a man who caused great things to happen sort of wherever he went. He was an interesting man. He was pretty confident that he had a destiny to do what he did. He was so confident sometimes of his destiny that when he was in the Korean War, so he went from the First World War to the Second World War and then the Korean War. He was the leader of the forces in the Korean War. When he was asked to back down and not pursue, he was so driven to say I can't let the enemy get away with his that he disobeyed an order from the President of the United States and was removed as the leader. He's an interesting guy because I think he gets this area of king, warrior, friend and lover. I think he kind of gets it. How do I know? I'm going to put a quote up for you about what a son should be and you'll see it reflected in this quote from General McArthur. He says, build me a son oh Lord who will be strong enough to know when he is weak and brave enough to face himself when he is afraid. One who will be proud and unbending in honest defeat and humble and gentle in victory. There's all the

parts of the mind listed in that whole area. Now you need to understand that with this, if you just stop here and say I've checked my core and you ignore the next one, number four, the shadow, you're in trouble.

Look at number four. His shadow's deception and constant lies regarding what truly matters in the forest battles. Know that your shadow is constantly lying to you, constantly wanting to destroy. Your shadow is a deceiver. Your shadow is the person, the being, the enemy that wants to destroy you and others. So you need to take that into account in the journey that you're in as you walk through this one.

Look at the next one. His spirit, if he chooses rebirth, through his ongoing relationship with God through Christ can be used for the following. Now we've gone over these. It's just important. I'm just going to walk you right through them. Fly with me here. Forgiveness to regain his footing and receive ongoing assistance in the shadow's presence in his life. If you blow it, you get a chance to keep going. That's what Christ does.

Two, encouragement to maintain the fight through good and bad times. The battle is relentless. It keeps coming. You'll be encouraged to maintain that fight.

Next thing. Guidance with regard to his next choices. When you are connected to Christ, Christ becomes your mentor and will guide you as to what is the next choice to be made in a battle.

Next one. Reminding him of the personal value when he inevitably becomes discouraged. When you find yourself feeling like I cannot keep this up, inevitably Christ says I've come along side to stand with you. The one thing a warrior will discover is no matter what even though you might not be standing with other guys. You'll never be standing completely alone if your spirits come alive because you'll be standing in Christ and He'll stand right next to you.

The next one. Calling him to God's specific meaning and purpose for his life beyond the mere existence of the average male, There is something bigger going on. When you're connected to God, you realize there's something bigger that's happening, okay? That's all the parts of the core except one. The last part of the core is your self. Your self is that which will decide. It will choose. It will make a decision as to what I do with the weapon in my hand. What do I do now that I'm battle ready when the time comes. I'm not going to react, right, not if I'm doing this right. How am I going to do it.

Let's walk through what the self does. The warrior's well developed strong sense of self helps him choose, helps him as he chooses his battles. When you're in a battle, you're going to have to

choose when to fight, when not to fight, when to walk away, when to get engaged. It was interesting earlier when we were showing you the clip from Sherlock Holmes, he comes to the place where he said it's time for me not to engage. The guy kept the battle going and then he made another decision to reengage in the battle. That's what your self is going to help you to decide, alright. So here's what we're going to look at.

Number one. He listens to input from his core to make worthy choices. It almost goes without saying. You're going to listen to the input from your core, all six, walk down, take a look at them.

Number two. He readily portrays who he is through his actions. He readily portrays who he is through his actions. Guess who I see you as? Guess who I know you as? I know you as the choices that you've made. I do. I don't know you by any other part of your core singularly. I know you by your self. What you reveal by your choices. You know me by my choices. As we look at that and as we understand that, we sort of say I'm responsible for me. Now apart from God I don't think I can do anything effectively. Apart from Christ I can do nothing, in my opinion. That's my journey, where I'm at in my discovery of my life. However, I'm responsible for my choices along the way. It's on me.

Look at number three. He realizes the buck stops with him when a bad choice is made and he quickly corrects it. Guys when

you realize you've blown it, you correct it. As soon as you realize it, you confess it, you correct it with the ones you've blown it with. You ask for forgiveness. You know that pattern, right? You get that down. Correct it by confessing, correcting the action, asking for forgiveness.

Next one. He relies heavily, number four, on the fifteen manhood principles, his values and the input of his inner voice to honor his core's design by doing what is right. He's going to rely heavily on things that he knows intuitively. Why do you think we're going to spend all of next year learning wisdom of a knight, the principles of a knight? Because when they become intuitive within you and the reactions are coming. Now I actually believe that armor buys you a few seconds. I actually believe that you have a couple seconds before you have to immediately react, but sometimes guys, reactions are coming literally within a few seconds. If you have your principles intact so that when you're making the decision it's rooted off of principles, whether they are the fifteen principles of knighthood that we give you or fifteen principles that you develop, the reality is, once you start living that way your reaction will be tempered by those. We recommend the principles we recommend because we think they'll take you to the clearest direction of knighthood possible, but those principles become absolutely essential.

Look at the next one. He knows how to maintain a balance between fun and work. He knows how to maintain a balance between fun and work. One of the things that if you look up on the screen behind me, and there is really nothing fun about that. Now it's fun if its, you're playing a character, if you're going to use this as your engagement day and you come up on knight and horseback and all that kind of stuff, but this is a guy ready for battle. You're going to need to learn the balance of when to get off the horse and when to take that heavy armor off, when to let the weapons aside. You're going to have to learn when to have fun because if all you are is that, number one, you can't maintain it very long, and two, the very ones you're trying to protect will after awhile find themselves giving distance from you and not engaging. And I believe that one of the biggest changes a warrior can make is when a little one feels safe with him. When a woman feels like around him all she wants to do is just fold into his arms. I think when we get here, so I think fun being lost in our lives gets to be a problem. A balance between the two becomes very important.

Look at the next one. The next one under understanding the self is this. He seeks supportive relationships wisely. He seeks supportive relationships wisely. Who are you involved in that's going to lift you up. Everything is about guys the good self as thought through, who is helping me to continue to be a good self, what

groups you hang out with, what you do. Alright. It becomes kind of obvious, doesn't it after awhile? Good knights hang out with good knights. Spandex males hang out with spandex males.

Last one. He trusts God with his life. He trusts God with his life. His whole life is not on him. His life is in God's hands. Um, it's interesting that in the movie that we've kind of been talking about Sherlock Holmes, There's another scene. Let me let you experience the scene. Sherlock has been blindfolded in a carriage and has driven off to a location he doesn't know what it is. When the blindfold comes off, there's a guy standing before him, sort of a Lord of England somehow who wants to explain how they need his services. Before they can tell them where he is, before they can tell him who they are, Sherlock tells them where he is because of all of his senses that he used in the carriage on the way to the place telling them, I know where I am. Then he told them I know who you are by what's on the table, what king you're wearing, the surroundings I find myself in and he identifies it and then he identifies even more importantly I believe you're connected to and the villain in the story Lord Blackwood. I believe you're connected to him. And all of a sudden all this becomes very clear. You know why? Because with the hood over his head, Sherlock Holmes did not lose contact with all the parts of his core that could give information. I love that movie. Now as you come out of that scene,

as you get away from that scene, there's this moment where it's sort of surrealistic and you realize this guy is operating at another level and guys, I believe we're designed to operate at another level. I think we're designed to be very, very alert because our decisions matter. The choices we make matter. So you got to be battle ready guys.

There was a guy by the name of Bill Havens. Bill Havens was an Olympic athlete, an Olympic canoe rower. The year was 1924. It became apparent that the Olympics were going to be held, it was before we could fly. He's have to go across the ship, by ship to the Olympics and then come back by ship and he would miss the birth of his child and he decided as a result of that that he would not miss the birth of his child and he withdrew from the Olympics. The team that he was on actually won the Gold Medal and he missed the opportunity and on that day a young man by the name of Frank was born. It will be years later in the fifties, 1956 that Frank will win the Gold Medal in canoeing. He'll win it and he'll call his dad and say have any regrets and his dad will smile say absolutely, absolutely none. Gold medals come and go. Sons go forever. You see because I believe that medal burns up but you and I are eternal.

Why do I want you to be battle ready? I think we have eternal battles to fight guys. I think we have something so much larger than us that's going on. When your armor is on and your core is intact

and you're making decisions and your chain mail is strong, when you find yourself in this position, and you start using your weapons well, guarantee it you will change the world and when you change the world, the forest around you, you will change it for eternity. One more week. One more trail. Let' do it. See you then.