

Knights of the 21st Century

Trail 21

So here we are on Trail 21 and we're already finding ourselves just a few weeks where we're all done. I want you to understand guy, now's the time you need to be writing your knighthood plan. In the back of the book there are knighthood plans. Get in there. Start writing them, pick them out, one of three options. There's the long version, the kind of simpler and then one if you want to work on some goals, but you're going to need a knighthood plan to graduate. So now's a great time to start thinking about it. I'll talk to you about that next time we get together but that's really important.

We're starting to connect things, okay, that we've been connecting all the way through. I want you to connect also the last week when we were talking about our moms and what we learn and our chain mail and our filters and, and at the end I talked to you about a movie called "Take the Lead" in which a guy was teaching this principal of the school to dance and what he would do for her. There's a story for my life that is actually going to fit in to exactly where we're going to go today which is actually about dads instead of moms, but when about four years ago when our boys were getting married, Lynn desperately wanted to take dance lessons with me. Now I dance like a Barbarian on a Viking ship that going to eat a

rock cow. I don't dance. I don't have rhythm but I really absolutely adore her and that was important to her and so we took dance lessons, which was really a fun thing. It took me way out of my comfort zone. I wanted to go a place where nobody would know me. I got there, everybody knows, but it was just a great experience together. We learned together.

Um, one night she had come home from work and she was really discouraged, just really discouraged and things would happen in life that had just gotten her down on a couple different levels and she was sitting in the kitchen talking and I suddenly stood up and I reached down and I grabbed her hand. I stood up and put my arm around her waist and we began to dance without music. Now that's good for me. I don't usually – I can do my own _____ works a lot better. But slowly and quietly I began to lead her, hold her, take her on this kind of what she would tell you later would be a very romantic moment, a very loving moment. She felt safe. She felt protected. You see that is actually what you were designed to do as a child growing up to feel safe and protected, following the lead of parents who would guide you. So when we talk about fathers, we move into this world of our lives. This gets really risky. Can I tell you why it gets risky? Because you have a god who says his name, one of many, is father. So if you have a bad experience with your earthy father, you sort of assume that God the Father is that way.

He takes that risk because it's so important. He is going to score on a test, we're going to score our dads in the next few minutes. He would score a hundred and fifty out of a hundred and fifty points. He's God the Father. He's good at it, but by using the same name that some of you would call your dad and your dad did not turn out so well, He risks his reputation and it makes you wonder, why would He do that? I think because he considers this particular position, the position of a father to be an extremely significant place in a child's life, male or female. And He wanted to make sure He knew, everybody knew how important this was, because what that person does is designed to call them to a place where they feel safe and protected, call them up to that protection. Where it's almost like if He's on duty, if He's guarding them, then they're safe and they feel secure.

It's like these two soldiers behind me on watch. Their backs, their looking that way. They're engaged in protecting me so that I can do what I need to do over here. God says, that's the father I am. So when you take the title of this trail, Trail 21, dad, friend or foe, if that dad is God the Father, then I'm going to tell you it's friend, and so when He meets you, He's guarding the line and He asks you as old guards would at the line, friend or foe and you identify yourself as a friend, which He already knows and He welcomes you in.

Some dads, however, have stood in opposition to you and they haven't been a friend. They've actually been a foe and so the guard of your dad supposed to be in your life is actually the enemy who pulls his weapon down upon you. And that which you think is safe suddenly becomes vulnerable.

The high level of risk of what we're about to do guys is connected to this concept of God the Father says I'm willing to risk my name on this one, even though we as fathers and some of us have had fathers that have let us down.

You know my story about my dad. I told it to you but let me give you a quick overview. First eleven, twelve years of my life, my dad's an amazing man. We played games as a kid. We played finger games. He used to work three jobs. He would work all during the week and then he would work on Friday and Friday late into the morning. He'd get home about 6:00 in the morning and I'd still go into his room around 10:00 on Saturday morning. He's still sleeping, because he had only been sleeping for like four hours and he would wake up and we would play these cool little games, finger games with our hands. He was always making me laugh or I would be grabbing his fingers and all that. I can remember very distinctly as a little boy these moments. I remember playing this game called Bridge where we would roll these balls down the boards. Did you ever have like those leafs that go into a table and make them

bigger? We put those from our sofa onto our living room floor and he'd built a house and I'd roll these balls down and knock these house, the blocks down that he's built his house out of and he would say things like, oh, there goes my bathtub and there goes the kitchen sink and I'd laugh and roll these things down and he's make all these great sounds. I have great memories until somewhere around eleven-twelve, my aunt got cancer and my dad said if she dies he'll stop trusting God. She died. He kept his word and my dad changes.

You take your core gentlemen and you deny the spirit, you start fighting against your soul and guys, you're going to start making choices that are bad. My dad had done that. So for the next forty-five years of my life and his life, my dad will degenerate, deteriorate.

Four days before died, a little over a year ago, a year and a half ago, when he died, he was a different man. The last four days of his life he blessed each of my sons. He encouraged them. He never showed up in anything in their lives. Suddenly they're all at his bedside. He's saying positive things, lifting them up. In fact, as he spoke, he reminded me of a man I knew forty-five years earlier. He blessed Lynn. He had not treated Lynn with honor and respect for such a long and did not let her know how valued she was. Ever since my mom died, he got far worse in how he cared for the family.

My blessed each of their - at that point, Josh was married. Cole wasn't even conceived of yet but he blessed their marriage and any children they would have. He blessed Careen, Joel's girlfriend, Caleb's girlfriend. He blessed them all. He was like, wow. My dad was not very good at saying he was proud of me. Although he never did it in his last few days of his life, he was certainly clear in saying he loved me and certainly clear, let me know that I had some abilities that he appreciated. Those were a cool four days and then my dad died. After the funeral we got a copy of his will. His will was written in the first and during those forty-five years. He will cut my children out. His will cut my wife out. Oh he would give me some money under restriction, but he cut me, her, them out. Now if you think it's about money, it has nothing to do with money. It has everything to do with attitude. Suddenly my dad had four phases of his life for me. The first eleven, twelve years, the next forty-five, the next four days, the rest of our memory of him. All of it goes to those areas. So when I grade my dad I have to take the entire scope and walk to that. So what I'm going to ask you to do guys, is to do something that's a little bit trickier. Moms are holy ground, but not dads. Dads aren't. What dads are in a very clear way is dads are these, these people that we feel free to judge, to talk about, lies you never do with our moms. Even though the God of the universe uses the name like father, scores a hundred and fifty points, you and I

are going to have chances to score our dads. So walk with me as we walk through this concept of leafs and filters regarding our dad.

Dad, friend or foe, Roman numeral one. The struggles of a father and their influence on men. The struggles of a father and their influence on men. These are things you just need to understand. Here they are. Number one, males don't like to be wrong and so by utilizing their unanalyzed past experience as a map, they unknowingly create what they have come to belief. In essence, men, that long statement all basically says down to this. Guys, we have stuff behind us. You know had a bad dad. So when my dad became a bad dad, you sort of get it, right, you sort of get how that whole things works and the direction this takes off in. And what we don't like to do is we don't like to analyze it, so we just keep doing it over and over again, so if my dad had wrong beliefs from his dad, he was going to try to pass those wrong beliefs onto me, right. That's chain mail. In fact, his dad's dad had wrong beliefs and none of them stopped to try to figure out why they were doing what they were doing. They just kept on taking what they received in their filters and going forward.

Look at number two. For many men, dad was simply not present, physically or emotionally, for their knighthood to be guided through their observation of him. Missing dads, missing dads. A lot of you guys have no dads. I want to read you some stats about

missing fathers. This is off of missing dads from families dot com. An estimated 24.7 million children, that's 36.3 percent live absent from their biological fathers. It's safe to say that if you're sitting with a group of four men, at least one of you is absent from their biological father. Two, look at this, that person, that individual is five times more likely to be poor. The infant mortality rate are almost two times higher for infants of unmarried mothers than for married mothers. The infant mortality rate, babies don't die a whole lot in our nation unless we abort them or unless there's not care available. The infant mortality rate doubles from married to unmarried. The important role of a man. It also doubles the risk that a child will suffer physical, emotional or educational neglect. When that child does not have a biological father engaged with them, that risk goes up dramatically. Listen to this, they are sixty-eight percent more likely to smoke, drink or use drugs. Sixty-eight percent more likely. Well over fifty percent, alright. They are two times likely to drop out of school. Seventy-two percent of adolescent murderers grew up without fathers. Sixty percent of America's rapists grew up the same way, without a dad. You don't think this is big. Some of you guys I know you're sitting here and this is part of your world. Listen to this. Kids who exhibit violent behavior at school were eleven times as likely not to live with their fathers and six times as likely to

have parents who were not married. Wow. We can begin to understand the danger of absent fathers, right?

Gentlemen, I will tell you that if you have been functioning as an absent father, one of the things that I want you to do on this day is to vow that you won't function that way anymore. I want you to commit that you will engage in your child's life. If all you're able to do without disturbing the peace of the household is economically make a difference, do so. But you engage, do as much as you're able to do without disturbing the world and if you can reunite with the family, then do so. Fathers are an important role. God the Father counted that as one of His names. Don't take it lightly. Children need their fathers.

Another thing. The struggles of fathers and their influence on men to free himself of this past experience filter, the knight must act courageously in opposition to what he once had negatively modeled to him. If you're going to break this direction. If you're going to break the trend, it's going to take a lot of courage. In the Bible it says the sins of a father are visited up to four generations. So that means that if I do wrong, one of the reasons I wanted to get free from pornography before my sons were born, I didn't want to carry that over to them. The sins of a father are carried up to four generations, just naturally just kind of bridges in. It's very, very hard to pull this out of us. You know what's interesting though, the

righteousness of a father is carried under a thousand years. Four generations, eighty years, right? Righteousness for a thousand years. What we do good in our children get imbedded well in our lives. So good decision making. Get the courage to break free.

Number four. The dragon filter of the father figure must be confronted and defeated in order for knights to leave his spandex roots. You must deal with a bad dad, guys. You simply must deal with a bad dad. So in your Knightly News when I put a name up like Lot, what do you nickname for a guy, this is the nephew of Abraham. You probably have heard of Abraham. Abraham is one of the patriarchs of the nation of Israel. In the Bible you just don't go very far without discovering the powerful way God used him to form the nation of which the line of Jesus would come from. Lot is his nephew. Lot makes bad choices. Lot's a spandex male. Lot keeps playing with the edge. He puts bad armor. He keeps covering up, that's just wrong. He's playing on the edge, playing on the edge, playing on the edge, but he finds himself sitting in a gate of a city called Sodom. And two cities, Sodom and Gomorrah, as you know end up being destroyed. God has sent some angels to that city and under, under Abraham's pleading those angels were going to try to find Lot and his family and if they could find ten righteous people, ten good people in a huge city, God will spare that city from being destroyed. An angels arrive, Lot's there and he talks to them and

says, hey don't stay here and sleep in here during the night. It's not safe in this city. Come into my house. Let me protect you. So these two angels come into his house and during the night all the men of the city, all the men of the city it says knock on his door and say I know you have two men in there, bring them out so we can have sex with them. Lot who is now fully engaged in this lifestyle, fully engaged with these guys, he comes out and says, man this is bad. These guys come underneath the protection of my house. Don't do this wicked thing to them. He knows their angels. He knows they're bastards from God. He says don't do this bad thing and then he says this. This is like father saying these things. I have two daughters who have never slept with a man. Let me give them to you, you do what you want to with them, just don't do this to these men who have come under the protection of my house. It doesn't make you gag to hear a man say that? The damage that those words are. Angels blind the men and pull Lot back into the house, tell him to leave. He'll hesitate because he loves the environment that he's lived in and they're supposed to run to the mountains. But Lot always making a deal, runs to a city instead. Cities are destroyed. That little city he runs to a little tiny town is spared, but Lot's wife because she's not hiding in the mountains, turns, sees the destruction and turns into a pillar of salt. Everything about the story of Lot is bad, but it actually gets worse. Now remember, Lot is part

of the nation of Israel. He doesn't live in the town anymore. He takes his daughters up into the mountains because he's afraid of what's going on in the city. They all kind of blame him for what's going on. His daughters are up in the mountains and they go, how are we going to have children living in the mountains just with our dad. I know what we'll do. We'll get him drunk and we'll have sex with our own father and we'll have offspring. That's what they do. Where do you think they learned that? Probably at Sodom high school. You know what's really interesting? Lot, this bad father, had already told them that they weren't valuable. They have sex with their own dad. You know what's, if you look at history, the two nations that were born out of that, the Moabites and Ammonites. Those two are still to this day the Nation of Israel's greatest enemies. Lot, you don't think though a father doing the right thing is key to generations on the way down? That story man will shake you up when you read that. It will cause you to say, wait a minute. I want to be a good father. I want to do the right thing.

Now in order to understand how you're doing, let's evaluate our dads. Let's walk through that journey. Consider this. We're going to score this out, Roman numeral two, the experience of our fathers figures, measuring the ways our fathers modeled manhood and its comparison to that of a man and a spandex male. I want you to measure your father figure. I want you to measure him. Now

here's how you're going to do it. Grade each one, um, each question on a scale of one to five. One equals the characteristic of a spandex male, the man you don't want to be and five, the characteristic of a knight. So as you go through this, thinking of your dad. You're saying is he spandex or is he knight. He is more like spandex or is he more knight? Now I think my dad and take his total life. If I just took the forty-five years, he's going to score a little lower. If I just took his, his, the cruelty of his will, he scores even lower. But if I, I have to add into it the eleven good years and the four good days. So I put that all together and I put his score together. So as I walk through this, you have to do the same thing with your dad. Don't just take the last fifteen minutes. Take his life in general and put a number that corresponds with it.

Alright. Number one. Did your father take care of himself physically? Does your father take care of himself? Was he a man that saw survival as important to his family? So how did he do with that? Did he exercise? Alright, one to five.

Number two. How well did he control his anger? How well did he control his anger? My dad got a two on the first one, didn't exercise very much. He, and as a result of that, interestingly enough, I never got involved, I played some athletic things throughout my career growing up but never because my dad pushed it. This one, this next one is that when we think in terms of my

dad's anger, he was actually fairly balance, even in his bad years. He never, he would explode but it was always within control. I never felt like I was afraid or very rarely. And so how did he do? That's a three for him. How did your dad do?

How well did he guide his sexuality? How well did he guide his sexuality? I can tell you this, he didn't guide mine. He didn't work on my life. You guys know, how did I find out about masturbation, it was with my mom in a closet painting. Remember I told you that story. Guys, my dad just sort of didn't deal with this issue. He actually had some sexual problems that he dealt with that he would never talk to me about. It was like he wanted to keep it a secret. I wish he had. I wish he had talked to me about his struggle with pornography. I wish he had talked to me about his struggle with his own sexuality. I wish he had talked to me about his struggle with whether or not he could be faithful to my mom. My dad did some things that he doesn't know that I know and he did some things that he wishes, I'm sure wishes he had never done, but the weird part about is, is my dad never talked to me about it. So if sexuality isn't handled, regardless of how well or not handled, for me he didn't handle it at all. It was sort of a non-issue. Therefore, number three.

Number four now. How responsible was he and willing to face life? How responsible was he and willing to face life? Did he tend to run? Did he tend to stand? Did he tend to make sure everybody

was taken care of or was he always taken care of first? It's interesting. He actually was a fairly good financial guy. So he sort of took care of us, but my dad also didn't exhibit a lot of courage. On occasions, he would stand. Those were in the first twelve years of my life as I remember them, but he was not a man who would show me a knight. He wasn't pure spandex male. I've seen some of your dads. I know. So I have that difference and my dad's about a three on that one. How's your dad's score

Was he giving of himself? Number five. Was he giving of himself? Otherly. Is the otherly aspect, is he a loner, was he expecting care. What kind of dad was he? Was he a guy that had people around? Were you used to him entertaining? Were you used to him valuing people? When he's talk about people in the car as if they were less than valuable as you would ride along? Would he come home and verbally shoot at people? How did he do in that area? One to five.

Six. Did he have strong relationships with other men? How did he do? Did he have men that were close friends? Um, it's interesting that this was an area that was tricky. My mom and dad had couples that they would get together with on a regular basis. They didn't ever go out to dinner. It's almost like they had to save money or something in this. They never went out to dinner but they would have dinner with friends over. One of them would cook for

them or they would come over for dessert or whatever, but I don't honestly ever remember my dad after Walt Ashcroft who, remember the story about the quarry and my dad pulling into it as a kid. I don't ever remember my dad having a male friend. I don't ever remember my dad going out with a couple guys and talking through life, ever. Um, so in it, he had friendships. He wasn't like totally alone but I don't know if he was struggling who he would have called. He certainly didn't call me when he was struggling unless it was an issue where he was scared about my mom's cancer or something like that. Where'd he go? How about your dad?

Look at the next one. Did he maintain a balance between work and positive pleasure? Did he have a balance between these two important areas? I think that you have to weigh this out. This one is really interesting because his belief is going to be reflected here. Did he live life and enjoy life or was life a drudgery and a responsibility? Did he love work? You know my dad actually didn't like work. He was a cattle shoot and he had to get on a train to go into the city of Philadelphia every day and the same routine, but he sort of liked the job that he did. I mean these different things would go back and forth. He was an okay guy sort of balanced between fun and pleasure, but some of you have dads that never found that balance.

If you think about the movie “Iron Man that I showed you earlier or we talked about earlier, “Iron Man II” came out and very rarely do I like the second movie more than the first movie whenever there’s a sequel, but actually I really liked this one a lot. There’s some insights that come into this one about Tony Stark. As a matter of fact, the scene I’m going to show you, um, is a scene where Tony Stark who is the head of this conglomerate that makes weapons, this great industry that was coming, that had come from his father who was an inventor and a man brilliant in electronics. Tony Stark is becoming very ill from the item within his chest that keeps him alive. It’s like a reactor that lives inside of him that allows him to be Iron Man, so that’s kind of a cool deal, but it’s killing him. When we pick up the scene, he’s sitting with Nick Fury. Nick Fury is the head of this organization called Shield. Shield is this things that deals with sort of super heroes and the power that we can do to make a difference in the world and all the sort of weird things that happen out there. Nick Fury is a guy, big guy with a patch over one eye and they’re sitting there talking and Tony Stark was saying, the happiest day of my dad’s life was the day that I got out of the house. Nick Fury says, that’s not the way I heard it and he loved you. He thought you were great and he goes, well, you must know him better than I did because he didn’t talk to me about that stuff. He says, well I want to tell you about your dad. Your dad was a brilliant

inventor. He started Shield which Tony didn't know, but he also greatly valued you. Tony says, you got this wrong man. I'm telling you. So Nick Fury says I go to go and he leaves Tony with a box full of stuff from his dad, old Super 8 movies and paperwork and all this stuff, a big trunk and he says, you stay here. He turns to some of the other guys from Shield and say you take care of him. One of the guys says, hey, just so you know Tony, my job is not here to make you feel comfortable. My job is to make sure you stay here and if you do leave, I will taser you and watch you drool on the floor while I watch cartoons. Tony then is stuck with this revelation. My dad somehow values me but I never knew it. My dad, all I knew was work, work, work, work and I was sort of left out of the closet. As the scene comes to the end, you know that Tony's about to have this kind of encounter where he's going to take Nick's advice and look at the stuff Nick's given him to give him some insight into his dad. But at that particular point if you stop Tony Stark and say, how come you became this playboy, rich boy who was so spandex in your behavior until you became Iron Man, how come you became that guy? Well because you thought you weren't valuable. You believed a bunch of lies about yourself. The chain mail of your life didn't have true concepts in it, it just had beliefs that you had that were leading you in the wrong direction. Now Iron Man was helping him think differently and he would soon find out, we'll talk about this

scene later. He soon will find out how valuable he really is. Now think, keep walking through the test, however, to understand our worth and our value connected to our dads.

Number eight. Did he face the pain of life directly? How well did your dad face pain? Was he willing to look back? Was he willing to look back? Was he willing to deal with his past? How well did he do? Yeah, my dad's relatively balanced in that area, about a three?

Number nine. Did he have or old a high moral code? Was your dad a moral man? How did he do in that area? Interestingly enough, my dad's going to score a four. His highest number is right there. He has a moral code. Even though he's not trusting God, the morality of God was still permeating most of his life.

Look at the next one. Did he protect all members of his family? Did he protect all members of his family? The simple answer for my dad is no. No, he didn't. As a matter of fact my dad wanted to be protected by us more than he wanted to protect. Now whenever he would protect, he would over protect or over control. He didn't protect very well, right.

Next one. Was he good at listening and communicating and valuing others? Was your dad good at listening? Was he good at evaluating people? Um, I want you to score your dad on that one. Just think him through. Is he, is he spandex in that, man he just

always misread people, didn't value people, or was he awesome with that? One to five.

Look at the next one. Was he able to express himself emotionally in a healthy way? Was he able to express himself in a healthy way? It's really interesting. My dad will have a breakdown right around when I was about thirteen after he'd lost the job and sort of crashed and, and from that particular point, my dad started to show less and less and less of his emotional side and whenever he did of that emotional side, whatever he did it was completely out of control. Lynn's father on the other hand was a military man, career man. He never, ever expressed emotion. I remember when I asked him if I could marry his daughter and he said, no. Um, I remember that and I said well I won't marry her without your permission and he said I'll never give it to you and he did. And he had a little twinkle in his eye even when we were going through that encounter and he blessed the marriage. He got involved in all that as much as he could. Never showed emotion. The closest I ever saw him was on our wedding day when he was bringing Lynn down the isle and he had a little tear slightly in his eye which he got rid of real quick. How does your dad do in that area?

Look at the next one. Was he good at decision making? Was he good at decision making? What kind of decisions did your dad make? What kind of consequences are you still paying for for those

decisions? What are the blessings you have in your life because he was good at it? One to five, rate your dad.

Look at the next one. Did he have a strong relationship with God? Did your dad have a strong relationship with God. Remember God the Father, calls himself father. Was your dad able to feel good about God? Actually my dad wasn't. My dad had broken his relationship off with God so my view of God the Father actually came more from my mother than from my dad. It actually came more from my relationship with God than with my dad. How did your dad do with God? One to five, rate your dad.

Look at the next one. As you're thinking in terms of fifteen, was he aware of his shadow? Was he aware of his weaknesses? Did he admit them? Did he say I got a shadow and I got a problem with it? My dad was very, very good at admitting his weaknesses. His only other four in his test. He could definitely admit his weaknesses, sometimes too much so. He was very much aware though of the things he was doing wrong. He had a moral background that he had abandoned.

Look at the next one. Number sixteen. Would he take proper action to correct his mistakes? Did he admit his mistakes? Did he take the action to correct them? So did your dad blow, did he correct it with you? One to five.

Look at the next one. Did he forgive others when they wronged him? Was your dad a person that was forgiving? You'll know this. Was he bitter or did he act free? Did he act hurt a lot or did he act like a person that, that what happened in his past he was breaking free from? My dad clearly got sucked back into his past and showed bitterness, alright. What's the next one for your dad.

Um, did he choose, number eighteen, did he choose his life principles well and live by them? Did he choose his life principles well and did he live by them? It's interesting. Early on, yes. The last four days of his life, yes. In between, no. So my dad's right in the middle. How's your dad's score, one to five. Keep scoring your dad. It's very important. And maybe you can be totaling as you're going so you can act like an accountant, feel like you're in the game, alright.

Number nineteen. Did he learn from his past and reflect healthy growth? Did your dad learn from his past and reflect healthy growth? Does your dad learn from his filters and does he create truth as a result from the filters that he has that are giving him good strong chain mail? My dad's going to not do well on that one. How does your dad do?

Number twenty. Did he act confidently without unnecessary defensiveness? Did he act as if he was confident without being unnecessarily defensive? My dad struggled tremendously with

change. He struggled tremendously with wanting things to be the way they used to be. And so as a result of that he would fight this all the way. How did your dad score? Where is he at?

Now total it up, total it up. We've gone through all twenty on your dad. Add up your dad's score. See how well he modeled manhood. Okay, the possible points are a hundred. How did he do? Add up your dad's possible points, see where it ends up here. Okay, you got it. Alright now think this through, keep looking at that sheet. Keep saying, okay, got it, got it, got it. My dad has fifty-six. I don't know what your dad has. My dad's number is fifty-six out of a possible one hundred.

Every time we get together we talk about a man from history. Julius Caesar is a guy whose father died when he was sixteen years old. You say well that's bad enough. Well actually his dad was a pretty weak man, Gaius was pretty weak and so here's Gaius a weak father who dies when he's sixteen. Julius Caesar becomes ruthless, ruthless. He is a man who was so arrogant and so overwhelmingly confident, people would follow him because if you didn't they be painful. Julius Caesar is an interesting guy because he was a guy that at one time was captured by some Barbarians, pirates and he told the pirates how much they should offer for him and when they offered him less, he was indignant and said I'm not going to be going for anything less than this amount. He was so confident who

he was and actually the pirates were probably more afraid of him and were pretty glad when he got picked up. Julius Caesar when you look back on history built some things and created some things but we also see the reflection of a bad dad in his life. We see some evidence of some cracked morality. So when this statement, this quote from Julius Caesar happens, you sort of get it in light of his background. Look at this statement from Julius Caesar. It says, men in general are quick to believe that which they wish to be true. It's not a very high statement on the heart of men. Men are quick to believe things they wish to be true because men are not men of character. Why? Because my dad wasn't. He died anyway. I don't think Julius Caesar clearly ever met God the Father at a hundred fifty points, never met God because he would know differently. See true knights have high character and are not easily swayed. Julius Caesar's belief like that caused him to do certain things. Now there, you think well how did God get a hundred, and the highest score my dad could have gotten was a hundred? Well, because there's a couple more things we want to look at that will help you score your dad. Here we go. We're going to fly through these together.

Look at Roman numeral number three. The memories of our dad's behavior. These are just remembering our dad's behavior. Same thing we're going to do. We're going to grade each male on a scale of one to five, one equals the characteristics of a spandex

male, five the characteristics of a knight. Now be prepared guys because we're going to move quickly. Here we go.

Number one. Dad and I spent a lot of positive time together. Dad and I spent a lot of time, positive time together. Did you? Yes or no. One to three. One to five, excuse me. One to five.

Dad let me know often, number two, that he loved me. Dad let me know often that he loved me. One to five. My dad's on threes on both of these so far.

Next one. Dad demonstrated how to care for a woman by how he treated my mom. Dad demonstrated how he cared for a woman by how he treated your mom. If your dad left your mom for another woman, that tells you something right there. Ah, if your dad would never marry your mom, that tells you something right there. So how did that go? How did he score, one to five? My dad actually did okay on this, got a four. Again, his highest.

Four, dad lived a life of integrity and good character. Dad lived a life of integrity and good character. It's self-evident. We've been talking through this. One to five.

Five. Dad disciplined me fairly and controlled his anger. Dad disciplined me fairly and controlled his anger. I know some of you guys have scars on your body when you answer this question and I'm aware, aware of how painful moving in these areas are.

Next one. Dad listened to me and complimented me. Dad listened to me and complimented me. I still to this day don't believe my dad was ever proud of me. I don't think he ever felt like I really had something significant to offer. So that answer is going to be a little bit lower for me. I don't know about you and your dad.

Look at number seven. Dad drank appropriately and guided his sexuality well. Dad drank appropriately and guided his sexuality well. We put both those together sometimes they seem to go hand in hand.

Number eight. Dad taught me how to do things and supported my learning. Dad taught me how to do things and supported my learning. My dad didn't do that very well.

Number nine. Dad sacrificed himself for others and led the family well. Dad sacrificed himself for others and led the family well. He has two different zones of his life. Part of it, yes, part of it, no. My dad gets a three. Give your dad a score of one to five.

Dad was interested in God and pursued a relationship with him. Dad was interested in God and pursued a relationship with him.

Add all those scores up now. By now you're getting the accountant system worked out so you're getting pretty close to it so here's what we're going to do. Add to your dad's score for this section and analyze his behavior. Possible points that your dad can have is fifty in this section. Your dad's points are twenty-nine. My

dad's points are twenty-nine. Put your dad's point on there. Take a minute. Get them on there. Now while you're doing that, here. Add dad's first and second scores for a total. Dad's first score in my case was fifty-six. His second score is twenty-nine for a total of eighty-five out of a possible hundred and fifty points. How did your dad score? Alright, how did he do, alright. Now I want you to take a look at this. Now we're going to unpack this a little bit more next week, so I just want to get to the point where you're looking at it and I do want you to share your scores. Um, I also have done this for myself as a father. I've also asked my sons to do it for me. So there's some courage that I'm learning to do to let my sons do it. I'm learning a lot about where I can and can't be stronger and how do I grow as a grandfather and as father of my sons now. Um, it's good to do this. Don't be afraid to do a little self, first evaluate yourself and then have those that are your children, if you have children, evaluate you.

Now we're going to do the same thing we did with moms. I'm going to give you the opportunity to check off one of five areas that this would give you an indication of with your dad. Look at these. Chain mail conclusions, check one of these. No impact from father. Basically the number I have here doesn't seem to have any kind of impact. Like him in a good way. I'm like my dad. Like him in a bad way. I'm not like my dad or I'm like him but it's not good. I'm

different from him in a good way. I'm different from him in a bad way. You want to walk through all of those things and decide okay, what kind of a son am I. Now knowing that, knowing that, here's what you're looking at. What kind of dad has dad been to me? What am I becoming like him? Is my chain mail like him or is, am I creating new chain mail in spite of him or in essence have taken a good look and have much better growth taking place? Am I letting the guards of my life, am I letting my dad be a friend or a foe? Am I letting the parts of who I am make all the difference because what my dad has done in either a positive or negative way. By the way, if your dad was negative, you can make positive choices as a result of that. You just have to recognize was he helping or hurting in the cause. It's friend or foe concept. He's on guard protecting our lives.

In the movie "Iron Man II" I know it's a fantasy, Tony Stark is, has come to the conclusion that he wasn't valuable to his dad and he had come to the conclusion that he wasn't important to his dad. His dad was so busy working and died relatively young in Tony's life. So there sits Tony. Watch this scene. Think about this scene in your mind's eye. What an impact it has. Tony is sitting in the quietness of his basement looking at movies from his dad who has long since died, way before video tapes, DVDs. He's watching these movies of his dad explaining this vision, almost in a Walt Disney kind of experience of this world like Epcot that he wanted to

create and he was going on in detail about what he desired about what he hoped for mankind and all this and you would see some of his dad's character's struggle with alcohol, so many other things would come up as the scenes are being shown, as they are being replayed and each one is being stopped and started and he's just watching these recordings of his dad on some type of a TV show or some type of recording for posterity. And then there's a certain point where his dad approaches the camera, clearly he's turned on all alone. He says, Tony what you see before you is this world that I've created. The world that I've created for you. I've taken it as far as I can with today's science, what we're able to do and so I'm entrusting it to you. Tony I want you to know that you are and always have been my greatest creation. And in the movie, the camera shoots over to Tony's face. You see within him something resonate deep within his soul that will change him, his beliefs that has chained him for a long time to come. As you fade out of that scene, you stop and you wish, if only my dad would say to me, you're my greatest creation. Can I tell you something. The God of the universe, the one who scores a hundred and fifty points and calls himself Father, looks at you and He says to you, you are my greatest creation. The God of the universe is a good father who watches over and protects so you can be all that you're designed to be. Whether or not your dad came through or not, don't miss the fact

that the God of the universe has come through and lived with the fact that you are His greatest creation. See you next week.