

Introduction:

- I read a couple of quotes this week that I thought you men may enjoy. “
 - *Becoming a father is not much different from becoming a sniper. It’s hard, not a lot of guys can easily pull it off, and it requires incredible amounts of patience, discipline, and focus. We’re out in front trying to locate, stalk, and take down high-value targets to protect what’s ours while under direct observation and criticism—from spouses, kids, other parents, society. We crawl for days, or years, trying to make forward progress, leading our families through unknown territory as we figure things out for ourselves, depending on luck and a whole lot of mercy to achieve our objectives.” Eric Davis, Raising Men.*
 - It is serious business being a father. It was the apostle Paul who said, “You have many teachers but not many fathers.” *“Many parents don’t realize that the actions and abilities they embody are a matter of life and death, just as much as they are on a typical SEAL mission. The consequences may not be immediate, but they can be just as fatal.”* Excerpt From: Eric Davis & Dina Santorelli. “Raising Men.” iBooks
- My goal today is to simply to encourage you as fathers. Encourage you to go for it. Be the best dad you can be. Let’s look at warrior is scripture we may be able to learn from.
- 2 Samuel 23:20-23 *“Benaiah was the son of Jehoiada, the son of a valiant man from Kabzeel, who had done many deeds. He had killed two lion-like heroes of Moab. He also had gone down and killed a lion in the midst of a pit on a snowy day. And he killed an Egyptian, a spectacular man. The Egyptian had a spear in his hand; so he went down to him with a staff, wrested the spear out of the Egyptian’s hand, and killed him with his own spear. These things Benaiah the son of Jehoiada did, and won a name among three mighty men. He was more honored than the thirty, but he did not attain to the first three. And David appointed him over his guard.”* (2 Samuel 23:20-23, NKJV)

I. Who Was Benaiah?

- A. Benaiah is a hero! He is another ordinary guy that earns his place in the pages of history by overcoming. He was lots bigger than this passage reveals, as we will see in a few moments. Benaiah was a nobody who become somebody. We will see as we look at his life that there were characteristics about him that made him to be the man he became. As dads the one ‘somebody’ we want to be is the ‘somebody’ to our kids!
- B. Where He came from.
 1. He comes from a little place in southern Judah, Kabzeel. He was of the tribe of Levi and his father was a priest. You can’t read his name, but in one place, that you don’t find these words attached to him: Benaiah, son of Jehoiada. Not only is he famous but so is his father, Jehoiada.
 2. Jehoiada was also a valiant warrior himself. Jehoida was a leader among the priests, and had rallied 3,700 men to support David when he was crowned at Hebron (1

Chron 12:21). This means Benaiah is also from the tribe of Levi, and a descendant of Aaron, the first high priest of Israel.

3. Benaiah (Yahweh builds up/delivers), Jehoiada (Yahweh Knows)
- C. What He did – defied the odds. If you were a gambler you either won big or lost big with this guy. He is known as one of Davids top four mighty men. Among them he is remembered for killing.
 1. Two lion like Moabites vs. one Israelite
 2. An Egyptian with a spear vs. an Israelite with a club
 3. Lion vs. man. Jumps into a pit on a snowy day to kill a lion.
- D. Who He was
 1. Famous Soldier 2 Sam 23:22-23 Valiant warrior! Valiant=Full of life.
 2. Captain of Davids Body Guard 1 Chron 11:25
 3. Commander of Solomon's Army 1 Kings 2:35

II. Learning from Benaiah

- A. Benaiah was bigger than his 3 mighty exploits.
 1. The Adonijah move. Adonijah was Absalom's brother. Absalom led a rebellion against his father David. Adonijah waited until David was old and made himself King.
 - a) 1 Kings 1:8 Benaiah not with them. **Loyal** to David. Loyalty can be described as dependability, trustworthiness, faithfulness, steadfast and allegiance, reliability and so on. Paul writing to the Christians at Corinth says, *"Therefore my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that the labour in the Lord is not in vain"* 1 Cor 15:58
 - b) 1 Kings 1:10 was not invited-considered dangerous because of his commitment to David. Benaiah had a solid reputation of supporting the King David, a support that you did not want to mess with. They were afraid of him. **Committed** to David.
 2. 1 Kings 1:32 Prophet Priest and Warrior were Davids closest friends. Benaiah is Davids personal body guard sent to make sure the mission of anointing Solomon happens. **Trust worthy** to make the mission happen. Whatever it takes.
 3. 1 Kings 1:36 He had **zeal and vision** for Davids Kingdom direction and now Solomon's
 4. 1 Kings 1:38 He carried out David's wishes for Solomon to be anointed King. **Team**
 5. 1 Kings 2:25 He kills Adonijah under solomons orders. **Dependable.**
 6. 1 Kings 2:29-35 He Kills Joab under Solomon's orders. **Dependable.**
 7. 1 Kings 2:35 He is put over all the armies of Israel. **Leadership**
 8. 1 Chron 4:36 These were leaders in their families and their father's house increased greatly

- B. What would Benaiah teach his sons and other fathers? I believe he would teach them the character traits that caused him to be successful in life.
1. Loyalty - allegiance is powerful
 2. Commitment - do whatever it takes
 3. Trustworthy
 4. Zeal for the vision
 5. Team - and unity, staying together
 6. Dependability-others are counting on you.
 7. Leadership
 8. Courage
 9. Lead from the front, by example.
 10. Don't quit
 11. Focus on the fundamentals – communication, fruit of the Spirit, personal growth.
- C. I.e. Chasing the 'bull' – bulls eye. The list of 11 things I gave you are not exhaustive. But they serve to show you things that you can be intentional about as a Father to your children. Focus on putting these into your child and you will build a great legacy. The challenge is to do and not just think about doing it. A good father will intentionally do this and in the end his children will call him their hero.

III. Characteristics of a Good Hero. If I am writing a story, and in that story I have a hero there are certain characteristics that a hero must have to make the story good. I want to help you dads to write your story. Those characteristics are characteristics that we can relate too and want to relate to. They are characteristics that we feel or move our hearts to a better place. They inspire us to be better. So what are the characteristics of a hero?

- A. **Heroes are unexpected.** The people we *expect* to be heroes/great father's are the 'stand-outs'. Charming, muscular, and over-confident. Usually, they just end up being jerks, though. IE. They are like pastor Tim, up front, charming, muscular, spiritual, etc. The real heroes though are guys like you; the ones hiding in obscurity, waiting to be discovered, like Arthur in *The Sword in the Stone*. You do not win the title 'great father' at the start of the 'movie'/journey. You win it in the end by a series of right choices along the way.
- B. **Heroes are unknown.** The *real* heroes are lurking in the background somewhere. They aren't famous. They're nobodies. They're Frodo Baggins, dreaming of adventure, while maybe slightly scared of the cost. They're the shepherd David, defending the flock and longing for a fight. These heroes lurking in the background only have to step out and be a dad to a son or daughter. We don't have to know all the details just start the journey of being a great dad. Most dads don't know they are Father's! They know that have a kid so they are a dad. But to be a father is to become a hero, a father, to your child.

- C. **Heroes are ordinary.** At the beginning of the story, our heroes are losers. They are not big impact people. They're mopping a floor somewhere. They really don't know what they are doing. They are just doing the best they can with what they have. Being a dad is a lot like that. You just start and keep applying yourself to be better.
- D. **Heroes are most often wounded.** Every hero has a wound. Like their villain counterparts, heroes are scarred in some significant way, either physically or emotionally. Often the wound takes the form of a fatal weakness, making the hero vulnerable and imperfect. Aragorn is plagued by self-doubt, and blames himself for the fellowship's misfortunes. Frodo becomes enslaved to the power of the ring, which results in the disfigurement of his hand. I am yet to meet a dad who was not wounded at some point in life. (All dads have wounds. Many of those wounds are hurts by words or actions of their fathers.) But they do not stop me from being a hero, being a good father!
- E. **Heroes become heroes through adversity. They don't quit.** At the beginning of the story, their skills are untested. Conflict must draw out the courage of a hero. That's why Gaston-Beauty and the Beast or Biff-Back to Future can never be a hero. Those guys are *all* bravado. They put on the air of a tough guy, but they run when the real fight begins. Don't run from the adversity, face it, overcome it, and grow through it.
- F. **Heroes show up.** They are always in the picture but it's not until the last moment when all hope seems lost that a hero distinguishes himself from the rest of the pack. Heroes *surprise* us. Heroes make the difference. Don't be a dad who is there but who has 'checked out'. Be an investor in your children. Be connected to their hearts.
- G. **Heroes are courageous they push through the fear.** They *live* what we all claim to believe – that courage isn't absence of fear, but rather *facing* it. They acknowledge their feelings but rise above them.
 - 1. Researchers suggest that heroic individuals are positive thinkers by nature, which contributes to their ability to look past the immediate danger of a situation and see a more optimistic outcome (they have a vision for what can be).
 - 2. He or she is willing to make hard decisions, even when the likely outcome is grim.
- H. **Heroes have a strong moral compass.** According to heroism researchers, Zimbardo and Franco, heroes have two essential qualities that set them apart from non-heroes: they live by their values and they are willing to endure personal risk to protect those values. Their values and personal beliefs give them the courage and resolve to endure risk and even danger in order to adhere to those principles. The world needs fathers who are committed to godly values and practical common sense values.
- I. **Heroes fight for others.**
 - 1. Heroes emerge when the innocent are in peril. Heroes fight, not because they want to, but because those whom they love will die if they don't. That's why you often see

reluctant heroes (Han Solo, Shrek, William Wallace, to name a few). It is only when times are tough, when all that they have will be utterly lost, that they emerge ready to fight.

2. They are sacrificial. At some point in the story, the hero is willing to give up his life. In some cases this takes the form of a sacrificial death. In each instance, the odds of survival are slim, and the risk is taken for the well-being of others. Frodo journeys to the heart of Mordor, knowing that the quest will claim his life. Aragorn leads a suicide mission to the Black Gates, trying to buy time for the ring bearer.
 3. Dads, what part of you are you willing to die too to build a better child?
- J. **Heroes are good at seeing things from the perspective of others.** Researchers suggest that heroes aren't just compassionate and caring; they have a knack for being able to see things from the perspective of others. They can 'walk a mile in another man's shoes,' so to speak. When they encounter a situation where an individual is in need, they are immediately able to see themselves in that same situation and see what needs to be done to help. I wish I had been better at that with my boys. This empowers you to lead with the heart. It creates connection, a value that many fathers overlook.
- K. **Heroes are Destined** There is something about the hero which makes him the right person to meet the challenge. He is destined to face the source of the danger, and is especially suited to do so. This could be due to heredity, history, prophecy or the will of God. Aragorn is the heir to the throne of Gondor, and must reclaim his kingdom. Frodo Baggins inherited the ring, and is told by Gandalf that providence meant for him to bear it. Dad, you are a part of God's plan for that child you are responsible for. The plan of God put you together. Give it your best!
- L. Those 11 characteristics make a great hero, in book, in movies, in life. Take them and write a great story.

Conclusion:

- I can't think of time more harder to be a father than in the days we now live in. As men we are being feminized and it increases daily. As fathers we are being taken more and more out of the picture by our culture.
- I encourage you today to get into the fight. Fight for your kids. Fight to teach them practical things to succeed in life. Fight to teach them godly character. Fight to be a living example before them. OODA loop – observe, orient, decide and act.