

I AM MAN

REFLECTING GOD'S CHARACTER
IN A WORLD OF CHAOS

Week Five: "I Am A Man ... Of Fearlessness"

I. The Fearlessness of Jesus

As men...

- ... we fear facing _____
- ... we fear _____ need
- ... we fear making _____
- ... we fear holding _____
- ... we fear _____

*There are men who
fear God...
and there are men
who fear men.*

- But more than anything else, we fear men!
 - the fear of man is a form of moral cowardice
 - ... we fear taking a _____

*Moral cowardice is
the ruin of manhood
– Edwin Louis Cole*

- The world needs men of _____ and _____
 - the moral courage that separates the men from the boys
 - the moral courage it takes to be a man of God
 - the moral courage to do the right thing
 - the moral courage to stand against the odds

- A. Men who will stand against the religious _____ (Matthew 12:9-14)
- Jesus was living an ideal life in an _____ world
 - Living out Christ-likeness will *always* bring about _____
 - Especially with the _____
 - Jesus' love for men outweighed His _____ of men
 - Jesus was unconcerned with what men could do *to* Him...
and He was even less concerned with what they could do *for* Him

Are you living a life that is on the average plane, doing what everybody else does, drifting with the current, or are you fearlessly standing against the status quo for the cause of Christ?

- B. Men who will stand against the life-robbing threat of _____ (Mark 2:23-28)
- Jesus was modeling grace in a world mired in restrictive _____
 - Living out Christ-likeness will *always* bring about _____
 - Especially from those who love _____ more than obedience
 - Jesus dared to live _____ the accepted standards of His day

Is your life marked by freedom or bondage? Do you live according to the rules and

expectations of men or in the grace-filled freedom of Christ? Do you fearlessly resist the temptation to measure yourself by the world's standards or the rules of religion?

- C. Men who will stand against the destructive power of _____ (Matthew 23:23-28)
- Jesus was demanding heart-_____, not behavior modification
 - Living out Christ-likeness will *always* result in _____
 - Especially with those who pride themselves on _____
 - Jesus refused to lower God's standards for the sake of _____

*Are you willing to stand against hypocrisy in the church, your home, your life?
Will you refuse to settle for a surface sanctification and do what it takes to have your life radically changed from the inside-out?*

- D. Men who will refuse to have their lives controlled by _____

III. Fearlessness and Faithfulness

- Jesus had absolutely *no* fear of man
- He was all that God meant for a man to be

John 2:13-17

- Jesus cleanses the temple
- He knew He was signing His death warrant
- He stood for what was right
- He was a picture of what God wants every man to be!

He had three concerns:

1. _____
2. _____
3. His Father's _____

Are you willing to pay the price?

- To speak _____
- To _____ the truth
- And day by day to _____ it out

Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere. – Psalm 84:10

Choose ... this day whom you will serve. – Joshua 24:15

I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.
– Psalm 84:10

PRAYER TIME

Take a few minutes to think about what it is that you fear most. Is it failure, loss of respect, ridicule or rejection? Do you fear not measuring up? Do you fear having to give up those things you hold near and dear? Whatever it is, share your fear with God right now. Confess it to Him. Ask Him to give you a spirit of boldness and fearlessness. Ask Him to transform you into the image of His Son. Devoted to truth, righteousness, and holiness. No matter the cost.

ANSWER KEY: reality, admitting, decisions, convictions, change, stand, courage, conviction, status quo, un-ideal, conflict, religious, love, fear, legalism, rules, criticism, tradition, above, hypocrisy, transformation, contrast, appearances, success, fear, truth, right, will, truth, uphold, live

To not rise up, to not defend righteousness, to not stand for good no matter the risk or opposition, would simply have been for Jesus not to be Jesus.

Oh so tragically, a man keeps silent. He does nothing or, worse yet, does something to "go with the flow." As a result, unrighteousness, ungodliness, the enemy – His enemy, and yours and mine – wins.

– Bruce Marchiano, *The Character of a Man*

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Week Six: "I Am A Man ... Of Selflessness"

Do you struggle with being selfless? Does your world tend to revolve around you and your interests? Do you have a hard time fitting other people into your agenda? For a lot of us as men, we find it hard to put the needs of others ahead of our own, even when we know it's the *right* thing to do. We know it's the Christlike thing to do, but it doesn't make it any easier. Yet if you agree that Jesus is the supreme example of what it means to be a man, then we need to take a look at His life and see how He modeled selflessness for us. Sure, we know He did it perfectly, but is there any hope for us in this life? Let's find out.

- Read the following passages and write out what you discover about Jesus and His selflessness and His giving spirit:

Matthew 14:14

Matthew 8:7

Mark 1:41

John 10:11

John 14:2

Matthew 27:50

- Read Philippians 2:5-8
What does this passage tell you about Jesus' selfless attitude? How did He model selflessness according to this passage?

- Read Romans 5:6-8
What do these verses tell us Jesus did for us?
- Read 2 Timothy 3:1-2
According to these verses, what is one of the characteristics of our age that goes against the model of selflessness that Jesus has given us?

Read verses 3-5. In what ways would this entire list be a form a self-love or selfishness?

- Read Luke 17:11-19
What was the condition of each of these men when they came to Jesus?

What did Jesus do for each one of them?

What was their reaction? Do you think Jesus knew how they each would respond prior to His healing them?

If so, how would you contrast Jesus' actions with those of the men who never came back to express their thanks and appreciation?

- Read Ephesians 4:22-24
What does Paul say we are to do with our "old self?"

What do you think he means when he says to put on the "new self?"

- To close our time, take a few minutes to think about some ways in which you are selfish? Where you put your needs above those of your family, friends, relationships? Write some of them here.

Now spend a few minutes in prayer asking God to help you put all those things on the altar, giving them to Him, so that you can live more selflessly. Ask Him to make you more and more like His Son – dead to yourself and alive to His will.