

No Trespassing VII: Where are the Men?

1. Introduction – We have looked at a number of components of spiritual warfare over the past 6 sermons, ranging from who our enemy is, how he works, how we are to battle him and how we experience the victory over his reign in our lives.
 - a. What I hope to do in the next few weeks before our Spiritual Awakening Weekend is to address some of the EFFECTS of the devil’s attack on the people of God.
 - b. This week we will ask, “Where are the men?” Next week we will look at “Breaking Strongholds” and “The Power of the Past” the following week.
 - c. This subject is devoted toward men and their role in the Kingdom of God. Ladies, I don’t want you to take offense because I am not minimizing your contributions which are vital to our church’s health. But in listening to this message, you may get an idea of why your husband, boyfriend or son may not be interested in church and in the affairs of God, and you may begin to see their deepest need that comes from their uniqueness as a man.

2. Where are the Men?
 - a. As I read through my bible, I see something extraordinary. From cover to cover we find men seeking God.
 - i. From Genesis to Malachi of the Old Testament and the Gospels of the New, we find men taking a significant leadership role when it comes to the matters of the Spirit.
 - ii. There is an amazing engagement by men toward God that we do not see in our modern church.
 - iii. I believe that Satan has convinced men that there is no reason for church, that it won’t meet their needs, that they don’t belong, that they are not needed or that they are useless.
 1. Satan would like for men to become passive or absent when it comes to the matters of family or faith.
 2. He gets them seeking their satisfaction through self destructive ways and makes sure that they never leave their mark on eternity.
 3. If you were the enemy, what would your strategy be?
 - a. Sideline the most aggressive, bold, risk taking warriors.
 - b. Make them feel unwanted, unneeded and uncomfortable.
 - c. Hide the battle beneath a veil of a comforting religion
 4. It is for this reason that I include today’s topic in our series on Spiritual Warfare.
 - b. Imagine for just a moment, if...
 - i. ...the gifts of nurture, relationship, safety, security, sensitivity, humility, dependence, sweetness, and stability were the predominate gifts that were in the church today
 - ii. ...you got rid of the competition, risk taking, adventure seeking, aggressiveness, unpredictability, goal orientation, performance seeking, change, daring, and power exercising gifts.
 - iii. What kind of church would you have?
 1. Some of us would say... “a pretty SAFE place!” But a very boring place too.
 - a. If you are honest, in practice, aren’t the first set of gifts and atmosphere something that we tend to promote while the second set we tend to suppress?
 - b. Think about how our churches ministries are organized. The vast majority of our volunteer positions deal with nurture...a strength of a women more than a man. (SS Teachers, Nursery, Hospitality, etc).

- c. Churches tend to meet the needs of those in attendance. When women outnumber men 65% to 35% in the average church, it is little wonder that there are so many more women's ministries in the church.
 - 2. Unconsciously, the church appeals to the motivators of women and sets aside the motivators of men, and in so doing, communicates that somehow the male motivators are intrinsically wrong.
- iv. Think about how successful Christian living is defined today:
 - 1. Not by the BOLD actions we take but by the foolish actions we avoid.
 - 2. A good Christian is known not the goals he accomplishes but by the sins he escapes.
 - 3. We act as if being a Christian means being called to be weak, humble and sweet.
 - 4. But John Eldredge says, "*Christianity is not a religion about going to S.School, potluck suppers, softball games, being nice, doing car washes, and sending our 2nd hand clothes to Mexico. This is a world at war. Something large and immensely dangerous is unfolding all around us.*"
 - 5. Men aren't captivated by socialite Christianity. In fact, men prefer adventure, competition, and challenge.
 - a. That's why so many men choose football, golf, hunting, work, fishing, etc. to coming to church on Sunday morning. Those things speak to their motivational outlook more than socialite Christianity.
 - b. Look at what kind of movies that men go to and what kind of movies that women go to.
 - c. The women want relationships, safety, security, stability, etc.
 - d. The men like conflict, competition, seeing the hero triumph over all odds through daring and risk taking.
 - e. Which of these motivators are stressed the most in the 21st century church?
- c. Are either one of these two groupings of motivators wrong?
 - i. Only when one is exalted above the other.
 - 1. If the male motivators are overemphasized, you end up with a church that is filled with legalism, performance based conduct, conformity and control.
 - 2. And if the female motivators are overemphasized, you end up with an atmosphere that avoids confrontation and challenge which often leads to an inward centered approach to ministry.
 - ii. But Jesus used both motivators in his ministry. *He confronted the religious establishment, He comforted the needy, and he challenged the comfortable.*
- 3. I was fortunate enough to be a part of the Promise Keepers men's movement from its very beginning, attending the 2nd PK rally in 1988 with about 18,000 other Christian men in Boulder, Colorado.
 - a. Today the Promise Keepers movement reaches over 1,000,000 men each year at rallies all over the world, calling men to godliness and greatness.
 - b. Back in 1988 Coach McCartney and the array of speakers that he lined up spoke to us about
 - i. men's walk with God,
 - ii. men's leadership of their families,
 - iii. men giving their wives and children priority,
 - iv. men repenting of sexual sin
 - v. men disregarding God's plan for their lives.
 - c. I went to this conference and joined about a dozen or so men from the church from my church, and I saw men I COULD admire, men who were bold, who accepted me, and to whom God had given a compelling vision for eternity, living for God and not just for themselves.

4. Men need Other Men

- a. *“As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.”* (prov 27:17)
- b. *Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward over and good deeds.*” (Heb 10:24)\
 - i. What does a spur feel like when it goes into a horse’s flank?
 - ii. Ouch! But it gets em going!
- c. Men are changed less by what they are taught than what they experience.
 - i. They are taught by example. That is what the word “disciple” really means.
 - ii. **Men don’t follow programs, they follow men.**
 1. A woman may choose a church for its programs, relationships, and ministries to her children, but a man is looking for a man he can follow.
 2. Men are transformed by other inspiring men.
 - a. Every successful man can tell you of a father, uncle, teacher, coach, sgt, etc. who made a difference in his life.
 3. The most popular men’s movies are about an inspirational coach, leader, commander or teacher. (Bear Bryant movie, Friday Night Lights).
 4. I believe that every man, regardless of his age, needs another man to look up to and say in his heart, “I want to be like him.”
 - a. Mark Acuff, Burt Purvis – visionary pastors who I served under, who took an interest in me, and whom I looked up to. They discipled me.
 5. Bold leadership attracts men.
 6. By the way...women prefer worshiping in the presence of transformed men.
 - a. But transformed men are RARE.
5. So what do men need to hear from the church? (Church=you and I, the people, not the organization)
 - a. **They need to hear that they are needed.**
 - i. Men need to hear that God has a sacred role for them that only they can do.
 - ii. I have told the story of a man who was responsible for the grounds at my last church. His name was Walter, and he was a volunteer. He mowed the lawn faithfully and made sure that the property looked good. He knew that his contribution was eternal, because he knew that a person’s impression concerning a church was made in the first 3 minutes that they were on the church property. He believed that he influenced their first 2 minutes and wanted them to count for eternity. When he realized that he was needed and that there was eternal significance to his ministry, you couldn’t have paid him to STOP volunteering!
 - b. **They need to hear that they can achieve greatness in the CHURCH!**
 - i. Pres. Woodrow Wilson said, “Men are in love with power and greatness”
 - ii. Men fantasize about greatness all the time, from the games they play to the movies they watch.
 1. I must admit I have daydreamed of rescuing someone more than once...with the adrenaline rush that comes with it.
 2. Others dream of hitting the game winning home run or throwing the touchdown pass.
 3. Every man wants to be a hero.
 - iii. The Lord said to Abraham, *“I will bless you and make you GREAT!”* (Gen 12:2)
 - iv. God said to David, *“Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men of the earth.”* (2 Sam 7:9).
 - v. But, most people don’t see the church as a place to achieve greatness.
 1. If we asked, where could a person achieve greatness...I doubt I could find anyone to say in “the church” or “in Christ.”

2. That's because we think that the church is where you worship God, go to be inspired, to see friends, to help others, to live a moral upright life.
3. The idea of the church being a route to greatness or heroism is foreign to most of us.
- vi. The problem with this is that most men will not fully invest themselves into anything that will not offer a shot at greatness.
 1. REPEAT: women, this is why your husband, father, boyfriend or son won't consider church.
 - a. Most men will not fully invest themselves into anything that will not offer a shot at greatness
 2. So why do SOME MEN pour themselves into the church?
 3. Because somewhere along the way, they have caught the vision that there is an eternal perspective to greatness and they desire to have an impact upon eternity!
- vii. Folks, I believe that God wants His children to grow up into GREAT MEN AND WOMEN.
 1. It's biblical!
 - a. This runs counter to our culture of false humility.
 2. God doesn't want you to say, "well, now that I'm saved I just going to be a nobody in church and just wait for Jesus to come back."
 3. God has a plan for greatness for you and I.
 4. Stop believing the lie of Satan that says you got to be a nobody.
 5. God desires that we desire greatness.
- viii. Jesus had a talk with two of his burley, manly disciples (who were nicknamed "sons of thunder") who sought greatness. Mark 10:35-45
 1. *35 Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to him. "Teacher," they said, "we want you to do for us whatever we ask." 36 "What do you want me to do for you?" he asked. 37 They replied, "Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory."*
 2. *38 "You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said. "Can you drink the cup I drink or be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?" 39 "We can," they answered. Jesus said to them, "You will drink the cup I drink and be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with, 40 but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared."*
 3. *41 When the ten heard about this, they became indignant with James and John. 42 Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. 43 Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, 44 and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. 45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."*
 - a. James and John were doing what men do...they were seeking greatness and recognition. They wanted the BEST seats in the kingdom of God.
 - b. Jesus does not rebuke them, but confronts their request with the truth concerning what they are asking. (v38, "you don't know what you are asking.")
 - c. In other words, you don't have a clue to how to become great and what it will cost you!
 - d. Then he asks them if they will follow him and go through all that he must, and they agree.
 - e. But the other disciples get upset at James and John's request.

- i. But Jesus doesn't rebuke James and John for seeking greatness. In fact He says, "whoever desires to be great" or "if you want to be great."
 - ii. Greatness is a legitimate desire to be achieved by every man.
 - iii. Jesus just puts the request in context.
 - 1. **He teaches them what it means to be great.**
 - 2. The world has its way of greatness, through self-promotion and self-glory, but **the way of greatness in eternity is measured not by what you can get but by what you give.**
 - 3. **Greatness isn't achieved through self-promotion but through self-sacrifice.**
 - 4. And then Jesus tells them, *"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."*
 - f. God gave you a desire to be great.
 - g. He birthed in every man a burning urge to make a difference and leave his mark on this world and in eternity.
 - h. **The way to greatness isn't through conquering people but conquering self.**
 - ix. Let me clear up some confusion:
 - 1. Greatness is not glory. Glory belongs to God.
 - 2. Greatness is reflected glory – like the moon reflecting the light of the sun. A man who achieves something great for God's kingdom and eternity is simply reflecting God to the world. When we follow Jesus we reflect Him to others.
- c. **Men need to know that the Church Needs Risk-Takers!**
 - i. Do you remember sledding as a child? I did some crazy things like sled down a hill that had a barb wire fence at the bottom, and didn't even bat my eye at the risk.
 - 1. We get married, but the need to take risks never really disappears. We may evaluate our risks as we get older, but we still take them.
 - ii. Jesus understood risk taking.
 - 1. He called men to leave all they had and knew and to start over.
 - 2. When God calls you, He is calling you to take some enormous risks and to trust Him instead of yourself.
 - 3. (Move to Ft. Worth to go to seminary with a baby, no job or place to live lined up – biggest risk I ever felt like I took.)
 - iii. Men are risk takers.
 - 1. The #1 killer of 15-24 yr old males is accidents.
 - 2. Male investors take bigger risks than women do.
 - 3. Women WANT safety, men NEED risk.
 - 4. Men who take risks lead the church to greater adventure. They dare to do what God asks of them.
 - 5. (Mt. 25:24-26 = parable of the talents ~ the one rebuked was the one who refused to take a risk).
 - iv. Men are most highly involved in churches that are start ups and missions. Why?
 - 1. Because bold plans, risks, buildings have to be made.
 - a. But as the church matures, the men feel left out as its vision grows stale.
 - b. Women remain because of their relationships.
 - c. Men need a vision to stay motivated.
 - v. **Men need OUTRAGEOUS God given visions.**
 - 1. If you shoot at the stars you will at least hit the moon.

2. I want to share with you an OUTRAGEOUS God given vision that not only will change our church but our community and most likely change you in the process.
3. **2006 – Strategic Focus City: Cleveland Hope...Building Bridges of Love**
 - a. Millions of dollars and thousands of volunteers will be poured into the Cleveland area Baptist Assn. of which we are a part.
 - b. We get to create and submit our outreach plans, with a designated leader for each plan, and then visiting churches from across the nation will partner with us and come and assist us in performing that plan.
 - c. We need outrageous outreach ideas, and men and women to lead them.
 - i. VBS, Parade, Old Fashioned Day outreach, concerts, sports camps and clinics with celebrities, week long Trailer park bible clubs, Health clinics, block parties, BB/VB tournaments.
 - ii. Only your imagination and willingness to lead others are the limits to the possibilities.
 - d. We need men (and women) to step up and dream the impossible dream and to pray and work it into reality.
 - e. Tonight we will talk more about this.
6. 30 MIGHTY MEN – God raised up some mighty men to surround David.
 - a. *2Sam. 23:18-23 And Abishai, the brother of Joab, the son of Zeruah, was chief of the thirty. And he swung his spear against three hundred and killed {them,} and had a name as well as the three. He was most honored of the thirty, therefore he became their commander; however, he did not attain to the three. Then Ben-aw-YAW the son of Yeh-ho-yaw-DAW, the son of a valiant man of Kab-tseh-ALE, who had done mighty deeds, killed the two {sons of} Ar-ee-ALE of Moab. He also went down and killed a lion in the middle of a pit on a snowy day. And he killed an Egyptian, an impressive man. Now the Egyptian {had} a spear in his hand, but he went down to him with a club and snatched the spear from the Egyptian's hand, and killed him with his own spear. These {things} Benaiah the son of Jehoiada did, and had a name as well as the three mighty men. He was honored among the thirty, but he did not attain to the three. And David appointed him over his guard.*
7. God has raised up some mighty men at Here's Hope.
 - a. Men who desire greatness, who desire to leave a mark that will last for eternity.
 - i. The pursuit of greatness is not an affliction. It is a gift of God.
 - ii. We demonstrate that greatness as we serve God. Look at some of the men God has placed in our congregation.
 - b. Our Deacons: **Joe Fuger, Larry Toppings and Bill Hill** – faithful in prayer, serving others... that is the meaning of “deacon. – one who waits on others.”
 - c. **Lynn Stoltz** – has served since I got here greeting people and memorizing visitor's names. No one will really notice what he does. But he is leaving a mark for eternity. He is also our point man on the Making Room For Others paving project.
 - d. **Mike Batt** – Mike became one of our shepherds over a year ago, and has been learning how to minister. This last month before the home-group meeting, Mike spent the entire day digging for nuggets in the bible so he would be able to lead the small group into the truth of the study for the evening. He also has labored tirelessly to get our video system up and running. He is leaving a mark on eternity.
 - e. **Dirk Woodland** – is one of our shepherds who works to serve the flock. He helped install the video system and was one of the folks who is responsible for the redesign plans for our nursery that we hope to implement this year. Dirk risks for their eternal impact.
 - f. **Bob Smith** – labors week in and out on the property, mowing and grooming it. He is up here shoveling snow, doing what no one else notices (unless it doesn't get done). He cares for the grounds as if they were his own.

- g. **Scott Joles & Kevin King** – sacrificed their weekend to invest in the lives of 10 of our youth to take them to YEC where one of the youth dedicated his life to Jesus Christ. They are pouring out their lives to make an impact in lives for eternity.
 - h. **Bill Hobbs** – quietly comes up to church every Tuesday to take the trash out to the street and again on Wednesday to return the trash receptacle to its original position. He reaches out to his neighbors, inviting them to every function that we have. He wants to make sure that no one is left behind when he goes to heaven!
 - i. **Jim Fix** – Mentors AA participants and encourages men as they find freedom from addiction.
 - j. **Ralph Skinner** – has been fixing things in the church for years. Quietly and unpretentiously, he slips in and does whatever is needed so that the church can keep ministering.
 - k. **Bob Bouvia** – has offered to be our church cook for functions, such as men’s breakfasts and any other outreaches. He wants to make a difference.
 - l. **Shawn Humphrey** – oversees the cleaning rotation of the church...something we all take for granted every Sunday that we come in...yet it is clean and inviting. He participates in a bible study with Bill Hill to reach several people who won’t attend church but will do a bible study in a home. More importantly, he has been teaching Sunday School for gradeschoolers for over 2 years, leaving a solid male leadership image on these growing children who are learning about Jesus.
 - m. **Roger Jewell** – will be leading a concert with several others here on Apr. 10, as a fundraiser for our MRO fund; and to minister through worship to the church. He desires to see people experience God in worship.
 - n. **Bob Novak** – spent months ministering to a neighbor who was terminally ill, never seeking recognition or repayment. The person he ministered to had no family, no one else in this world who cared. Bob was there for her when she entered eternity.
 - o. **Hank Smith** – visits shut ins and hospitalized folks every week. You may be one of those who have been touched by this sacrifice of his time.

 - p. **THERE ARE OTHERS OF YOU** that I don’t know what you are doing. God knows though. And some of you who I mentioned, you may feel a little embarrassed by having others know what you have done. But you did them for God, not for our approval. And He says you have a great reward. Great is the one in the Kingdom who serves others before himself.
8. **What about you?** Do you desire to achieve greatness that will last for eternity? Do you want to make a difference?
- a. You can be a “mighty man of God”; you can leave a legacy.
 - i. Don’t sit there and watch.
 - ii. Give your life, take some risks, help us as a church take some risks.
9. How?
- a. **First, come to Christ if you have not already.**
 - b. **Second**, commit yourself to serve Him and to deny yourself and to take up your cross and follow Him. Look for a need and listen for God’s voice to tell you to meet it.
 - c. If it costs you something, if it costs you a lot...you can be sure that it is worth it!
 - d. If it costs you nothing to do it...it is worthless.
10. We will have our first “Men’s breakfast April 26th at 8:00 am at the church. Our Spiritual Awakening weekend guest will be here to share with us as well.
- a. Our church is here to “turn out great men of God” – that is what it means to grow disciples.
11. A story of true Greatness (Early Show March 30)
- a. Sgt. Smith was deployed at the tip of the spear. He fought with the first wave of soldiers driving north to Baghdad, whipped by sandstorms, surrounded by the thunder of unfinished battle.

- b. On the morning of April 4, 2003, while setting up a roadblock by Baghdad's international airport, his company was surprised by a sudden storm of Iraqi fire.
 - c. "Things just started getting crazy, there were shots coming in from every angle," Pvt. Michael Seaman of the 3rd Infantry Division said a few days later.
 - d. "I was going to be the first one to go through the wall, and he pushed me back and said, 'No. I got this,'" recalled the 3rd Infantry's Sgt. Matthew Keller.
 - e. With bullets blazing, Sgt. Smith jumped on a .50-caliber machine gun mounted on an abandoned truck and fired at three Iraqi positions, while single-handedly providing cover so his outnumbered soldiers could escape.
 - f. The Army says from 50 to 100 men were able to get to safety while Sgt. Smith was on that gun. Smith was shot in the neck and killed.
 - g. "If it wasn't for Sgt. Smith...everybody might not have got out as safe as they did," marvels Pvt. Seaman.
 - h. The consummate soldier, Sgt. Smith made all of his men write a final letter home, in case they didn't return.
 - i. Sgt. Smith's mother reads his aloud, crying: "As I sit here getting ready to go to war once again, I realize that I have left some things left unsaid. I love you and I don't want you to worry. ... There are two ways to come home: stepping off the plane, and being carried off the plane. It doesn't matter how I come home, because I am prepared to give all that I am, to insure that all my boys make it home."
12. Are you prepared to give all you have to Jesus, who gave all He had, to ensure that you would make it home to heaven? Are you prepared to lay down your life for others? Lay down your desires to see others get home to heaven? Let's pray.
- a. **DEDICATING THE GAME TO SOMEONE ELSE:** Coach Bill McCartney tells a story of when his team, the Colorado Buffaloes faced their archrival Nebraska in 1991, they had not beaten Nebraska in 23 years. The Thursday night before the game he handed out 60 footballs, one to each player. He told them that they needed to think of someone other than themselves for a change. He asked them to pick one person that they knew and to ask them to watch the game, in exchange, they would send them this football with the score of the upcoming game written on it. In other words, he wanted these players to dedicate their game to someone other than themselves. Colorado won that game 27-12, and broke its 23 year losing streak.