

ROCK SOLID MEN

Let's First Recap the last 3 weeks because it is imperative to lead into today's lesson....

Bold Men Take Ownership of Their Salvation, Bold Men Walk in Fear of the Lord, & Bold Men Fish

- **Philippians 2:12-13** *"Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill His good purpose."*
 - What is our input?
 - We walk in Fear of the Lord
 - What is the output we receive from God?
 - "for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill His good purpose."
- **Proverbs 1:7** *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction."*
 - "The fear of God is not being afraid of Him. It is being afraid of being away from Him." - John Bevere
 - Example: Jonah and the Whale
 - Fear of the Lord = Reverent submission in humbled gratefulness. This is the only response to the saving grace given to us. A life of grateful holiness!
- **Matthew 6:33** *"But seek first the Kingdom and His righteousness and all these things will be added to you."*
 - Hard hitting statement: This is the purpose of every true believer's life. Note as I said true believer. Even the demons believe in Jesus, but their belief does not save them. What kind of belief do your actions show you have? A true believer is marked by bearing fruit. We can only bear fruit by walking in the fear of the Lord (our input) and the fruit bearing is God's output (Phillipians 2:12-13).
 - **James 2:14-20** *"What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? 15 Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. 16 If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? 17 In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. 18 But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. 19 You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder. 20 You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless."*
- **Matthew 22:37-39** *"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law? And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend on all the Law and the Prophets."*
 - ON THESE TWO COMMANDMENTS DEPEND ON ALL THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS
 - If we aren't walking in love first towards God and then second toward people, then we can't do anything biblically. We cannot follow the Word He has given us.
 - **Note: This is our true purpose. It is all about our heart. Our heart towards God and our heart towards others. The cool thing is if our heart is fully for God then we will have our hearts set on His Kingdom. His kingdom is His people! The saved as well as the not yet saved.**
 - **Our uniqueness is where it gets neat in how God uses us. But don't worry, He WILL show you how He wants to use you. Don't complicate it. When He tugs on your heart. Say yes and go. Don't be a Jonah!**
- **Matt 4:19** *"And he said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."*
 - In this text, Jesus used definitive wording. He said "FOLLOW ME, and I WILL make you fishers of men.
- **John 15:8** *"This is to my father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples."*
 - True disciples bear fruit. What are you doing to live for God's kingdom? Are you building your life on the rock or on the sand as it says in Matthew 7:24-27?

Bold Men Pursue in Love

- “Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life.” **Psalm 23:6**
- How can we as men model this unfailing and pursuing love God shows us?
 - **Out of good desire, not need**
 - *For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth”* **1 Timothy 2:3-4**
 - **Jesus stands at the door and knocks. He is constant and consistent.**
 - *“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.”* **Revelation 3:20**
 - **For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. There your actions will follow.**
 - *“Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. 33 Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. 34 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.* **Matthew 6:21**
 - We are God's treasure! Shouldn't God be ours, and likewise our neighbor? (**Matt 22.36-39**)
 - **Jesus' love and action wasn't based on our merit, our actions, our anything. It was based on the value God the Father gave us that is never changing because our God is never changing!**
 - It was sacrificial! He moved first, knowing that there would people who would never love Him back! And He still pursues in the same way even now!
 - Shouldn't we be the same in our love towards others?
 - *“But God proves His own love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”* **Romans 5:8**
 - **Action first, and then emotion after. This is imperative to understand!**
 - *“We loved because He first loved us”* **1 John 4:19**

Love embraces	Love resists
Patience (is patient)	Envy (isn't envious)
Kindness (is kind)	Boasting (isn't boastful)
Truth (rejoices with the truth)	Arrogance (isn't arrogant)
Resilience (bears all things)	Rudeness (isn't rude)
Faith (believes all things)	Selfishness (doesn't insist on its own way)
Hope (hopes all things)	Anger (isn't irritable)
Endurance (endures all things)	Resentment (isn't resentful)
Perseverance (never fails)	Wrongdoing (doesn't rejoice in wrongdoing)

- *“Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.”*
1 Corinthians 13:4-8a
- **How can we as men walk in love, first towards God, and then towards our neighbor? This is the imperative question.**
 - **Matthew 6:33** says our purpose is seeking first the Kingdom. What is the Kingdom?
 - **Matthew 22:36-39** says the Kingdom and our first most purpose is to love God and then people, the saved and the not yet saved.
 - **We must first act in love. Towards God first. Then His Holy Spirit works in us as Philippians 2:12-13 states. So, submit in love. And through the Holy Spirit God will pour His love out into the world through us into others!**