

# Men Love Power

Joshua 24:15

## Preface

Today our parking lot is full of tractors, mowers and other tools and toys of men. It is a great day when we can show them off and inspect the powerful equipment of our brothers.

Men love power and what better way to display power than with our equipment? Whether it is trucks, tractors, mowers, contracting equipment or outboard engines men stand in awe at powerful equipment because it gets the job done.

Why do men have such a love for power equipment? Because God made us that way!

You may not understand but when a man operates a piece of equipment such as a backhoe, he doesn't think, "Wow, look what this machine can do." Instead, he thinks, "Wow, look at what I can do with this machine."

God made men to want to accomplish things. We naturally want to get it done. We have a mentality of defending and accomplishing things beyond our obvious abilities.

God made us that way and there are no apologies necessary. Let's take a closer look at a Biblical perspective.

## Scripture – Read

*"<sup>5</sup>If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or **the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.**" Joshua 24:15 NIV*

## Introduction

Illus: I heard a story about a couple who had a newborn baby. The wife came down the hall and noticed the father just

starring into the babies' nursery. She thought to herself, how sweet that he was just standing there admiring their baby. She walked up to him and softly said, "What are you thinking?" He replied, "I still don't see how they can manufacturer their baby bed and sell it for only \$89.95."

Men are just made differently than women. Some men eat quiche some don't. Regardless, it has nothing to do with men being men. Today, everyone wants to make men into wimps.

In his book, "Wild At Heart", John Eldredge says, "The world is trying to feminize men."

Society seems to be on a mission to remove all distinctions between men and women. It is men that are being whittled away.

Joshua is a wonderful example of how God made men to be strong. Joshua was known as a man with deep trust in God. Joshua lived through the difficulties of slavery in Egypt. Joshua became God's chosen servant to conclude the work of Moses by leading the people into the land of Canaan.

Fulfilling God's plan was often challenging for Joshua. We picked up in our text when Joshua is challenging the people to take a stand. In this text, we see one of the most important statements in God's Word, "**As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord (Jehovah).**"

There is much we can learn from this statement about being a man and a father. Let's take a closer look at what makes a real man.

## Content

### 1. Real Men ... Take A Stand

Real men take a stand. Without a doubt, Joshua was willing to take a stand. God made us men and he instilled in us, a sense of dignity and integrity. God wants us to take a stand for what is right. God never intended for men to be silent wimps who are unwilling to speak up for what they believe.

This is not to say that men have no emotions or can't show their emotions. This does not mean that men cannot show mercy, kindness and forgiveness. Clearly the Bible teaches us to love one another and to forgive one another. God's Word is

full of admonitions to be sensitive to the needs and struggles of others.

However, there are times when a man must take a stand for what he believes. There is no requirement for men to always be, 'the nice guy.' Sometimes we must stand up and be heard.

The same Jesus who wept at the death of Lazarus and healed the sick and blind, said to the Pharisees, "You snakes! You brood of vipers!"

God made us as men to be strong when we need to be strong. It is a tragedy how society is trying to make men out to be weak idiots who must be led around like puppets. Just watch some of today's TV shows and see if my words are not true.

Illus: My son will soon be 20 years old. For the last several years, he has been much stronger than me. He can beat me at wrestling, arm wrestling, towel popping wars and anything else. Aggravating him used to be fun but it isn't anymore because I always end up on the short end of the stick. He is just much stronger than me. However, when we are working around the house and doing something that requires real strength, it is often me that gets the job done. If there is a stubborn nut that won't turn or something that just won't budge, I often get the job done when he has given up. Why is this since he is so much stronger than I am? It is because he has not become a father. He has not felt the weight and challenge of the responsibilities. Those responsibilities have taught me that I can often do things that seem impossible. Many times I have been faced with situations where if I didn't do something, it just would not get done. Those experiences have taught me to have that "I can do this" attitude. As he faces the same responsibilities and circumstances that same attitude will develop and he will be amazed at what he can accomplish.

God made men to be this way. We are humans and we have many faults, weaknesses and emotions. However, we are also meant to be strong and take a stand when the circumstance calls for it.

Joshua knew it was time to take a stand for God (Jehovah) and he did so boldly. God needs men today to take a bold stand for Him. God wants you to take a stand for Him in a society that is belittling Christians and rebuking the Word of God.

Real men take a stand.

## 2. Real Men ... Speak For Their Households

Real men speak for their households. Like it or not, God created men to take a clear role of leadership in the household. Men were created to carry certain burdens and responsibilities within the household. This is not to say that women do not have equal responsibilities.

Men were created to take a role of leadership and ultimate responsibility for their families. Please understand that this means responsibility for the spiritual welfare of our families just as much as the general welfare.

God calls men to be the head of their households first in matters of spiritual leadership. I know this makes some women uncomfortable and I want to address this in some detail.

God's Word says, *"<sup>24</sup>But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything. <sup>25</sup>Husbands love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her" Ephesians 5:24-25 NAS*

Now you can rationalize this text as long as you want but this is straight out of God's Word. These words do not belittle or elevate either the husband or the wife. They simply state the facts of responsibility on the part of both.

### Attention Ladies

Some women reason, "Well when my husband starts acting like Jesus Christ then I will start showing him some respect." Try telling that to God and He will likely tell you to start doing as He commands and your husband might start being more like Christ.

The bottom line is this. Men are created to be proud and responsible. **It is the relationship with their wife that makes or breaks the confidence of a man.** You have the ability to make your husband feel bigger than life. Likewise, you have the ability to make him feel like a complete failure.

You can lift him up or trample him under your feet. Rest assured **when you belittle your husband, you do so to your own detriment as you destroy his spirit.** If a father doesn't

feel the respect and appreciation of his family, **his life is empty.**

1 Corinthians 11:7 says, "The glory of a man is his wife."

Illus: From time to time, Pam will put her arm around me and snuggle up. She will say to me, "Do you know you are my knight in shining armor?" You can't imagine what that does to me. I could go out and tackle the entire world. I am the man! Suddenly, it doesn't matter to me that I failed some things or missed certain opportunities. All that matters is that I am my woman's knight in shining armor.

You try it ladies and see if it doesn't make your man a better husband. You can even call your mother and tell her you are about to give your husband his ego shot.

### Attention Men

Now this also places a huge responsibility on the husband and father. This means that we are to love our wives as Christ loved the church. We must be willing to make any sacrifice for them even to death.

Unfortunately, we live in a society where the men's spirits have been trodden. Some men are willing to subrogate their responsibilities to their wives, children and even the government.

Before you say, "Not me", you need to think a moment. Are you the spiritual leader in your family or do you subrogate that responsibility to your wife?

Illus: When I had a wreck that was not my fault, my insurance company paid to fix my vehicle. However, they had me sign a "Subrogation Agreement." The subrogation agreement stated that I relinquish my right to sue or seek any retribution from the other party. I subrogated my rights over to the insurance company and any compensation became theirs.

Men often do exactly this. They give over the responsibilities of spiritual and often family leadership to their wives. Rest assured when you do that you are the loser. **You lose the blessing of God and you forsake the very purpose of your creation.**

When you refuse or neglect to be the spiritual leader of your family, you are rejecting your God given call.

When you bury yourself in work and neglect time with your children and family, you are subrogating your God given leadership in as a father.

When you dwell on your shortcomings or physical limitations and feel sorry for yourself, you let Satan rob you of your God given leadership.

When you come home and turn to alcohol day after day like a pacifier, you are subrogating your God given right to be respected as a father and husband.

God created you to be a spiritual leader. He will empower you to be just that if you will let Him.

Illus: I read about a man whose young son had become very ill. After the boy had undergone a series of test, the father was told that his only son had a terminal illness. The young man had accepted Christ as his Savior so the man knew death would usher him into Glory; but he agonized over how to inform the boy he would soon die. After seeking the direction of the Holy Spirit, he went with a heavy heart to the boy's bedside.

When he got there he read his son a passage of scripture and said a prayer with the boy. Then he gently told him that the doctors felt that he only had a few days to live. And he went on to ask him, "Are you afraid to meet Jesus, my son?" Blinking away the tears, the little boy said bravely, "No, not if He is anything like you Dad!"

Dads, you are a spiritual leader in your household. The only question is what type of spiritual leader are you?

Illus: James Dobson once said, "Most children see God the way they perceive their earthly fathers."

Real men speak for their household.

### **3. Real Men ... Serve The Lord**

Real men serve God. Joshua made it clear that he and his family would serve God.

The word serve here means a great deal. It means to fear God, obey Him and worship Him.

To serve God means to love Him and fix your heart upon Him. It means we take God seriously and recognize that He is holy. Paul says in Colossians 1:18, "In all things Christ should have preeminence."

It does not mean you do these things because you have to but rather because you want to.

Joshua made it clear to the people of Israel they had to decide if they were going to serve God. He also made it clear that if they were to serve God they had to get rid of their false gods and idols.

As men, we must get rid of the things that stand in the way of our serving God. What prevents you from truly serving God? There is absolutely nothing that is important enough to hinder you from committing your life to serving Him. No job, no recognition, no luxury, nothing should be allowed to prevent us from serving our Lord.

Illus: Someone once said, "You're only young once, but immaturity can last forever."

Men love power. The greatest power you will ever experience will be the power of God when you stand up and declare you will serve Him.

Real men serve the lord.

## ➤ **Conclusion**

I want you to ask yourself an important question. Can you like Joshua stand here today and say, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord?"

Can you honestly say that you are taking that stand?

If your answer to that question is no, you have a spiritual problem. You will never be the man God made you to be until you can take a stand for God. Today is the day you need to get that matter right. You need to come to this altar and we need to pray together and get that straight. You need to walk out of here today able to say, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

If your answer is Yes, I can honestly say I am taking a stand for the Lord then I have two other questions.

Have you ever made a public profession of your belief in Jesus Christ? Have you ever been publicly baptized?

If your answer to either of these questions is No, you have a spiritual and creditability problem. You say you will take a stand for Christ but you haven't even taken the first and most critical step. You will never be the man God made you to be until you can take a stand for God. Today is the day you need to get that matter right. You need to come to this altar and we need to pray together and get that straight. You need to walk out of here today able to say, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

Optional Illus: I was watching an old Andy Griffith show. Barney had by chance captured a criminal who vowed to get revenge. When he was being transported by the state police he managed to escape and was seen returning to Mayberry to make good on his revenge. Barney was scared to death. Barney was being urged to get out of town a few days. As scared as he was, he replied, "Thelma Lou, what kind of man would I be if I ran away from danger?" This reflects the God given spirit of every man. Never try to take that away.