

*A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children, And the wealth of the sinner is stored up for the righteous. – Proverbs 13:22*

## **Week 7**

# **FURTHERING THE FUTURE**

### **START**

Welcome to session 7 of Kingdom Men Rising.

Last session, we talked about how God sets the stage for our greatest spiritual victories and how He expects us to pass those blessings on through the process of discipleship.

**Based on your personal study last week, what does it mean to “pass the baton” spiritually?**

**What would happen to a professional relay-race team if they kept dropping the baton? What would be an example of spiritually dropping the baton?**

No matter how quickly you run in a relay, you will lose if you do not pass the baton. We've all seen a relay race team pull out in front only to come to a screeching halt when the baton drops. Determination quickly changes into despair and frustration. The baton drops; the race is over.

While we understand this principle when it comes to running relay races, we have somehow failed to grasp its importance when it comes to living as kingdom men. Part of being a kingdom man is the successful passing of the baton. The buck doesn't stop with you. Nor do God's kingdom values. We desperately need more men to realize this and rise up to fulfill this great purpose in the body of Christ today.

### **WATCH**

**Use this space to take notes during the video teaching.**

# MAN UP

**Read Proverbs 13:22 together.**

*A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children, And the wealth of the sinner is stored up for the righteous.- Proverbs 13:22*

Kingdom men pass on a spiritual inheritance to those who come behind them. While Proverbs refers to one's direct descendants, the spiritual principle transcends your immediate family. Anyone who is within your spheres of influence ought to have a greater awareness of God and His kingdom values because of their relationship with you. Each man pursues that goal differently, but we all share the same goal—transferring kingdom values to future generations.

To pass on kingdom values we have to be generationally minded and not merely personally fulfilled." Describe the differences between being "generationally minded" as opposed to "personally fulfilled."

**Describe a time when you witnessed the successful transfer of kingdom values (whether to you from someone else, or from you to someone else).**

**What happens if we don't make transferring kingdom values a priority?**

Fatherhood is misunderstood in our culture. Fatherlessness has reached epidemic proportions. Even among stable homes, a father may say he needs to "babysit" his own kids while his wife goes out. However, fathers don't babysit; they parent. Too many fathers allow teaching and discipleship to fall to someone else.

**Why do you suppose so many men are sitting on the sidelines of their families?**

**Read Deuteronomy 6:7 and answer the following questions.**

*You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up. -Deuteronomy 6:7*

**To whom is this verse directed? What does this teach about a father's involvement in his children's life?**

**How might this verse apply to those of us without children? How might a man with no physical descendants impact the next generation?**

We often hear a lot of complaints about the next generation. But those complaints tend to arise out of armchair-quarterback fathers. If and when fathers fail to lead by example, investing in the lives of their children and also in those within their spheres of influence, it only makes sense that there is a breakdown in the culture. We are all part of the process of impacting each other as iron sharpens iron in order to develop each other for kingdom success.

Small steps of discipleship lead to larger steps of discipleship, whether it is with your own children or with those in your spheres of influence.

**Identify ways that each of you in the small group can add small, yet intentional, steps of discipleship to your normal routine. Seek to implement these small steps and then discuss how it went when you get together next time.**

## **PRAYER**

*Father, in a world full of selfishness, You ask us to think of others by investing in them through an intentional pursuit of spiritual training. Enable us to identify those within our spheres of influence who we can impact for Your kingdom and the greater good of all involved. Open doors for us to have significant influence on those we know and love. In Christ's name, amen.*

# HIT THE STREETS

## FAMILY, FAITH, AND FAVOR

God has given us three distinct things to pass down as kingdom men to the next generation. These three things are found in the blessing of the covenant. Passing these down won't happen just because you want it to happen. It will require your intentional engagement and pursuit. They are: Family, Faith, and Favor.

### 1

## Family.

Kingdom men need to be men who embrace family on every level. We need to be like a city set on a hill, displaying the light that comes from a fully functioning family. Whether that means modeling and mentoring on the role of father, son, brother, cousin, uncle, or grandson—family roles should be taken seriously and honored. We do this by living authentically within each role, being responsible for what needs to be done. We also do this by discipling others in our family as they live out their various roles.

### 2

## Faith.

Kingdom men are men of faith. To be a man of faith means that you allow your decisions to come underneath the rule of God in every area of your life. We sometimes confuse acting on faith to include a trek off the beaten path. But often it is the man who offers consistency and stability for his loved ones and who exhibits the greatest faith. Faith involves placing God's will for your life above your own will and desires. When you do that, you will not only demonstrate what a kingdom man of faith looks like, but you will also be investing in the faith of those who look to you for guidance as well.

### 3

## Favor.

Kingdom men recognize the difference between personal gain and God's blessing. God's blessing comes from His hand, great peace is found within it. Proverbs puts it like this:

*It is the blessing of the Lord that makes rich, And He adds no sorrow to it. -Proverbs 10:22*

Divine favor is a key aspect of the blessing because God alone is able to supply all that a person needs. When you learn to rest in God's favor, you will also be positioned to teach others how to do the same. But as long as you are striving after your own personal success, apart from God's leading in your life, you will be dropping the baton of favor which is yours to pass to the next generation.

A kingdom man always majors on the majors: Family, Faith and Favor. When these three things are flowing according to God's plan for your life, you will impact future generations for Christ.

**How are you thankful for the family, faith, and favor God has given you?**

**How are you passing them down to the next generation?**

## **BIBLE STUDY 1**

### **A LEGACY OF LOVE**

You've likely seen the word "legacy" attached to sports, athletes, business owners, employees, volunteers, mentors, coaches, friends, and more, because it's all about passing down the DNA of greatness. These principles apply to all of us in the body of Christ too. Legacy involves your impact on others. It's the spiritual DNA you pass down.

The question each of us must ask is: What kind of legacy am I leaving?

**Read Genesis 1:28 and answer the following questions.**

*God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth." -Genesis 1:28*

**This verse is God's commission to Adam and Eve. Restate this command in your own words.**

**How might Adam have obeyed this commandment in the garden of Eden?**

**How might we obey it in the places where God has placed us?**

**How would our homes, workplaces, churches and communities look differently if more men lived this direction for the Lord out today?**

Every human being is an image-bearer. Being made in God's image means that every person is like God in ways that other created beings are not. We have souls, and the capacity for reason and relationships. We are creative and industrious, like God.

Adam left the garden, but every kingdom has the same commission as Adam—to fill the world with people who know and love God. To be about the work of passing on the spiritual inheritance of a comprehensive theistic world view.

Two predominant grids operate on this earth: humanism and theism. Humanism focuses what mankind wants, thinks, and determines. Functioning according to humanism is like putting on sunglasses filtered to reveal the ego's world view. Conversely, theism filters everything through the lens of God's divine perspective.

As kingdom men, we are created and called to transfer a theistic viewpoint to those within our spheres of influence. In this way, we pass on the DNA of the covenant infused in the creation mandate found in Genesis 1:28.

**What are the differences between humanism and theism?**

**In what ways does humanism bleed into our Christian culture?**

**Why do you think so many men consider humanism an acceptable grid by which to function?**

Adam wasn't commissioned to fill the earth with an accumulation of accolades, achievements, and material wealth. God called Adam to fill the earth with His image. A divine inheritance isn't about houses, clothes, cars, fame, or money. Divine inheritances start with the transfer of the faith. It doesn't matter how much money a man has if he does not have the foundation of a solid faith. Without biblical values, it will all come crashing down when the storms of life roll in.

**How do biblical values and a solid faith help a person, family or community during difficulties in life?**

**What are some of the common difficulties we are facing as men in our culture?**

## **In what ways can we seek to infuse biblical values into the solution steps of these issues?**

Many of us know we ought to live passionately for God's kingdom but aren't clear on what that means. Thankfully, when Christ came to fulfill the commandments, He gave us one summary commandment in place of all of them. This is what it means to follow God. Furthering the future means obeying this command and training others to do likewise.

*One of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, "Teacher, which is the great 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 great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets." -Matthew 22:35-40*

Jesus told us that if and when we choose to love, we are fulfilling the commandments. Love is compassionately and righteously pursuing the well-being of another. Thankfully, Scripture helps us out here as well. Consider this biblical definition of love.

*Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. -1 Corinthians 13:4-7*

Far too often we relegate 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, a passage which describes love, as a wedding section of the Bible. While these verses apply to marriages, they also apply to everything we are to do and be as kingdom men. Let's take a look at them, but this time through the lens of biblical manhood.

## **How would emphasizing love positively impact our homes, communities, churches, and society?**

**What thoughts or hurdles tempt you away from responding to life's difficulties or relational issues with love?**

## **How can we as men make the qualities of love more prevalent in society?**

The greatest men in the kingdom of God understand that love isn't only something we do on an anniversary or holiday. Love ought to be the way we roll, with everyone. Sometimes we may get hung up on the emotional aspects associated with the term that we fail to miss what love truly means. Love is a default posture of our heart and lives. It is who God is and who we ought to be.

**What are some ways men might model the qualities of love found in 1 Corinthians 13?**

**How might you specifically model this type of love?**

## **BIBLE STUDY 2**

### **WISDOM AND AUTHORITY**

What we transfer to those who come behind us is critical. Whether it is tangible, physical goods, or life lessons—a greater focus on what we pass on to others will help in raising up more kingdom men who impact culture. One of the most dynamic male relationships in Scripture gives us insight into the nature of this transfer. It took place between Moses and Joshua. When we study their relationship, we see that Moses transferred many things to Joshua like insight on how to lead, experience in battle, as well as countless lessons on communicating with God. But one of the more important aspects transferred to Joshua from Moses was the “spirit of wisdom.”

Keep in mind, the Bible does not say that Moses passed down wisdom to Joshua. It says he passed down the “spirit of wisdom,” specifically by laying his hands on him. Let’s take a look at the passage and then examine it through a few questions.

**Read Deuteronomy 34:9.**

*Now Joshua the son of Nun was filled with the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him; and the sons of Israel listened to him and did as the Lord had commanded Moses. -Deuteronomy 34:9*

**What was Moses laying his hands on Joshua meant to communicate?**

**What was the result of Joshua receiving the “spirit of wisdom?”**

**What are some ways we can model this kind of wisdom transfer today?**



**Do you think it's even necessary to model it? Why or why not?**

In the passage we just looked at, we see how Moses transferred the values and perspective of the kingdom of God through transferring the "spirit of wisdom" to Joshua. A transfer of kingdom values and perspective can be passed down in many ways and should be passed down to all, but when a person has matured to the point of leading others, it is also important to pass down other things with it as well such as spiritual authority. We first see Moses laying his hands on Joshua back in Numbers 27:23. Then it was to impart spiritual authority.

*Then he laid his hands on him and commissioned him, just as the Lord had spoken through Moses.  
-Numbers 27:23*

**How do you know when the time is right to pass on spiritual wisdom and authority to someone you are discipling?**

Moses wasn't quick to pass on this spiritual authority to Joshua. He knew that he needed to wait until the time was right. One of the worst things to do to a man is give him authority when he is not mature enough yet to handle it. But once you identify someone as having great potential for future leadership, and you see that he has reached the point of spiritual maturity, it is up to you to similarly pass on spiritual authority.

The transfer of spiritual authority comes when you recognize someone is ready to lead and transfer their spiritual fruit to others. Because Joshua had been a faithful servant, he now received his turn to lead. Joshua, like Moses, would now represent the Lord to the people of Israel. Through his relationship with Moses and his pursuit of the Lord, he gained the wisdom and authority necessary to lead well.

**Explain the difference between passing on spiritual wisdom and passing on spiritual authority.**

**What are some key identifiers you would want to see in a man before commissioning him to further the future by leading others.**

**Have you ever experienced someone (or yourself) being given spiritual authority too soon? If so, what was the result?**

Unfortunately, too many men want to lead without serving first. They want the authority without surrendering. That's backwards. They want to jump out to the front without learning the fundamentals. I believe that's one reason we are witnessing a large number of Christian leaders retire early or become disqualified from the ministry over scandals or misuse of the power given to them. I believe many had been vested with leadership due to the quick rise of digital platforms without first learning to serve.

Joshua had matured to the point where the blessing of spiritual authority was now his. And because he had spent so much time under the tutelage of Moses, he was able to keep the same vision going, albeit in a different style. He had his own methods, but the core of the ministry remained the same.

*All Israel with their elders and officers and their judges were standing on both sides of the ark before the Levitical priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord, the stranger as well as the native. Half of them stood in front of Mount Gerizim and half of them in front of Mount Ebal, just as Moses the servant of the Lord had given command at first to bless the people of Israel. Then afterward he read all the words of the law, the blessing and the curse, according to all that is written in the book of the law.*

*There was not a word of all that Moses had commanded which Joshua did not read before all the assembly of Israel with the women and the little ones and the strangers who were living among them.*

*-Joshua 8:33-35*

**How did Joshua's ministry model Moses' ministry?**

**Based on our study of Joshua, what are the critical elements to transfer when discipling someone, and what are not as critical to transfer?**

**Do you need to be discipled yourself? Do you feel like you need to be trained in wisdom and spiritual authority? If so, who might disciple you? Have you considered asking them?**

**If you feel you are ready, to whom are you seeking to impart wisdom and authority?**

*Pray about ways God would have you transfer either spiritual wisdom or spiritual authority to someone else. Ask God to help you identify someone you can disciple on a greater level. If no one comes to mind, ask Him to reveal any areas you may still need to grow and develop before discipling others, then seek to pursue that spiritual growth yourself.*