

## Welcome and Introduction

Welcome to our Men That Matter devotional series! This is just an introduction to let you know what this is all about. Every day you'll receive in the app as a notification and you'll also receive in an email the daily devotion at 5 a.m. There will be a written devotion as well as the video portion of that devotion with audio.

So if you didn't get a chance to read it, or if you prefer, if you're more of an audio learner or a video learner, this will meet every man at different places. Each devotion that you'll receive is guided by the Scriptures—how the Scripture describes men, men that followed God, men that disobeyed God, and how our God is faithful to them. You'll have a Scripture at the top that will be included in the devotion and then for further reading, you will have an encouragement to read a different passage

Men, I want to let you know that I'm praying for you. I'm praying, frankly, for all of us that we would be God's men, men that are faithful to him, men that obey our Master. There will be these stories of men that you may be familiar with, and Lord willing, there will be some stories of men that you haven't really given much thought to or you didn't even know were in the Bible. The whole point of this is not to make this about being a more moral man that focuses on doing what's right and avoiding the evil in our world. Certainly, God gives us commands and he calls us to obey him. More so, in this devotion, the challenge is for us to see our God, our God who is faithful through all of this, through sin, through obedience.

John MacArthur has written a book, 12 Ordinary Men. It's a study on the 12 disciples, and there's a tagline in that study. And that tagline is, what the Master did with those men, and what He wants to do with you. And so for this Men That Matter devotion, we want to let you know that you matter to us as elders and you matter to God because you are made in his image. And God has done amazing things in and through and despite these men. And it's a message to you, friend, that God wants to do something in you and through you. And it's all about pointing to his great plan for his glory. So I hope that you enjoy this study and I want to encourage you, whether you feel today like you have failed, whether you feel like you've succeeded, your God is the same yesterday, today, and forever. And that's the hope that we have.

Sure, we're disconnected from these men that we read about by thousands of years. And yet what we will see, what we'll discover, what we'll be reminded of is that these men aren't so much different than us. They deal with fear, with pride, with sin, with triumph, with success, with family, with friends, and what makes us like them is their sin, our sin, their God, and our God that teaches us in it all to look to Him.

Men, it's a great privilege to serve you. It's a great privilege to pray over you. Thanks for joining with us. And I'm excited for what God is going to do in you and through you.

February 2nd

## ADAM'S IMAGE AND OURS

*Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. GENESIS 1:26-27*

**W**hat's it like to be made in the image of God? We don't have to go back in time to ask Adam what it meant, because you and I are all made in God's image! However, we can lose the depth of what God is telling us about His good news and our worth. What do we find when we dig deeper in these verses?

We only have to go back to Genesis 1:1 to see God's character shouting through a bullhorn to us. “In the beginning God...” God was the only One who existed from eternity past. But our question is, why would God create? Was God lonely or did He have a need to show how powerful He is? The answer to these questions is a loud, “NO!!!” God has no need for anyone because He is a perfect Trinity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—One God with three distinct Persons. To add further, creation doesn't happen because God has something to prove. Instead, creation shows His great love and goodness! Think about it for a moment...If God has no need of anyone or anything, then He creates simply because He wants to. Creation is the first act of God's good news. He speaks out of the darkness and chaos of nothing, “Let there be light!” The light that shouts how good and gracious our God is.

But how does God's creation and being made in God's image connect to you as God's man today? How does this change your approach to your family, your work, or your retirement? God tells you men that you matter. You are significant. You are marked with a purpose. Your job doesn't change that. Your education doesn't change that. Your confidence doesn't change that. Your failure doesn't change that. Instead, God comes to you and says, “You are mine. You are my special creation.” To be made in God's image makes you different from plants and animals that were also created. It sets you apart. You've been given a mind that makes moral decisions. You've been given emotions. You've been created as a relational human being. God marks you with His stamp that gives you meaning and purpose!

***Take this moment to praise your God for making you in His image. Your work matters because God created you for His purpose—to make Him famous.***

**For Further Reading: Genesis 1&2**