

**Father's Day
Becoming & Building Godly Men
Mark 15:21**

→ **Story – Warren Farrell “The Boy Crisis”**

In his book, “The Boy Crisis”, author Warren Farrell tells an interesting story about a conversation with a father...

“You Warren Farrell?”

“Yes,” I responded, still distracted.

“I joined a men’s group you formed, but never met you ‘cause the guys said you form a lot of groups and leave as soon as they get underway.”

→ *Warren has started hundreds of men’s groups through the years...*

As I nodded, he teased, “A ‘love ‘em and leave ‘em guy,’ eh?”

I began to explain, then caught the twinkle in his eye.

“Well, I just wanted to tell you the group had a real impact on my life. It led to my decision to raise my son full-time.”

“Full-time?” Now he had my attention. “Had you been working?”

He smiled. “Yeah. 24-7. That’s why I had neglected my first son and lost my wife. I got remarried, but I’m still working 24-7.”

Knowing that “24-7” usually denoted success, and that many a new mom’s desire to have a more involved dad was not accompanied by a desire for her husband to quit a successful day job, I asked, “Was your wife OK with that?”

“Her support was everything. Hers, and the men’s group.”

“How did the group help?”

“One of the exercises you had taught the group to do was to go around and have each of the guys discuss ‘The biggest hole in my heart is . . .’ Well, one of the things that blurred out of my mouth was ‘neglecting my son because of my career.’”

“What triggered that, do you think?”

“Probably my wife having recently told me she was pregnant, and our just finding out it’s a boy! Anyway, the group then asked me another one of your fantasy questions, ‘What would you do if you could do anything you wanted, without having to worry about money?’

“I gave them this fantasy: ‘Take off a few years and raise my kid.’

“Then the guys asked me if I had asked my wife if she would be OK with that. I gave a number of reasons why I thought it was impractical, but they got me to give them a commitment to at least ask her. And I did.”

“And she said yes?”

“Yeah, we had a lot of discussions, and she was very supportive every step of the way.”

“Fantastic. How long have you been doing this for?”

“He’s a year-and-a-half now.”

“Is it going well? Are you glad you’re doing this?”

“Raising my son is by far the best decision I’ve ever made in my life.”

“How so?”

“It’s like I discovered a whole different type of love.

I didn’t even know that type of love existed. Here and there I had had little glimpses of that with my first son, but never knew what would unfold until I immersed myself.”

“For example?”

“Stuff that I thought would be meaningless—being able to turn his crying into a smile; getting his arm through a sleeve; listening for his first ‘daddy’ and ‘mommy’—it all became everything because he was everything.

“You know, Warren, until then I had talked about love, but never really knew what it meant to totally immerse myself in someone else’s well-being with no expectation of getting anything back.

Everything follows from that. I never knew what I was missing.”

After an hour or so, though, one young man broke our invisible energetic barrier.

“Can I have your autograph?”

I had just returned from a book tour in which I had done a lot of TV, so I reached up for the paper and pen he offered.

He seemed uncomfortable.

“Is something the matter?” I asked.

“Um, no. Yes, I’d love your autograph, too, sure. But I actually came for John’s . . .”

As I suffered something between embarrassment and humiliation for my assumption that he meant me, my new friend reached up. The quickness with which he signed the paper signaled that it had not been his first time.

“Wow. Sorry for assuming he meant me. I rarely watch TV. May I ask who are you?”

“I actually preferred it the way it was! I’m John.”

“John. It’s been a great conversation. John who?”

“John . . . Lennon.”

Being TV-deprived, I was, er, “proud” of myself for being able to ask the next question: “You’re with a singing group, aren’t you?”

With a bemused smile, he nodded.

“Forgive me,” I said, “but what’s the name of the group again?”

“The Beatles.”

Our boys are in crisis and no one seems to care...

→ **Mental Health...**

... **Mass Shootings...**

The rate of mass shootings has tripled since 2011.

We blame guns, violence in the media, violence in video games, and poor family values.

Each is a plausible player. But our daughters live in the same homes, with the same access to the same guns, video games, and media, and are raised with the same family values.

Our daughters are not killing. Our sons are.

... **Suicide ...**

The National Academy of Sciences reports that the increase in suicide among white males led to as many white males' lives lost to suicide as have been lost to AIDS.

Suicides increase as the pressures of the male role and hormones increase.

Before puberty, the suicide rates among males and females are about equal.

However, between ten and fourteen, boys commit suicide at almost twice the rate of girls.

Between fifteen and nineteen, boys commit suicide at four times the rate of girls;

Between twenty and twenty-four, the rate of male suicide is between five and six times that of females.

Is this because females are inherently better at handling stress? Perhaps not.

When men and women are exposed to similar pressures to perform, as among men and women in the military, the female suicide rate soars almost as high as the male rate.

"More men in the UK have died by suicide in 2018 than all British soldiers fighting in all wars since 1945."

... **Incarceration Nation ...**

There is probably no better evidence of the increase of the boy crisis as a mental health problem than the fact that the US jail and prison population increased by more than 700 percent between 1973 and 2013. Of that population, 93 percent are male and are disproportionately young.

The American Psychological Association (APA) calls the United States "incarceration nation." Why?

We are 5 percent of the world's population with almost 25 percent of the world's prisoners.

→ **Physical Health...**

In a study done on premature death in 20 developed countries it was found...

"Being male is now the single largest demographic factor for early death."

It is only now that boys and men under fifty are twice as likely to die as girls and women the same age.

It hasn't been this high since WW2...

... Death Professions ...

Every day, 150 workers die from hazardous working conditions. And 92 percent of them are male.

The less formal education and more children your son has, the more likely he is to feel he'll help his family live a better life by risking his own life working in what might be called "the death professions."

Why? To receive the "death professions bonus."

Jobs like crab fishing in Alaska (think Deadliest Catch), working on an oil rig, in a coal mine, as a lumberjack, long-distance driver of a semi (or eighteen wheeler), as a welder a hundred feet above a bridge, as a cab driver at night in an inner city, as a pilot of a small plane dropping pesticides, as a roofer, or a construction worker—they all pay more money than safer, similarly low-education jobs.

In exchange for this "death professions bonus," millions of dads with less education risk their lives to give their children options they don't have.

And tens of thousands of single young men try to save up enough to make themselves attractive as a future dad.

Most of us take for granted how the home we live in was created at the risk of the lives of young men.

For example, the wood in your home likely began its journey with young lumberjacks risking their lives as loggers.

The trees they felled were then hauled by long-distance truckers (another hazardous profession) to a site near to what would become your home.

On their way, the truckers repeatedly stopped for fuel extracted by other men who had risked their lives on oil rigs (as in Deepwater Horizon).

And the wood was ultimately used by construction workers and roofers—who, in the United States, die at the rate of one per working hour.

Few parents realize, as they proudly watch their son don a firefighter's uniform, that in hazardous professions, death after the job takes twelve times as many of our sons' lives as death on the job.

→ *Economic Stability...*

Half the 6.5 million US jobs lost since the 2009 recession were in manufacturing and construction.

If your son plans to live in an urban area, he'll likely live in one of the 147 US cities in which young women under thirty haven't just caught up to their male peers, but now outearn them (by an average of 8 percent). In only three cities do young men earn as much or more.

→ *Education...*

Worldwide, reading and writing skills are the best predictor of success...

In the United States, by eighth grade, 41 percent of girls are at least "proficient" in writing, while only 20 percent of boys are.

In one generation, young men have gone from 61 percent of college degree recipients to a projected 39 percent; young women, from 39 percent to a projected 61 percent.

Our focus passage is on a man that God raised up at an important time in the life of Jesus...

Mark 15:21 (ESV) — And they compelled a passerby, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross.

Simon is identified by name and hometown in Matthew, Mark, and Luke...

This clear identification tells us something very important...

To have Simon so clearly identified means that he was known and almost certainly became part of the early church...

With Marks addition of the names of his sons we are being told something else...

Simon's sons also became part of the early church...

How do we become Godly men and also raise Godly men?

1. INCLUDE them in your spiritual PURSUITS

Mark 15:21 (ESV) — And they compelled a passerby, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross.

Simon and his family had traveled from Cyrene to Jerusalem for Passover...

Cyrene is located in North East Africa in present day Libya...

The trip from Cyrene to Jerusalem was over 1,120 miles!

Jesus gives us a model here...

Mark 3:14 (ESV) — And he appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) so that they might be with him and he might send them out to preach

→ Dad Deprivation vs Dad Enriched...

Shorter life spans... Children with Dad loss have a life expectancy 14% shorter than children with Dad involvement...

ISIS fighters – A study of ISIS fighters concluded that almost all had in common “some type of ‘absent father’ syndrome.”

Dad deprivation is the main hole in the heart common to boys vulnerable to gangs and to boys targeted by sexual predators.

It was also common to boys recruited by Hitler for Hitler Youth.

1. INCLUDE them in your spiritual PURSUITS**2. INFLUENCE them in their PRINCIPLES**

Acts 11:19 (ESV) — Now those who were scattered because of the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except Jews.

The believers that were scattered happened in Acts 8...

Those were primarily Jewish believers...

However, listen to the very next verse...

Acts 11:20–21 (ESV) — But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who on coming to Antioch spoke to the Hellenists also, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number who believed turned to the Lord.

This happened within months of the resurrection of Jesus...

We don't know if Simon of Cyrene was one of them, but it could be possible, which we will see later...

Here is the point... Jewish believers from Cyrene were not prejudice against the Gentiles and were willing to share the Good News of Jesus with them!

By the way, not what happened next...

The Church leaders heard about this amazing move of God happening in Antioch so they sent Barnabas to check it out...

When Barnabas arrived he saw the grace of God in action he went to Tarsus and brought back Saul (who later changed his name to Paul)...

Acts 11:26b (ESV) — ... For a whole year they met with the church and taught a great many people. And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians.

Proverbs 22:6 (ESV) — Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.

Living in homes with no dads is more correlated with suicides among teenagers than any other factor.

In almost all the mass shootings the shooter has been a young male who is ultimately killed. It has become another form of suicide...

Students coming from father-present families score higher in math and science even when they come from weaker schools.

A study of boys from similar backgrounds revealed that by the third grade, the boys with fathers present scored higher on every achievement test, and received higher grades.

The more interaction a boy has with his dad before six months of age, the higher his mental competence.

Worldwide, the amount of time a father spends with a child is one of the strongest predictors of the child's ability to empathize as he gets older."

Adolescents with minimal or no father involvement account for 71 percent of high school dropouts.

Roughhousing by dads helps regulate both male and female toddlers' aggression, but especially helps a boy toddler control his testosterone-induced aggression by imprinting his left-brain circuits.

Boys living with dads have better enforced boundaries, leading to better impulse control and fewer discipline problems.

Among youths in prisons, 85 percent grew up in a fatherless home. Prisons are basically centers for dad-deprived young men.

3. INTERCEDE for them to find their PURPOSE

Many years later the Apostle Paul has traveled many places taking the Good News of Jesus...

He is heading to Rome and writes to them a letter we know as Romans...

At the end of his letter Paul sends greetings to many of his friends and co-workers who have labored with him in the Gospel...

For instance we sends greetings to Priscilla and Aquila who had worked with him on several occasions.

He sends several other greetings ...

In the middle of them Paul says this...

Romans 16:13 (ESV) — Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord; also his mother, who has been a mother to me as well.

It is almost certain this is the same Rufus who was the son of Simon of Cyrene...

Probably Simon has died, but his prayers for his son have been heard!

Here are some of the greatest things I discovered in helping my sons find their purpose...

➤ **INVESTIGATE don't MANIPULATE**

Ask the Lord to show you the “bent” of your child...

Psalm 139:14 (NLT) — Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it.

Psalm 139:16 (NLT) — You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed.

➤ **ENCOURAGE don't ENTRAP**

Begin telling them what you are discovering about them...

- **Their personality...**
- **Their abilities...**
- **Their dreams...**

➤ **DIRECT don't OVER-PROTECT**

June 19, 2022

Crossgates, AM Worship

David Jett

Position them to succeed, but don't shield them from failures...

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Becoming & Building Godly Men
Mark 15:21

1. _____ *them in your spiritual* _____

2. _____ *them in their* _____

3. _____ *for them to find their* _____

- _____ *don't* _____
- _____ *don't* _____
- _____ *don't* _____