



KEEP CALM because GOD'S IN CHARGE

Learning to Trust in the Power and Sovereignty of God

Magnolia Bible Church Men's Group

Lesson #4 | Thursday, March 18, 2021

These days it's hard to know if anyone is in charge! Rest assured, **God is in complete control**. If there was ever a time to explore Biblical truths on the Power of God— this is it! When those around us are panicking and “losing their heads”, we can remain calm by trusting in the Power of God and His plan for our lives. In this 4-week series we'll explore **your story**, and the plans God has for you. Our nation needs men of confidence who know the Source of all truth and power – Jesus Christ. We can become these men for such a time as this!

This week's lesson is focused on your story and you the “HERO” God has called you to be.

Week 1: **YOUR STORY:** Become the “HERO” God has called you to be.

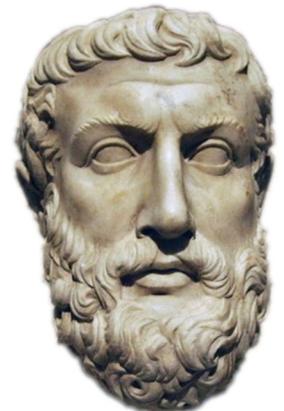
Week 2: **YOUR BATTLE:** Identifying the “BATTLES” you've been called to fight.

Week 3: **YOUR GUIDE:** Every hero needs a “GUIDE” to achieve *victory without fear*.

Week 4: **YOUR VICTORY:** Your role in the “KINGDOM of GOD” and *fighting the good fight*.

In tonight's lesson we're going to talk about you becoming the **victorious warrior** – the hero in your story who overcomes great obstacles to achieve the victory God has prepared for you. The following quote has been attributed to Heraclitus, a 5th century B.C. philosopher.

Out of every one hundred men, ten shouldn't even be there, eighty are just targets, nine are the real fighters, and we are lucky to have them, for they make the battle. Ah, but the one, one is a warrior, and he will bring the others back.



The one who will bring the others back... **Does that describe you?** If you have a family, you're the only one who can do this. It's not your wife's job and it's certainly not your kids' job. Listed below are some of the attributes we find in the **warrior** who fulfills this passage:

- He knows where he's been and where he's going
- He's concerned with those who are in his care and attends to their needs
- He's brave and knows how to fight
- He knows when to retreat and avoid a fight when it's not necessary
- He can teach others how and when to fight
- He has a battle plan
- He possesses a sense of duty and loyalty; he does not run when life and the battle get tough
- He knows how to avoid being killed (so he can get back!)
- Finally, he realizes the importance of his role as a leader and that no one else can do his job for him

I'm not sure how you feel, but sometimes I don't feel like a warrior. I think for me one of the problems is I get down on myself because *I don't do the things I know I need to do, and I do the things I'm not supposed to do* (sounds a little like Paul in Romans 7:15-20). Although there is no doubt Jesus does not want us to sin, He wants us to know we're forgiven for the sins we commit. It's why we need to keep short accounts with God and ask forgiveness from Him when we sin. Asking for forgiveness keeps down barriers in our relationship with God, brings conviction from the Holy Spirit, and removes the guilt we all experience because of sin.

Probably the greatest story in the Bible on forgiveness is the Parable of the Lost Son (i.e., The Prodigal Son) in Luke 15:11-32. **I love this story because it is you and me.** The story has the greatest impact on our lives when we realize we deeply loved by God. **As long as we feel like second-class citizens, we will never be the victorious warriors God has called us to be.** **This is why we must learn to receive forgiveness from God and also learn to forgive ourselves.**

¹¹ Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them. ¹³ "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. ¹⁴ After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! ¹⁸ I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' ²⁰ So he got up and went to his father. "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²² "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. ²⁴ For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate. ²⁵ "Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ²⁷ 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.' ²⁸ "The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!' ³¹ "'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'"

Your homework last week was to explore **God's plan for you**, how He is **calling you to action**, identify **potential failures**, and identify what **success** looks like for you. These elements play a central part in your role in God's Kingdom and the **epic battle He has prepared just for you** (Ephesians 2:10). So, here's the "fork in the road".

Every one of us has a daily decision to fight the good fight. When we are passive, we are not fighting. Some of us need to make some tough decisions and stop worrying about what others think, or if we will fail. Just like the 1917 U.S. Army recruiting poster that called young men to fight in World War I, we have a choice in the stories that will be told about our lives. Here are **three steps** for taking **AIM** to become the warriors God has called us to be:

- a. **A**ddress any sin that has control over your life (sin *weighs down* the warrior)
- b. **I**dentify "risk" opportunity areas (the *battle is fought* in the risk)
- c. **M**ake a commitment to pursue opportunities and find men to pray with you



Let's make a choice to put Jesus first in our lives and take risks that are worthy of the ultimate risk He took in dying on the cross for you and me.

Group Discussion Questions

1. In looking at your life, in what areas do you need to be the warrior? Are there any risks you are avoiding?
2. What prevents you (or reduces your capacity) to live for Jesus?
3. If you could fast forward in time, what are the things you would like to have accomplished? What are the things you want people to say about you when you are gone?