

WAH-Chapter 6

The Father's Voice

In this chapter John talks about our heavenly Father's role in a man's initiation, some more on the 'wound', 'thwarting of the false self' and 'walking away from the woman'. Again, while not given it's own session in the DVD series, it is a most revealing chapter and contains essential information for us as men.

It is essential for a boy to go through a process of initiation for him to become a man. In our western society this rarely happens. It is the mysterious and lost process whereby a boy becomes a man and *knows* it. John tells of the time as a young lad when his 'pop' told him to go, saddle up the horse and get that steer out of the alfalfa paddock. He says he felt fear and honour at the same time. And goes on to say "I got the steer that day.... and a whole lot more."

1. *Can you remember a day when someone who believed in you called you out to do something that scared you but also in doing so honoured you? What happened?*

How God initiates a man

You may find this unusual but God desires to initiate us. Initiation is *a guided process of personnel discovery*. He has designed each of us before birth to be the sons we are meant to be. When we are initiated he gives us our true name. Remember in the movie 'the Matrix' how Mr. Anderson learns his real name is 'Neo'. We *desperately* need to know our name. So much hangs on this - our purpose and destiny in life and in God. You have to know where you've come from, you have to have faced a series of trials that test you, you have to have taken the journey and you have to have faced the enemy. Your true name is forged in the baptism of life.

Where can we go to learn our true name, like the one Maximus told the emperor Commodus, in the movie Gladiator, a name that can never be taken from us. That name only comes through the process of initiation. It is deep heart knowledge. So, there comes a time when you have to leave all that is familiar and go into the unknown with God as Abraham, Jacob and Paul did, for no-one but God sees what the man is and who he is to become.

2. *Have you entered the journey of initiation with God? If not, talk to him about it. There will be a whole new set of questions for you, and there will be a whole new set of answers required. e.g. How have you been handling your wound? Why do you keep covering it up and denying it? Or, why have you embraced it? Why are you still living as 'the poser'?*

Contempt for the wound

Boys are taught not to cry, it does not hurt, get over it, be a man. This then translates into adulthood, and says, he who is truly a man keeps going, dragging his guts behind him, even if he has to crawl over the finishing line and he does not cry out when in pain. This sort of misunderstanding is why most of us consider our wound as a source of shame. As a result of this most men minimise their wound. They say "I'm ok." or "It's no big deal." King David was quite the opposite, he said "I am poor and needy, my heart is wounded within me." See page 126 of fld. bk. to see other examples of how you've handled your wound.

But a wound that goes unacknowledged (denied) and unwept over or embraced is a wound that cannot heal. And so God's initiation of a man must take a very cunning course; a course that feels very odd, even cruel. He will wound us in the very place we've been wounded before.

3. *How have you handled your wound? Did you deny it? Leave it in the past? Minimise the impact? Accept it? Take the victim mentality and be defined by it? Can you relate to any of these? To move forward is going to require healing.*

Thwarting the false self.

Out of the wound we construct the false self. The false self is the imposter. It is the image we invent of ourselves that we hope everybody will admire. The imposter is created as a defence mechanism against pain. It is our defence enabling us to cope with life. For us to become the sons we are created to become, God must take this false self away, if we will not walk away from it or willingly give it up. He must strip us bare of all the things we use to fake our way through life. God loves us far too much to leave us where we are. So he thwarts us, in many, many different ways. The thwarting is necessary to take us back into our wound. It is only here that we can be healed and facilitate the process of the release of our true self.

4. *What has been your plan to make life work? What was the 'golden' bat that you have relied upon? Life will work if I am Life will work out if I am liked by..... Life will work out long as I don't get to close to..... How is your plan working?*

5. *Where isn't your life going well right now? How about your career? Your marriage? Your children? Where in your life are you feeling vulnerable, exposed, on shaky ground? Are you being asked to enter an arena you really fear? Are you being asked to let go of something that has meant the world to you?*

Before we move on, let us recognise that this is a very *dangerous* moment. a moment when God seems set against everything that has meant life to us. It is exactly here that Satan spies his opportunity, and leaps in to accuse God in our hearts. "You see", he says, "God is angry with you. He's disappointed in you. If he really loved you he would make things go smoother." Note: he does not say, "It is God who is thwarting you!" The enemy always tempts us back toward control, to recover and rebuild the false self. Keep this in mind as you work through these issues, because losing the false self is painful; though it's a mask we have been wearing for years, it can feel like we're losing a close friend. Underneath the mask is all the hurt and fear we've been running and hiding from. To let it come to the surface can shake us like an earthquake.

Walking away from the woman.

As we put aside the false self, we are going to feel vulnerable and exposed. We will be sorely tempted to turn to some of our comforters for relief. As most of us have turned to the woman for our sense of masculinity, looking to her to validate us, we must walk away from her as well. *This does not mean you leave your wife or woman.* If you are a passive man, tip toeing around and never doing anything to rock the boat, then it's time to rock it. Stand up to her; get her mad at you. For those of you who are 'lions' and 'high achiever' types; it means you stop abusing her, release her as the object of your anger and the one who's supposed to make you feel like a man.

A man needs a much bigger orbit than a woman. He need a mission, a life purpose, and he needs to know his true name. Only then is he fit for a woman, for only then does he have something to invite her into. Your woman does not want to be 'the adventure', she wants to be part of 'the adventure'. The masculine journey takes a man *away* from the woman, in order that he may *return* to her with his question answered. In the garden it was Eve who chose the apple and to eat of it. Adam saw her eat of the apple and he saw she was changed. He ate because he wanted Eve (his soul mate), instead of God. You see, it all comes down to worship. A man without his true love, his life, his God, will find another. What better substitute than one of Eve's daughters? Nothing else in creation even comes close. We must

reverse Adam's choice; we must choose God over Eve. We must take our ache to him. For only in God will we find healing for our wound.

6. *What have you been seeking from your woman? What does it mean for you to 'walk away' from the woman?*

7. *Do you know what your 'crucial adventure' in life is, so that you can invite her to be part of it. (A crucial adventure is always from God.)*

8. *Ask her "What could I do - or stop doing - that would feel like a great relief to you in our relationship?"*

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