

Men & Masculinity: Chapter 12 (I'm a Man)

Questions for discussion

1. Is it better to experience failures or successes of others?

I have given you instructions about what has worked for me. Will those instructions work for you? That is an interesting argument. What works for one seems to not work the same in others. You know I'm fine with that. Thank God everyone is different. The goal is to start somewhere. I suppose you can look at it in two ways. First we could try were others have failed. Maybe that's a mountain to climb. When we get enough courage to change the road were on it will be rough at the beginning. Failing to succeed seems nuts. A second way (and in my mind a better way) might be to go to where someone else has won. It's telling you nothing is impossible. So why not start where someone else succeeded

2. We need to be inspired by our heroes.

The first step is to go where heroes have gone. Some people call it a bucket list. No it is not a bucket list, but the things in this world that scare you. Try things people have succeeded at. Why do we read inspiring books? It's because the writer won. Why do we cheer when our sports teams win? It's because they won. We love to walk in the paths where the famous have been. In many cases they were famous because they are our heroes. Walk in their shoes and feel what they felt. Hopefully you will be inspired by what inspired them.

3. Are you humble enough to need others?


Paul asks for his cloak. He is cold and barren. God told Paul he will show him how much he will suffer for Christ Jesus. Paul did suffer for the cause he tried to kill. Now Paul admits he is cold just as he was cold towards others. Be warm towards others. They in turn will bring warmth to you. They will desire to see you happy, warm, and successful. What is humble? Humble is realizing that your struggles are no better or worse than any others. The reason people are who they are: is because of their struggles. Are you humble enough to admit you need your cloak?

4. Does your story inspire others?

Books are really stories and thoughts. They are the insides of the men and women that write them. Every thought in a book comes from some sort of experience. We are the sum of those experiences. I have grown by the books I have read. I have been affected by the writers and their lives. We need words of comfort just as much as we need the comforting words of a mother. Men need to be inspired. Men need to inspire. Books and stories are the way we do that. What is your story? Does it inspire you and those around you?

5. Are you blind or do you see your life as it really is?

This whole book is a snapshot of my heart. I was cold and losing me in the worst way on a cliff in British Columbia Canada. I was a man but did not know it. In reality I did not know me. My journey did begin like Paul on the Damascus road. The difference was God



used my failed marriage to take away my blindness to see life differently. These chapters fit together. One is not better than the other. They are a puzzle as a whole.

Each stop on this journey has completed me in Gods eyes one piece at a time. I have to tell you that my puzzle is far from done. I am still struggling through as Paul did. Paul was never finished on this side of heaven. I am not finished but I know much more about who I am. I also know about who God is too. If nothing else I know this one thing: I am a masculine man.