

Lesson 8: Living Life God's Way Living as a King and a Priest

Spiritual truth to be mastered: Practicing daily the same calling that is upon our master Jesus Christ, the Lion-King and Lamb-Priest.

Why do we need this truth operating in our lives? Without this skill, we never will become courageous in faith, skilled in spiritual battle, composed under pressure, able to rule with a sense of what our redemption cost Christ, or worship Father for the truth He has let us see and the mysteries we do not yet understand.

SUNDAY:

I am committed to live my life as a warrior and a worshiper as You, Father, develop my life-rulership skills, extending Your Kingdom on earth.

Zechariah 6:12-13: Then say to him, 'Thus says the Lord of hosts, "Behold, a man whose name is Branch, for He will branch out from where He is; and He will build the temple of the Lord. Yes, it is He who will build the temple of the Lord, and He who will bear the honor and sit and rule on His throne. Thus, He will be a priest on His throne, and the counsel of peace will be between the two offices.'"

1 Peter 2:9: "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light"

Psalms 24:8: "Who is the King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle."

Matthew 11:12-13: "And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and violent men take it by force. For all the prophets and the Law prophesied until John."

Psalms 51:17: "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise."

How do we practice this truth daily?

- By refusing to avoid the conflicts God has set in front of us and by being "in training" for conflict until we die.
- By worshiping God throughout the day in prayer, intimate conversation, song, and confession.
- By peacefully resting in the conflict between "knowing" and "mystery" as God trains us to both know what He knows and trust Him for what He doesn't tell us.

When you preach the gospel of the Kingdom, it calls violent men and women. It calls people who are going to make something happen. Jesus is not just King of pastors; He is King of kings. The sound of the King makes you want to enlist and get up and do something. Jesus is a man whose mission is worth dying for.

Most of the Church has not preached the gospel of the Kingdom.

John 3:3: "Jesus answered and said to him, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.'"

**Deception: trickery;
ingenious acts intended
to dupe or cheat.**

When we see the deception, we become “violent.” The people of the world-system are the “squatters,” not God’s kids. The fact is that Jesus is not going to come until His enemies are subdued. We need to take dominion over the earth. Our abdication does not prompt a rescue.

Jesus’ goal is not to rescue us from our training. It is not to save us from ridicule. It is to conform us to His image.

Living like a ruler comes from feeding off the problems present in the “promised land.” We must reject the evil report that the land is too hard to take. We must see our enemies as our food. We must see that Christ owns all power and authority, and we are His royal ambassadors to exercise that power and authority in the earth.

Triumphalism is the act of killing “lions” that are not between you and your Father’s house. Samson killed the “lion” that was between him and his father’s house. We are only responsible for the lions between us and our Father’s house. If Father rescues us from the “lions,” we will never grow up. We don’t need to be rescued; we need to grow up.

Isaiah 3:1-12: “For behold, the Lord GOD of hosts is going to remove from Jerusalem and Judah both supply and support, the whole supply of bread, and the whole supply of water; The mighty man and the warrior, the judge and the prophet, the diviner and the elder, The captain of fifty and the honorable man, the counselor and the expert artisan, and the skillful enchanter. And I will make mere lads their princes and capricious children will rule over them, And the people will be oppressed, each one by another, and each one by his neighbor; the youth will storm against the elder, and the inferior against the honorable. When a man lays hold of his brother in his father’s house, saying, ‘You have a cloak, you shall be our ruler, and these ruins will be under your charge,’ On that day will he protest, saying, ‘I will not be your healer, for in my house there is neither bread nor cloak; you should not appoint me ruler of the people. ‘For Jerusalem has stumbled, and Judah has fallen, because their speech and their actions are against the LORD, to rebel against His glorious presence. The expression of their faces bears witness against them. And they display their sin like Sodom; they do not even conceal it. Woe to them! For they have brought evil on themselves. Say to the righteous that it will go well with them, for they will eat the fruit of their actions. Woe to the wicked! It will go badly with him, for what he deserves will be done to him. O My people! Their oppressors are children, and women rule over them. O My people! Those who guide you lead you astray, and confuse the direction of your paths.”

There are things worth dying for. Jesus at Calvary is “Exhibit A.”

Disobedience is a red flag to the devil. You are saying, “Hey! Come and get me.” Apart from the grace of God, you are wide open. When the devil hits you, it lets you know, by God’s grace, what the hole in your defense was. Now that you see it, you go on the offense and demonstrate that you can now block that punch and block that kick. If Satan seeks to devour people like a prowling lion, then you must become a lion hunter. You must become one who can reproduce other lion hunters.

When we are weak, we are strong!

Making It Real:

Disciples of Christ must have a warrior’s spirit. We must feed off our enemies, adversaries, “giants in the land,” and problems that guard the power God has for us. There is no such thing as freedom on earth apart from dealing with the following:

1. Mental strongholds
2. Damaged, hostile people
3. Demons

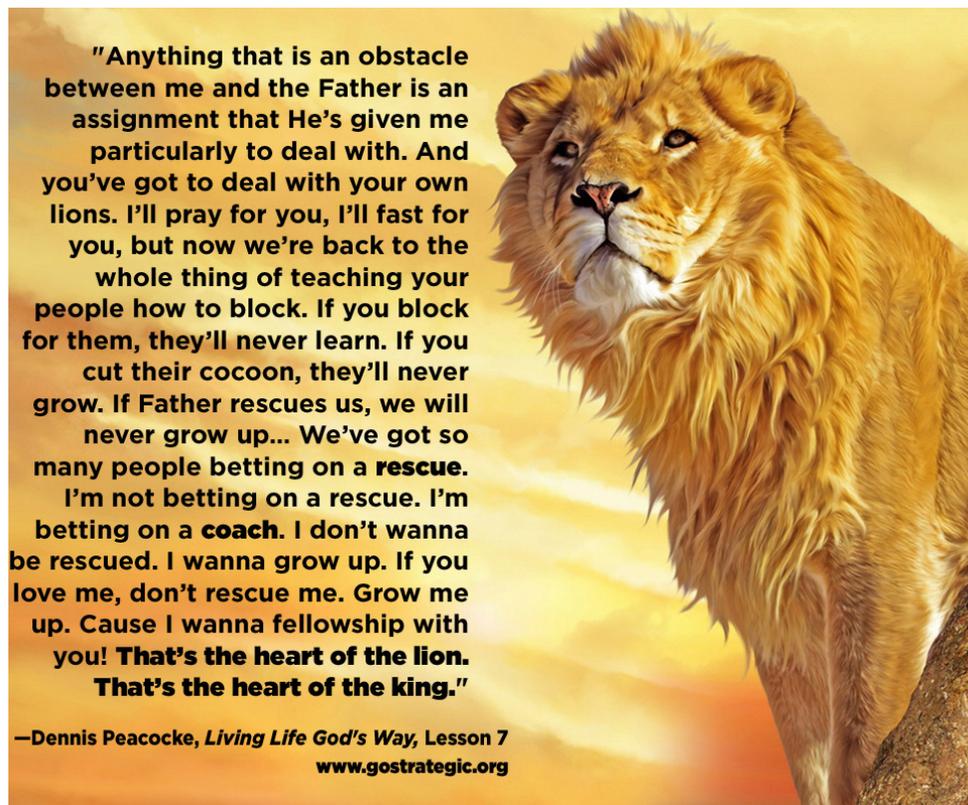
**In the hour of
despair, Father will
ask us to choose
whether we will
choose the tree of
life and worship
the mystery of God
or whether we will
hold on to reason,
choosing the tree
of the knowledge
of good and evil.**

Those who resist, repress, ignore, or use any other device to escape the conflict and who do not use their opponents to show them their weaknesses will not experience true Kingdom living in this age.

The Kingdom of God attracts only violent men and women who press forward when confronted with the raw truth that confronts them.

Matthew 13:11-13: “And He answered and said to them, ‘To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been granted. For whoever has, to him shall more be given, and he shall have an abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has shall be taken away from him. Therefore, I speak to them in parables; Because while seeing they do not see, and while hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.’”

Christ, as the “Lord God mighty in battle” ([Psalm 24:8](#)), permits life to injure us to develop new muscles. God’s purpose for pain is to produce obedient, knowledgeable, and resolute people who are open to each other but closed to escapism. Our God “trains our hands for war” ([Psalm 18:29, 33-34, 39](#)).



As you reflect on this lesson, pray about it and make notes in your journal. What is the Lord saying, and what are you thinking about today's workout?

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SUGGESTED MEETING QUESTIONS

1. What can we list as the defining characteristics of a “warrior” and of a “worshiper?”
2. How do you determine whether you should respond to a situation as a warrior or a worshiper?
3. Read 1 Peter 2:9. As stated in this verse, what is the purpose of God creating us as a “royal priesthood” (warrior-worshippers)?
4. What is a conflict or challenge in your life that you know God is wanting you to face in the near future?
5. How do you position yourself as worshiper, prior to engaging that conflict, when you do not yet know the outcome?
6. What one practice will you engage as you complete this study that you believe will foster consistent growth in your life? What accountability are you going to set up to help you in following through?