

STAND FIRM & ACT LIKE MEN

A Scripture Guide By Joby Martin

WHAT IS A MAN?

*In the Garden of Eden, God gave Adam three things:
work to enjoy, a will to obey, and a woman to love.
All three of these things were tragically corrupted by
sin through the disobedience of Adam and Eve.
Everything was fractured, and Adam didn't have
what it took to fix that. But one man did.
He came and died so that you might live.
To stand up and act like a man, you must first bow
down and surrender to Jesus.*

Genesis 1:26-28

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

²⁸ And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Have you surrendered your life to the
Lordship of Jesus Christ?

Get down on your knees and bow before the King of
Kings. Thank Him for the life He lived that you couldn't
and the death He died that you deserved.

BE WATCHFUL

You have an enemy nearby who wants to take you out. He is on a relentless pursuit to kill, steal, and destroy you and everything and everyone that means anything to you, because when a man goes down, the ripple effect is indescribable.

1 Peter 5:6-10

⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, ⁷ casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

⁸ Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. ¹⁰ And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.

What would it look like in your life to stand guard against the enemy like a soldier at his post?

Find four Jesus-loving men this week that you can pray with and share embarrassing stuff with. Set up a weekly checkpoint with them.

STAND FIRM

The enemy has been watching game film on you. He knows what lures to use and schemes to implement to draw you into temptation, and the reality about temptation is that it's tempting. You must be killing the sin in your life or it'll be killing you.

Ephesians 6:10-18

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; ¹⁷ and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, ¹⁸ praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints.

What lures and schemes is the enemy using to tempt you?
How are you killing the sin that is trying to kill you?

Armor up by praying Ephesians 6 out loud with your band of brothers. Keep meeting and keep being vulnerable with them.

BE STRONG

Jesus redefines what strength is by demonstrating it on the cross. What looked like the greatest moment of weakness in the world was actually the demonstration of ultimate power and strength. Jesus didn't use His authority to show up and demand to be right (even though He was), but He showed up and used His authority to endure the wrath of God on our behalf.

Matthew 20:17-28

¹⁷ And as Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside, and on the way he said to them, ¹⁸ “See, we are going up to Jerusalem. And the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn him to death ¹⁹ and deliver him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified, and he will be raised on the third day.” ²⁰ Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came up to him with her sons, and kneeling before him she asked him for something. ²¹ And he said to her, “What do you want?” She said to him, “Say that these two sons of mine are to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom.” ²² Jesus answered, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am to drink?” They said to him, “We are able.” ²³ He said to them, “You will drink my cup, but to sit at my right hand and at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father.” ²⁴ And when the ten heard it, they were indignant at the two brothers. ²⁵ But Jesus called them to him and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. ²⁶ It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, ²⁷ and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, ²⁸ even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Will you live like a man who lays down his life for others
or who lives for himself?

Humble yourself and serve the people around you (your wife, kids, employees.)
Do it today and every day after that, not because you want to get something in
return, but because you want to serve like Christ served.

LOVE IS...

According to the Bible, the opposite of love is not actually hate, but selfishness. Self-serving love is not love at all, but the love Jesus talks about and demonstrates is agape love, a sacrificial love.

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

¹If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ²And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

⁴Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant ⁵or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. ⁷Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. ¹¹When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. ¹²For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

¹³So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

What needs to change for you to sacrificially love God and love others?

Think about the people you love and what they love. Think about how you can make their stuff more important than your stuff. Now go and serve them today.

ARE YOU READY TO STAND FIRM AND ACT LIKE A MAN?

You and I are not primarily tools in the hand of God to be used or even soldiers in His army to fight; we are primarily sons in God's family to be loved. And sonship is forever. It is given, not earned.

John 13:12-17

¹² When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you?" ¹³ You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. ¹⁴ If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. ¹⁶ Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷ If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them. ¹⁸ I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But the Scripture will be fulfilled, 'He who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me.' ¹⁹ I am telling you this now, before it takes place, that when it does take place you may believe that I am he. ²⁰ Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever receives the one I send receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me."

Matthew 26:26-29

²⁶ Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." ²⁷ And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, ²⁸ for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹ I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

What do you think when you think about God?

This week, share communion with your family and wash their feet just as Jesus did. Plan it out and put it on the calendar. Don't let the details or awkwardness stop you. Get a bowl of water, washcloths, grape juice and some crackers. Read John 13:12-17 and Matthew 26:26-29 out loud and pray over your family.