



## **Sermon Notes: “The True Warrior”**

**John 2:14-16 and Galatians 5:19–23**

6.28.26

### **Two Ditches:**

1. All Armor, No Heart = Hostility
2. All Retreat, No Fight = Passivity

### **Big Idea:**

Biblical manhood holds together what the world splits apart — the courage to fight and the freedom to feel.

### **Courage to Fight:**

- The warrior’s heart doesn’t go looking for a fight, but it also refuses to abandon its post when it comes.
- Stand firm on what’s true. Lay down what’s just your ego.

#### **Questions to consider:**

- *Am I fighting for what’s right, or just to be right?*
- *Am I protecting someone, or just protecting myself?*
- *What spirit am I fighting in?*

### **Freedom to Feel:**

- The gentle spirit is the warrior choosing not to weaponize his strength.

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## **So What?**

You can’t grit your way into this heart posture. You receive it — and then you participate in it.

Own it, fix it, learn from it.

## For Study, Reflection, Discussion During the Week:

**Life Group ICEBREAKER:** The sermon opened with John Eldredge's observation that every man is wired for a battle to fight, an adventure to live, and a beauty to rescue. Honestly — where do you feel that wiring most? And where has the world handed you one of the two bad scripts for it: all armor and no heart, or all retreat and no fight?

**REVIEW:** Review the sermon notes from Sunday. Was there a particular point that stuck with you? What was it and why did it resonate with you?

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### **READ: John 2:14-16 | 1 Corinthians 16:13**

- The sermon drew a crucial distinction: the warrior heart doesn't go looking for a fight, but it refuses to abandon its post when the fight comes. Jesus wasn't in Jerusalem to start trouble — He came to reveal His Father. But when His Father's house was being turned into a swindle, He did not back down. What is your post right now — the thing God has specifically given you to guard, build, or protect? And are you holding it, or have you quietly abandoned it?
  - The sermon gave three gut-check questions to help tell the difference between holding the line and feeding your ego. First: am I fighting for what's right, or just to be right? A warrior fights for something — a hothead just fights to win. Think about the last time you dug your heels in on something. Running it through that question honestly — which one was it? What does your honest answer reveal? How can you let God lead in those situations?
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### **READ: Matthew 11:29 | Galatians 5:22-23 | 2 Corinthians 12:9-10**

- The sermon said gentleness — *prautēs* — never meant weak. The Greeks used it for power under control, the same word used for breaking a wild animal: same strength, now with purpose and focus. Jesus described His own heart with this word. The strongest Man who ever lived called Himself gentle. For men who find their identity in toughness, how does it land that gentleness is not the soft option — it actually takes more strength than swinging ever did? Where is gentleness the harder choice for you right now?
  - Paul told the Corinthians that when he was at his weakest and most done, Jesus said: "My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness." And Paul's response wasn't shame — it was "I will boast in my weaknesses so that the power of Christ can work through me." The sermon said we gain confidence not in who we are, but in who our God is. Where are you currently trying to project strength that you don't actually have? What would it look like to stop performing and let God's power show up in that weakness instead?
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### **DEPLOY:**

- **Run the Three Questions Before Your Next Fight.** This week, before you dig your heels in on anything — at home, at work, in a relationship — pause and run it through the three gut-check questions from the sermon: Am I fighting for what's right or just to be right? Am I protecting someone or just protecting myself? What spirit am I fighting in? You don't have to get it perfect. You just have to pause long enough to ask. Tell someone in your group which situation you're most likely to need those questions this week.
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### **Don't Forget:**

- 4<sup>th</sup> of July FUN (Families United) 12-4 at Enterprise Christian Church. Use the sign-up sheet on the welcome desk to let us know what you'll be bringing
  - Dorothy Pratt memorial service will be on July 3<sup>rd</sup> at 2pm at ECC
  - There will be no Sunday School in July and August.
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### **Prayer:**

*Father, You've told us what a man is supposed to be. Not the tough guy with no heart. Not the nice guy with no spine. The warrior who has the courage to fight and the freedom to feel — both at the same time, held together the way Jesus held them. We confess we've been living in one ditch or the other. We've used our strength to wound people we were supposed to protect. We've gone quiet when we should have held the line. We've fought in the flesh and called it righteous. And some of us have been performing strengths we don't have, hiding weaknesses we've never let You into. So we're asking You for both. Command the change. And supply what we can't supply ourselves. You row alongside us. You supply the current. We just have to stop fighting the boat and start pulling the oars. Have Your way in us.  
In Jesus name, Amen*