

STEVE FARRAR

Men's Leadership Ministries

LANDMINES

WALKING WISELY IN EVIL DAYS



Session Two – “Three Landmines”

Ephesians 5:15-18

- Alexander the Great - Greatest Military Genius in all of history. By age 35 he'd conquered the known world, but he died a drunkard. He conquered the world, but couldn't conquer Alexander the Great.
- God has called men, husbands, fathers, grandfathers to be the spiritual leaders of the home. In most homes men do not lead, they provide.
- If your father did not show you how to be a spiritual leader, how would you know how to be a spiritual leader? - *From the book Point Man*
- It is easy to get intimidated.
It isn't how much scripture you know, but how much scripture you obey. “Be doers, not just hearers...”
- Spiritual Leadership can be learned.
- Some guys are up-front leaders. Most guys are behind the scenes leaders.
- When a guy gets serious about following Christ, the enemy gets serious about following you.
1 Peter 5:8 - The adversary is like a roaring lion, seeking to devour.
You can expect opposition. The enemy's plan is to take you out and trip you up.

Review from the previous session

There are Four Counter Strategies found in Ephesians 5:15-18

1. Make God's wisdom a priority. It comes from the scriptures. Ephesians 5:15
2. Realize that your time is precious, do stuff that counts. Ephesians 5:16
 - a. Be available to your kids & grandkids.
3. Seek to understand God's will. - Ephesians 5:17
In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus prayed for God's will to be done.
 - a. God's general will is in the Bible.
 - b. Specific wisdom, will. Proverbs 13:20; Proverbs 15:22;
 - i. Go to wise men
 - ii. Talk to your wife
4. Don't be a drunk. Ephesians 5:18
 - a. When you're drunk you're controlled by something outside of you.

Adding a 5th Counter Strategy/Offensive

5. Walk wisely under the control the Spirit and the Word. Ephesians 5:18
Scripture doesn't speak against the use of wine. It is against the abuse of wine.
 - a. Being filled with the Spirit is for signs and wonders in your home. God wants me to live the Christian life in my house. "I've never had trouble being spiritual in church. I've had trouble on the way to church."
 - b. Colossians 3:16 and Ephesians 5:18 The Spirit of God uses the Word of God to control me. They are not separate, they are together.
 - c. Deuteronomy 32:47 - The Word of God is your life.

We have to walk carefully with God's wisdom.

You'll certainly find Landmines in these three areas

The three great temptations that every man who follows Christ will encounter are:

1. **Money**
2. **Sex**
3. **Power**

Landmine of Sex - 1 Thessalonians 4:1-3

1. God invented sex. God came up with the whole idea. God is for sex. It is for propagation of the species. It is for the intimate pleasure that a husband and wife can enjoy in the relationship.
2. The only sexual relationship that God condones and approves is that of a husband and wife that are married. Anything else is sin.

It is the will of God. It is for our good.

The Law of gravity works because Jesus makes it work. Hebrews 1:3 ...he upholds all things by the word of his power...

There are three aspects to Salvation – Justification, Sanctification, and Glorification

- ***Justification*** - Our sins are forgiven forever, legally.
Romans 10:9-13; Ephesians 2:8; Romans 5:1-2
 - a) Christ died in my place
 - b) The wrath of God was put on Christ, not us.

- **Glorification** - It is what happens when you take your last breath, when you die. You are already carrying eternal life in your body, right now. 2 Corinthians 5:17

- **Sanctification** - A transformation through consecration = being set apart. 1 Corinthians 6:20;
(See attachment for entire article from Sam Storms. Dr. Farrar reads from it several times.)
 - a) You are not your own, you were bought with a price
 - b) Sam Storms attached article, *10 Things You Should Know About Sanctification*, point (1).
 - Bishop JC Ryle – *“I am convinced that the greatest proof of the extent and power of sin, is the pertinacity with which it cleaves to man, even after he is converted...”* *“This infection of nature remains — yes, even in those who are regenerate.”* *So deeply planted are the roots of human corruption — that even after we are born again, renewed, washed, sanctified, justified and made living members of Christ — these roots remain alive in the bottom of our hearts; and, like the leprosy in the walls of the house, we never get rid of them until the earthly house of this tabernacle is dissolved.”*
 - c) We’ll never get rid of sin until we are Glorified.
 - John Owen – *“Either you be killing sin, or sin will be killing you.”*
 - Walking with Christ is a battle.
 - d) Sam Storms attached article, *10 Things You Should Know About Sanctification*, point (2).
 - Ephesians 4:20-23
 - It is a slow-growth. This is a slow process.
 - Ephesians 4:24-25
 - You've got to kill sin. You need to resolve to be a “truth-teller”.
 - John Gardner – *“Try being trustworthy.”*
 - Ephesians 4:29 - Let me speak what is wholesome and edifies
 - e) Sam Storms attached article, *10 Things You Should Know About Sanctification*, part of point (3) and point (5).
 - Antinomian Freedom = lawless - Romans 6:1
 - Keep short accounts with God - 1 John 1:9

Landmine of Sex. God gave us a sexual drive. - 1 Corinthians 6:9-12

The enemy knows this and uses it against us all of the time.

- I will not be mastered by anything. – 1 Corinthians 6:12
- Back to drunkenness, you can be drunk on; food, money, pride, control, all kinds of things. When you're drunk, you're controlled by an outside force instead of the Spirit of God.
- Psalm 101:2-3; James 5:16
 - There are some sins that you can't beat by yourself.
 - If you're controlled by pornography, you'll need help
 - You can't beat this on your own.
 - You'll need to go to someone you trust.

Landmine of Money - Matthew 6:24; Deuteronomy 6; 1 Timothy 6:6-10 (*Dr. Farrar says 1 Corinthians 6 in the video at one point, but reads from 1 Timothy 6*)

- Antidote to the love of money, write a check that'll hurt you to a ministry.
- God's message to Amaziah. "The Lord has much more for you than this." - 2 Chronicles 25:9

- The LORD's eyes keep on roaming throughout the earth, looking for those whose hearts completely belong to him, so that he may strongly support them. - 2 Chronicles 16:9

Landmine of Power or Selfish Ambition - James 4:1-3; James 3:13-16

- *"Selfish ambition is the need to lead. Selfish ambition is the need to be in charge. Selfish ambition is the need to control."* - Bill Lawrence

- It is about what I want, not what God wants. It is demonic wisdom

- 3 John 1:9-10 – Diotrephes put himself first.
- Don't pray "My" will be done...

Prayer – Lord, please open our eyes so that we can see the traps. Give us the courage to ask others if they see any traps or pitfalls in our lives. Let us truly say, "Not my will but thine." Amen.