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Men's Leadership Ministries

## LANDMINES WALKING WISELY IN EVIL DAYS



### *Landmines Session Six – “The Double Standard Father”*

We're back to Ephesians 6:4 - Fathers and fathering. It is also about Grandfathers.

Deuteronomy 6:1-2 – *Now this is the commandment, the statutes and the judgments which the Lord your God has commanded me to teach you, that you might do them in the land where you are going over to possess it, so that you and your son and your grandson might fear the Lord your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged.*

- God is talking to the fathers and the grandfathers
- The responsibility lies on the men
- Ephesians 6:4 – *Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.*
- Colossians 3:21 – *Fathers, do not exasperate your children, so that they will not lose heart.*
- Ephesians 5:15-16 – *Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil.*
- When a guy gets serious about Christ the enemy gets serious about you.

### **Landmine of a Double-Standard in the Life of a Father**

#### *Six Observations about the Double-Standard Father*

1. He's found throughout scripture
2. He's a man who has a carefully constructed public Christianity that conflicts with a compromised private behavior.
3. He's a Christian man who is not fighting off the double-standard. He's double-minded. According to James he's unstable in all of his ways.
4. He's neglecting his salvation
5. He's slowly drifting - toward shipwreck
6. He's seriously undermining the gospel in the lives of his own children.

#### **1. He's found throughout scripture**

- a. Douglas Wilson, Author – *Father Hunger* (Excerpt provided as an attachment to this session)
  - i. *He debates a lot of atheists. Says atheism is a problem of fatherlessness.*
- b. Paul Vitz, Author – *Faith of the Fatherless* (Excerpt provided as an attachment to this session)
  - i. *He shows how atheists became that way due to their fathers.*
- c. A child's first impression and idea of God the Father comes from his earthly father.

2. **He's a man who has a carefully constructed public Christianity that conflicts with a compromised private behavior.**
  - The way you live and the way you father affects your children
  - Integrity is when the pieces add up. No compromise.
  - Psalm 101:2b-3 –...*I will walk within my house in the integrity of my heart. I will set no worthless thing before my eyes.*
  
3. **He's a Christian man who is not fighting off the double-standard. He's double-minded. According to James he's unstable in all of his ways.**
  - Where are your convictions? There is always a strong pull away from the things of the Lord.
  
4. **He's neglecting his salvation**
  - Hebrews 2:1 – *For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it.*
  - We don't neglect-our-salvation from a frontal attack, it is via drift.
  
5. **He's slowly drifting - toward shipwreck**

*Example of "Drift" from Lot*

- Genesis 13:5-6 – *Now Lot, who went with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents. And the land could not sustain them while dwelling together, for their possessions were so great that they were not able to remain together.*
  
- Genesis 13:8-13 – *So Abram said to Lot, "Please let there be no strife between you and me, nor between my herdsmen and your herdsmen, for we are brothers. Is not the whole land before you? Please separate from me; if to the left, then I will go to the right; or if to the right, then I will go to the left." Lot lifted up his eyes and saw all the valley of the Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere—this was before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah—like the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt as you go to Zoar. So Lot chose for himself all the valley of the Jordan, and Lot journeyed eastward. Thus they separated from each other. Abram settled in the land of Canaan, while Lot settled in the cities of the valley, and moved his tents as far as Sodom. Now the men of Sodom were wicked exceedingly and sinners against the Lord.*
  
- Genesis 19:1a – *Now the two angels came to Sodom in the evening as Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom.*
  - Lot isn't *near* anymore. Now he's in. Lot is now a leader among the people of Sodom.

## 6. He's seriously undermining the gospel in the lives of his own children.

- Genesis 19:1b-8 – *When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them and bowed down with his face to the ground. And he said, “Now behold, my lords, please turn aside into your servant’s house, and spend the night, and wash your feet; then you may rise early and go on your way.” They said however, “No, but we shall spend the night in the square.” Yet he urged them strongly, so they turned aside to him and entered his house; and he prepared a feast for them, and baked unleavened bread, and they ate. Before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, surrounded the house, both young and old, all the people from every quarter; and they called to Lot and said to him, “Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us that we may have relations with them.” But Lot went out to them at the doorway, and shut the door behind him, and said, “Please, my brothers, do not act wickedly. Now behold, I have two daughters who have not had relations with man; please let me bring them out to you, and do to them whatever you like; only do nothing to these men, inasmuch as they have come under the shelter of my roof.”*
  - Does that strike you as a double-standard?
  - What happened? There was a drift. Something had happened!
  - We don't isolate. We are to be salt and light.
  - We are not to be influenced, but to influence.
  
- Psalm 1:1 – *How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers!*
  - It is about influence. Who influences you?
- Psalm 1:2 – *But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night.*
- Psalm 1:3 – *He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season and its leaf does not wither; and in whatever he does, he prospers.*
  - This is how you influence without being influenced – being in the word.
  
- Genesis 19:30-38
  - The most important man in their lives had a double-standard.
  - Seriously undermining the gospel in the life of his children

C.S. Spurgeon – Chapter in his book (From his lectures), *The Minister's Self Watch*.

*(Not attached to this session, link provided if you're interested)*

<http://www.chapellibrary.org/files/8013/7643/3304/mswa.pdf>

- In London everyone would calibrate their watches to Big Ben.
- Spurgeon told the pastors, “You're Big Ben.”
- If you're a husband, father, grandpa, you're Big Ben. Your family will be calibrating to you.

***Five observations/warnings in Hebrews about drift from Warren Wiersbie***

1. Hebrews 2:1-4 – Drifting from the word – *The issue is Neglect*
2. Hebrews 3:7 (into 4) – Doubting the word – *The issue is Hard heart*
3. Hebrews 5:11 (into 6) – Dullness toward the word, – *The issue is Sluggishness*
4. Hebrews 10:26-39 – Despising the word – *The issue is Willfulness*
5. Hebrews 12:24-29 – Defying the word – *The issue is Refusing to Hear*

Hebrews 12:10-11 – *For a short time our fathers disciplined us as they thought best. Yet, God disciplines us for our own good so that we can become holy like him. We don't enjoy being disciplined. It always seems to cause more pain than joy. But later on, those who learn from that discipline have peace that comes from doing what is right.*

God will discipline Christian men. A good father disciplines. If you don't repent, the discipline will increase. Repent, relent, submit, receive forgiveness and surrender.

***Four ways to combat a double-standard life found in Proverbs 4:20-27***

**1. Careful Heart**

- Proverbs 4:23 – *Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life.*
- Ephesians 5:15-16 – *Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil.*
- Put the word of God in your heart (aka the mind). It changes you.

**2. You need a Truthful Mouth**

- Proverbs 4:24 – *Put away from you a deceitful mouth and put devious speech far from you.*
- Deceit is a corrosive to trust

**3. Focused Eyes**

- Proverbs 4:25 – *Let your eyes look directly ahead and let your gaze be fixed straight in front of you.*
- Remaining in the right way - you are focused. You're following Christ.

**4. Watch Your Path**

- Proverbs 4:26-27 – *Watch the path of your feet and all your ways will be established. Do not turn to the right nor to the left; turn your foot from evil.*
- Cripple your feet against pursuing evil. All it does is lead to destruction
- Matthew 7:13-14

Either we be killing sin, or sin will be killing us. - John Owen

It is a battle to not have a double-standard. And the good news is that Jesus died for our sins. Go to Jesus.

**Prayer:** Father, thank you that you take our sins away as far as the East is from the West. Help us to keep fighting sin. When we mess up, let us quickly ask for forgiveness. Help us to make our homes safe places for when others mess up. In Jesus' name, Amen.