



## Arrows in the Hands

Raising Sons + Shepherding Daughters

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Key Passages: Psalm 127, Colossians 2:8-10, Malachi 4:4-6, Proverbs 20:6-7, Proverbs 31:10, Proverbs 25:19, Proverbs 21:9, 19, Proverbs 22:6, Deuteronomy 6:4-6, and others.

### Some foundational thoughts...

1. Nothing exposes me more than being a husband and a father—and now grandfather.
2. Raising a family that glorifies God doesn't just happen.
3. Wealth is not determined by what's on the table, but who is around it.

### Psalm 127:3-4

Behold, children *are* a heritage from the Lord,  
The fruit of the womb *is* a reward.

<sup>4</sup> Like arrows in the hand of a warrior,  
So *are* the children of one's youth.

### ARROWS in the hand.

Arrows need to be AIMED so Aim Holy.

Arrows are intended for targets and they do land somewhere – and we do have some control over where they land.

Arrows need to be READY, so YOU must be ready.

Arrows are meant to be RELEASED.

### of a WARRIOR

### James 3:14-16

But if you have bitter envy and <sup>14</sup> self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. <sup>15</sup> This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. <sup>16</sup> For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.

## 1. Understand your enemies

Society is an enemy - earthly

Sin is an enemy - sensual (root sins of Pride, Selfishness and Unbelief)

Satan is an enemy - demonic

## 2. Understand your environment

### Colossians 1:24-2:10

Beware lest anyone **cheat you** [through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world,] [and not according to Christ.] <sup>9</sup> For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; <sup>10</sup> and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.

**Spoil** – robbed, cheated of God's design and glory

**Secularization** – God no longer matters, nor is even a factor

**Sadness** – not according to Christ

Father wound. No close friends. Unprocessed trauma.  
Addictive habits. No manhood vision. Spiritually stuck.

**Proverbs 30:11-14, 17** gives us a vivid and timely snapshot shot of our society.

<sup>11</sup> There is a generation that curses its father,  
And does not bless its mother.

**CONFLICT**

<sup>12</sup> There is a generation that is pure in its own eyes,  
Yet is not washed from its filthiness.

**CONFUSION**

<sup>13</sup> There is a generation—oh, how lofty are their eyes!  
And their eyelids are lifted up.

**CONCEIT**

<sup>14</sup> There is a generation whose teeth are like swords,  
And whose fangs are like knives,  
To devour the poor from off the earth,  
And the needy from among men.

**CHAOS**

<sup>17</sup> The eye that mocks his father,  
And scorns obedience to his mother,  
The ravens of the valley will pick it out,  
And the young eagles will eat it.

**CRITICAL CONDITION**

### **Malachi 4:4-6,**

Remember the Law of Moses, My servant,  
Which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel,  
With the statutes and judgments.

<sup>5</sup> Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet  
Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.

### **<sup>6</sup> And he will turn**

which means to bring back, restore, or return

the turning referred to here in v6 means that the hearts of fathers and children are influenced beyond just physical movement, it often describes causing someone to enter a new emotional or spiritual state, such as restoration or reconciliation

The hearts of the fathers to the children,  
And the hearts of the children to their fathers,  
Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.

### **1. Raising Sons – elevate, grow, bring up, develop, build, set up**

#### **Proverbs 20:6-7**

Most men will proclaim each his own goodness,  
But who can find a faithful man?

<sup>7</sup> The righteous man walks in his integrity;  
His children are blessed after him.

#### **Proverbs 25:19**

Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble is like a bad tooth and a foot out of joint.

### **T – TEACHING**

#### **Psalms 78:5**

“He established a testimony in Jacob

[Meaning, God, and testimony has to do with the character of God]

and appointed a law in Israel,

[that has to do with the content of Scripture]

which he commanded our fathers to teach their children,”

The word “**teach**” there is a Hebrew word. It does not mean to “disseminate information.” It is a passionate term.

It means “by all means possible—you take the character of God and content of Scripture by formal and informal discipline, in all opportunities, and you make it known.

That is what a Dad does. Dads//Fathers, we are responsible for “the great handoff.”

We are a bridge where truth is transferred from one generation to the next.

**Proverbs 22:6**, Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.

They need devotion, they need direction

- manhood –
  - Follow God’s Word, Love & Protect God’s Woman, Excel at God’s Work, Better God’s World
- identity – influence
- purity – Proverbs 5, 6, 7 → 31
- leadership – love
- courage - conviction

Teaching AND LIVING Truth gives sons stability. It sets the course.

## **U – URGENCY**

this must happen, this is a non-negotiable

This generation cannot wait for “someday fathers.”

We cannot assume:

- the church alone will disciple them
- coaches will shape them rightly
- culture will preserve innocence
- maturity will happen automatically

## **R – RESOLVE**

make a decision, settle, determine, make up your mind, steadfastness, firmness

Resolved, the men should live for the glory of God.

Resolved second, whether others do or not, I will.

Raise the standard.

## **N – NOW**

Do not wait for: the perfect season, more money, fewer distractions, older children

Turn your heart NOW.

Pray now.

Lead now.

Repent now.

Disciple now.

Engage now.

### **1. A boy will be what a boy can see.**

If you are a Dad raising sons at age 11, 12, 13 they need to be so close to you that they can smell your deodorant... and whether they have any on or not.

### **2. Your home should be the place of discipleship for him and his friends.**

Deuteronomy 6:4-6, "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one! <sup>5</sup> You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

<sup>6</sup> "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. <sup>7</sup> You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. <sup>8</sup> You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. <sup>9</sup> You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

### **3. Boys do not rise to the occasion, they sink to the level of their training.**

Started with a year of discipleship mindset to a season of discipleship.

Not just 1 year, but a few years.

(physical, mental, spiritual development and formation)

Escaping boyhood, embracing manhood. The daily grind (for him and for me)

## **2. Shepherding Daughters - tend, lead, guide, steer, direct**

### **T – TENDER**

Daughters flourish where tenderness exists.

Tenderness is not weakness.

It is strength under control.

A father's tenderness helps shape: identity, security, confidence, view of God, future relationships

Ephesians 4:32

Colossians 3:21

### **U – UNDERSTANDING**

Daughters need fathers who listen, learn, and pursue their hearts. 1 Peter 3:7

Understanding requires: listening, slowing down, discernment, patience

### **R – RELATIONSHIP**

Daughters need connection: conversation, affirmation, trust, prayer, time

In my experience, my girls receive correction best when they feel connected.

### **N – NOTICE**

Notice:

their words, struggles, fears, gifts, burdens, changes, victories

Presence matters.

## **1. Fathers, more than anyone else, sets the course for your daughter's life.**

She needs every bit of masculine courage and compassion you own as a man.

**2. Your daughters needs the best of who you are. your strength, your courage, your intelligence, and your fearlessness. She needs your empathy, assertiveness, and your self-confidence. Bottom line, your daughter needs you.**

Strength – Hebrews 4:16,

If you're a believer, you have everything you need for a better relationship with your daughter.

Courage – Joshua 1:8-9

Intelligence – 2 Timothy 2:15

Fearlessness – Philippians 2:12-13

Psalm 14:2, The Lord looks down upon the children of men, to see if there are any who understand, who seek God.

### **3. God uses fathers (and mothers) use to stand between daughters and this toxic world.**

“You need to stop in your tracks, open your eyes wider, and see what your daughter faces today, tomorrow, and in ten years. It’s tough and it’s frightening, but this is the way it is.

While you want the world to be cautious and generous with her, it is cruel beyond imagination—even before she is a teen. Even though she may not participate in ugly stuff, it’s all around her: sexual promiscuity, alcohol abuse, foul language, illegal drugs, and predatory boys and men who want only to take some from her.”

– Dr. Meg Meeker

## **ARROWS IN THE HAND**

### **A – Aim Holy**

Children drift naturally toward the world, not toward holiness.

Parents are not merely raising successful adults – we are raising disciples.

Deuteronomy 6:5–7

Colossians 1:28

Psalm 127:4

A parent without intentional spiritual direction raises children without a Kingdom target.

### **R – Release Them With Purpose**

Arrows are not meant to stay in the quiver forever.

We prepare children to launch into God’s mission.

Matthew 28:19–20

2 Timothy 2:2

The goal is not dependence upon us forever, but dependence upon Christ.

## **R – Reinforce Truth Daily**

Culture discipulates constantly.  
Parents must disciple intentionally.

Truth is formed through repetition, rhythm, conversation, correction, and example.

Deuteronomy 6:6–9

Proverbs 22:6

What parents repeat regularly becomes what children remember permanently.

## **O – Open Your Home & Heart**

They need relationship.

Your home should become a place of: conversation, confession, prayer, laughter, discipleship, safety

1 Thessalonians 2:7–8

Mark 3:14

## **W – Walk with God**

1 Corinthians 11:1

Titus 2

## **S – Send Them Into the World Prepared**

May God help us raise resilient disciples who influence culture.

John 17:15–18

Ephesians 6:10–18

We are not hiding arrows from darkness – we are sharpening arrows for battle.

Aim Holy.

Sharpen intentionally.

Release prayerfully.

Arrows pointed toward Christ can change generations – so let's AIM HOLY!

## **NEXT STEPS**

Ask God to give you an acronym for ARROW and TURN while you're raising sons and shepherding daughters in this season of life.

## **Fathers – Next Steps**

1. Scribe Psalm 119 with your children and use the verses for Family Worship.
2. Tell your children your personal testimony.

## FREE RESOURCES

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The REAL MOMENTUM App – [realmomentum.org/app](https://realmomentum.org/app)

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