

Wild at Heart – Week 3a

The Question That Haunts Every Man

1. Describe a recent event that provoked anger in you. What then happened?

2. Where do you go or what do you do for a ‘taste of adventure’?

3. What personal battles do you *not* want to face? (Tough situations at work or home – boss, wife, kids, parents etc)

4. What are your worst fears? Why do you fear them?

5. Did you realize Adam was with Eve when she took the fruit? What do you think that says about Adam and men?

6. How do you see yourself as a man? Would words like strong, passionate or dangerous be in the list?

GETTING YOUR BEARINGS

THE GOAL

This chapter takes you into some naked self-assessment. Something's gone wrong in men, and we know it. Something about us, or in us, is just not what we know it was meant to be. What's *happened* to us? Why aren't we more fierce, daring, and passionate? You're going to need to be really honest—brutally honest—if you hope to continue the journey from here. Remember, we have to cross the desert, the no-man's-land, before winning the promised land.

TRAIL MARKERS

- The world is filled with caricatures of masculinity—posers—but very few real men.
- And every one of us posers shares a deepest fear: to be found out, exposed as an impostor.
- The reason, in part, goes back to Adam's fall—and the way every man since him has fallen.
- So men handle that by becoming either violent (driven) or retreating (passive)—we mishandle our strength.

Field Notes

DISPATCH

The movie *City Slickers* is a wry comedy about a man who has lost his heart. Billy Crystal plays Mitch, a thirty-nine-year-old ad executive for a radio station who has recently been stripped of any real authority he had at work. The next day he's invited in to his son's classroom for "Career Day." His son is so embarrassed by his dad that he tries at first to tell the class that his dad is a submarine commander. Crystal takes the stage to deliver this depressing monologue:

Value this time in your life, kids. Cause this is the time in your life when you still have your choices. And it goes by so fast. When you're a teenager you think you can do anything, and you do. Your twenties are a blur. Thirties . . . you raise your family, you make a little money, and you think to yourself, "What happened to my twenties?" Forties? You grow a little potbelly . . . you grow another chin. The music starts to get too loud . . . one of your old girlfriends from high school becomes a grandmother. Fifties, you have a minor surgery. You'll call it a "procedure," but it's a surgery. Sixties . . . you'll have a *major* surgery, the music is still loud but it doesn't matter because you can't hear it anyway. The seventies, you and the wife retire to Fort Lauderdale. You start eating dinner at two o'clock in the afternoon . . . you have lunch around ten . . . breakfast the night before. You spend most of your time wandering around malls looking for the ultimate soft yogurt and muttering, "How come the kids don't call? How come the kids don't call?" The eighties, you'll have a major stroke. Ya end up babbling to some Jamaican nurse who your wife can't stand, but who you call "Mama." Any questions?

How sadly true.

FROM THE MAP

I don't understand myself at all, for I really want to do what is right, but I don't do it.

ROMANS 7:15 (NLT)

Search me, O God, and know my heart. Try me and know my fearful thoughts. Reveal to me the ways I pose and hide, and O God, lead me in the everlasting way, the way of truth and strength. May I live with passion and zeal, may my soul be captured by you for something big, noble and worthy of your kingdom. Remove the quiet desperation of my soul, chase away resignation, anger, and the addictions I run to. Free me to be a strong, passionate, and dangerous man . . . as you created me to be. Draw me beyond the battles I know I can win, lure me to larger adventures . . . speak with power those words I long to hear: 'You have what it takes.' I ask all this in Jesus' name.