

## Wild at Heart – Week 5a

### The Battle For A Man's Heart

1. What was your reaction to the story of telling Blaine to get up and hit the bully as hard as he could? Were you delighted or appalled? Does your reaction surprise you? Where did it come from? Ask you wife if she agrees with you and if not why.

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2. Was school an affirming experience or a wounding one? Were you taunted? Has that experience carried on to the present? Are your current friends affirming? Are your work or Church different?

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3. The wounds we've taken were levelled against us with stunning accuracy. Did it occur to you that they were *aimed* and not accidental? Do you truly believe and live as if life is a battlefield in a war for the human heart?

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4. If you want to get your heart back, and you *can*, if you want the wound healed and your strength restored and to find your true name, *you're going to have to fight for it!* What is your reaction to this statement? Does something in you stir a little, yearning to live or does the voice of caution rush in dismissing this as melodramatic?

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5. The enemy fears *you* – you are dangerous. A man living from his heart walking hand-in-hand with his God full of courage could do a lot of damage...for good! How does that strike you?

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Field Notes

### DISPATCH

I confessed in a previous book the major revelation I came to one day about the Beauty. Because it bears on this issue so directly, permit me to repeat it here:

I was walking down the hall at work one day, lost in my thoughts. Walking ahead of me, the same direction I was going, was a beautiful woman I looked up and my heart said *Wow*. Fearing that the beast of lust was rearing its ugly head, I tried to kill my reaction. It never works, and I knew it, so I decided instead to find out what was going on beneath what seemed to be an inappropriate response. Still walking along, with this beauty still in view, I asked my heart, *What do you mean by "wow"?* The next sentence literally popped out, unscripted, from some place deep inside me. *The grand prize, if you are truly a man.* I was stunned I have lived that lie for a long time. How many young boys in our culture, just as they are entering adolescence, are introduced to sexuality as masculinity? Look at every ad designed for men. Whether it's for cars or sporting gear, clothes or beer, there is almost always a beautiful siren posing seductively alongside. The message is beaten into us—if you're a man, you'll win the woman. I saw how long I had been haunted by that idea, and I also saw that what I was desiring was not an affair, but a truer sense of my own masculinity.

The Journey Of Desire

*Father, I want to know You, but my coward heart fears to give up its toys. I cannot part with them without inward bleeding, and I do not try to hide from You the terror of the parting. I come trembling, but I do come. Please root from my heart all those things which I have cherished so long and which have become a very part of my living self, so that You may enter and dwell there without a rival. In Jesus' Name, Amen. (A.W. Tozer, The Pursuit of God)*