

Wild at Heart – Week 6b

The Father's Voice

1. Do you know you've got what it takes or do you still doubt it? Have you wished for some kind of initiation that conferred manhood?

2. Do you know what your wound is? If **not** then re-read Chapter 4 and ask Jesus about it! If you still don't know for sure then talk to a close Christian friend about it and see if together you can answer the question. Sometimes it's hard to see the wood for the trees.

3. Are you denying, minimizing, excusing or even accepting your wound as deserved? (See Field Notes on the right and page 106 in *Wild at Heart*)

4. Are you aware of the 'front' you use (or 'false-self') to help you succeed and make it through life? If so what are you going to DO to try to drop it? If not then see Q1's advice.

5. In your relationship with your wife / girlfriend are you passive & fearful, tip-toeing round her to gain acceptance or are you domineering and aggressive to ensure she knows her place and yours? Both are extreme examples of taking your wound to the woman instead of God and therefore require repentance and a change in behaviour and attitude. What does it mean for you to 'walk away from the woman'?

Field Notes

This chapter is a crucial point in the journey. If you don't have a good idea what your wound(s) may be then it's going to be *really* hard to move on.

Please take some time alone with Jesus to work through this.

How You've Handled Your Wound

Most men minimize their wound. They either...

1. Deny it outright ("No, nothing like that ever really happened to me" or "I had a pretty good life") or they...
2. Leave it in the past ("That was a long time ago and I've got over it" or "I can't remember much from my youth"), or they...
3. Minimize the impact of the wound ("It just didn't really matter that much to me" or "Lots of tough things happen to people....so?")
Other men may admit the wound but mishandle it because they embrace it or it's message...
4. "Yes, it was awful, but I deserved it", or...
5. "But what he said was true about me," or...
6. They take on a victim mentality and let the wound define them, embracing it to the point of needing the wound ("I'm weak...take care of me. And don't ever require me to be a man.")

FROM THE MAP

God is committed to you, but some of you might be feeling that this just isn't true for you – that sure, God probably does take some men on a special journey, but not you. Whose voice do you suppose is speaking? Is it consistent with God's word to you, promises like "I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you" (Ps 32:8 NLT)?

O God, I have tasted Your goodness, and it has both satisfied me and made me thirsty for more. I am painfully conscious of my need of further grace. I am ashamed of my lack of desire. O God, the Triune God, I want to want You; I long to be filled with longing; I thirst to be made more thirsty still. Show me Your glory, I pray You, that so I may know You indeed. Begin in mercy a new work of love within me. Say to my soul "Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away." Then give me grace to rise and follow You up from this misty lowland where I have wandered so long. In Jesus' Name, Amen. (A. W Tozer. The Pursuit of God)