



# **PATHFINDERS**

Leading this generation into true  
manhood!!

**The man of God finding his way!**

**Proverbs 14:12**

**Men's Breakfast**

**Sermon given on June 20, 2020**



**Pastor Rick Lancaster**

# The man of God finding his way!

## *Proverbs 14:12*

### Opening Comments

- It is exciting to be back here with you guys
- Today we begin a new series: **PATHFINDERS: Leading this generation into true manhood!**
- On Wednesday I was praying and thinking about what I would share today – asking God, ‘What are men struggling with and how can I help them?’
- And then I sensed the Lord asking me, ‘What are you struggling with?’
- As we look around this world, it is a mess
- How do we find our way, as men of God in a world that has gone crazy?
- And then I remembered a reality TV show that Kelly and I have been watching
- Alone – 10 contestants are dropped in a remote location and the one who survives the longest gets \$500,000
- Season four was different – they started with seven pairs in the forest in British Columbia
- One person was dropped off in a location by the ocean
- The other person was dropped off 10 miles away with a fifty-pound pack of gear, a compass, and a bearing to their partner
- The average walking speed of a healthy adult is between 3 to 4 miles per hour
- Even with the fifty-pound pack they could walk that distance in less than a day
- No one finished it in less than a week
- These were all healthy men who were familiar with living in the outdoors – they all had survival training and experience
- They all said it was the most difficult terrain they had ever encountered
- That fifty-pound pack felt heavier every day

- The forest seemed to resist every step they took - Food was scarce
- At no point could they travel in a straight line, so that even though they had a compass and a bearing, they couldn't be certain they were going to end up where they needed to be to rejoin their partner
- Emotionally, it was very taxing on them – anger, frustration, worry about their partner
- As I thought about that it occurred to me that is exactly what this feels like
- We find ourselves in a forest of issues, challenges, obstacles, dangers, and detours
- We are carrying a heavy load of responsibilities that feels heavier every day
- We might have an idea of where we are going, but it is hard to tell if we are actually going in the right direction
- And sometimes, it is just impossibly hard just to keep going
- As men of God we know the Scriptures like **Matthew 11:28-30**  
**Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.**
- And **Psalm 119:105**  
**Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.**
- We know that God is our protection and that the Holy Spirit is our guide
- And yet we still feel lost in an unrelenting, unforgiving, seemingly unending forest of struggles, issues, and circumstances
- We can get all spiritual and say all we need is God's Word and the Holy Spirit
- But if that were true, more men wouldn't be trudging aimlessly through the forest of their lives **Proverbs 14:12**  
**There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.**
- It's not even a true statement to say all we need is God's Word and the Holy Spirit
- God created us to be in community with Him and each other – We need each other, especially as we try to find our way in this life
- Paul talks about the need for unity in community **1 Corinthians 12:20-21**

But now indeed *there are* many members, yet one body. And the eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you”; nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.”

- It is not a sign of weakness to say that we need each other – it is how God made us
- It is foolishness and pride to say we don’t need each other
- It would be like my car saying it doesn’t need wheels to drive
- We all need pathfinders in our lives

**Pathfinder: a person who goes ahead and discovers or shows others a path or way.**

- Turn to **Psalm 23**
- God has a destination already determined for each of us
- And not just heaven, He has a plan for us in this life
- We see it depicted beautifully in:
- **Psalm 23**
- Most men’s lives more resemble the valley of the shadow of death rather than green pastures and still waters
- We all need someone to help us through the difficult parts of the forest of our lives
- There will be times where we are in the green meadows with the gently flowing brook nearby – the birds will be singing and sun shining brightly
- Maybe that is where you are right now – praise God for His grace and blessings
- Either way, now is the time to be looking for Pathfinders in your life
- You need one right now or you will need one in the future
- Now is the time to be finding your Pathfinders
- So, where do you look?
- God has ordained certain people for your life for the purpose of helping you get to where He wants you to be
- But like most things in our relationship with God there is a part that we play also
- Pathfinders for the man of God are found from within his spiritual relationships
- For a man of God, a Pathfinder must be another man of God
- And not just any man of God

- They must be spiritually equipped to help you through the forest of your life – must be spiritually mature enough to help
- Another thing, they must be willing to help
- Here's a little self-evaluation you could do
- Make a list of every spiritual man you know that you could call at 2:00 am and they would come to you
- Every man on that list is a potential Pathfinder
- If your list is short – that is spiritual poverty
- If your list is long – that is spiritual riches **Proverbs 27:9-10**  
**Ointment and perfume delight the heart, and the sweetness of a man's friend gives delight by hearty counsel. Do not forsake your own friend or your father's friend, nor go to your brother's house in the day of your calamity; better is a neighbor nearby than a brother far away.**
- Of course, that is not the only test of a Pathfinder, but it gives you an idea of what you have to work with
- It is from within our spiritual relationships that God is able to provide the pathfinders we need to navigate the forests and jungles of this life
- It stands to reason then that the better our spiritual relationships are with other men the more God can use those relationships to help me
- Whether your list of prospective Pathfinders is short or long, you should be deliberate about nurturing your spiritual relationships
- This is where a lot of men struggle – it feels way too touchy-feely
- It is not about your feelings – it is about you being in a place where you can lead those God has called to follow you, whether that is, your wife, your kids, your elderly parent, or your cat
- I know for a fact that I need Pathfinders in my life to help me lead this church
- The guys on our Board minister to me in radical ways and I know that 3 out of 4 of them would come if I called at 2:00 am
- We are investing into each other's lives – we are friends
- The very first step to finding Pathfinders is to develop spiritual friendships with other men of God
- This cannot be a passive thing **Proverbs 18:24**  
**A man who has friends must himself be friendly, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.**
- Be friendly – take the initiative

- Listen, if you don't have good spiritual friendships, that you have initiated, then there is a good chance you are trudging through an impenetrable forest of issues and difficulties in the darkness
- You are making little or no progress and those God has called to follow you are suffering for it
- Guys, you will not find your way out alone
- God made us creatures of community and He usually expresses His grace to us through the community He places us in
- But you have to engage
- Here's how to start – tomorrow, ask someone at church to have coffee with you
- Pray before church and ask God to show you who to ask
- If you are not sure what to say, tell them, Pastor Rick said we should get to know other men of the church better. Would you be interested in getting coffee or something sometime?
- Dale called me and asked if we could get together – wasn't because he was in crisis – he just sensed the value of being connected to another man of God
- We spent an hour getting to know each other better – it was good
- Guys, we can keep trudging through the forests of our life, or we can follow the path toward God's amazing grace
- This is important – as your life, so goes the family – as the family goes, so goes the church - as the church goes, so goes the work of the gospel of Jesus Christ
- We owe it to Jesus to find His path to the life He promised us **John 10:10**

**The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.**

- Because this is important, I will be following up with you next week to see how you are doing
- Men, as we look around this world, time may be short for the return of Christ
- We can't be bogged down in a forest of issues
- Let's get busy – loving Jesus and loving others
- This goes for you spiritually mature guys too

- I intend to try to connect with at least one man I don't know very well
- The time is now **John 12:35-36a**  
Then Jesus said to them, "A little while longer the light is with you. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you; he who walks in darkness does not know where he is going. While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light."
- Men of God, let's walk together in the light and let's invite other men to walk with us
- **Let's pray!**