

WHAT EVERY FIGHTER NEEDS TO HEAR

Pastor Ta Tumu

Break the Ice. Who do you think is the best on-screen father? Why?

Observe. Fighters are not born, they are made. Last Sunday, we will learned the story of two sons, both fighters—one consumed by hate, one given to love. They both heard from their fathers: one of dislike and one of pleasure. Every warrior needs encouragement from their father, to hear him say: I believe in you, I'm pleased with you, I'll always love you.

First Story: Absalom, a wounded warrior.

- Absalom's life can be described in 5 statements:

- 1) He was good looking and physically-gifted prince. His good looks and privileged-birth made him extremely arrogant.
- 2) He was vengeful. His perfect physical appearance is the complete opposite of his heart that was full of hatred. 2 Samuel 13:28.
- 3) He was manipulative. He was a great pretender. He willingly manipulated others to get what he wanted. 2 Samuel 15:2-5.
- 4) He was unrepentant. He saw everything he did to be right. 2 Samuel 14:31-32.

Would you be friends with a man like Absalom? Can you think of anyone in your sphere who's just like him?

- Absalom's father, David was a great king who presided over the golden age of Israel; he was a man after God's own heart and a powerful warrior. What do you think made Absalom the way he was?

Back story: Absalom had a half brother named (Amnon) and a sister (Tamar)! Amnon raped his own sister (Tamar). When King David heard what Amnon did, he was furious, but he didn't do anything. Absalom was mad at his father who did not avenge his own daughter's honor, so 2 years later at a party, Absalom ordered his men to kill Amnon! Absalom fled ran away and had no contact with his father for 3 years! Even though David won a lot of great battles, he failed to fight for his own family which led to a lot of dysfunction! Absalom was eventually allowed back into Jerusalem, but his own father would not receive him. 2 Samuel 14:24. Have any of your parents ever stopped connecting with you like David did?

- In 2 Samuel 18, we see the tragic end of Absalom's life. How did David feel about his son's demise? Read 2 Samuel 18:33.
- Absalom was a wounded warrior. His emotional wounds led him to fight against everything that wounded him. None of his emotional wounds he took with him to his grave. The reality is: whatever wounded us when we were growing up we will end up trying to rebel or fight against. What are some things that may have wounded you as a child that made you eventually fight or rebel against?

Second Story: Jesus, another wounded, but willing warrior.

- Jesus chose to be born into this world willingly to fight for our salvation. That fight required the sacrifice of his own life. Read Hebrews 10:5-10. He did everything the Father told Him. Read John 6:38. What kind of example is Jesus teaching us with his life?
- What does God the Father say about Jesus publicly in Matthew 3:16-17? How will you feel if hear those words said about you? What kind of person or fighter will you be when you remember those words?
- Pastor said, a good fighter must constantly hear three things: 1) I believe in you. 2) I'm proud of you. 3) I'll always love you (No matter...). Do you hear these declarations spoken over you constantly? Aside from the Lord, who do you hear these words from constantly? Do you declare these over your loved ones?

Apply.

- Every guardian has strengths. Think about how you were raised. What was a blessing about how you grew up?
- Every guardian has weaknesses, too. What was challenging about how you grew up?
- God the Father told Jesus three things at His baptism: "I believe in You," "I'm proud of You," and "I will always love You." Which of these three things do you think you most need to express to the people in your life?
- Looking back, as we have learned that 1) everyone fights, 2) everyone must kill their inner chicken, 3) a fighter cannot afford to be distracted. What is the one part of the series that reflects your current season?
- With that in mind, what are you going to do about it?

Pray.

I AM A FIGHTER

A SERMON SERIES

