

OpenTheo

The Simple Working Man

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For The King - Rocky Ramsey

Lamentations 3:27 says that it is good for a man to bear the yoke in his youth! We hope this episode helps you recapture this truth. It is not for every man to be a Moses or a Davis, but it is for every man to be a simple working man. For The King!

Key Texts:

- * Lamentations 3:27
- * Nehemiah 3:1-6

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Transcript

[music playing] Don't think I will even ask you to make Jesus Lord of your life. That's the most preposterous thing I could ever tell you to do. Jesus Christ is Lord of your life.

Whether you serve him or not, whether you bless him, curse him, hate him, or love him, he is the Lord of your life, because God has given him a name that is above every name, so that the name of Jesus Christ every knee shall bow and tongue confess that he is Lord. Some of you will bow out of the grace that has been given to you, and others will bow because your kneecaps will be broken by the one who rules the nations with a rod of iron. And I'll not apologize for this God of the Bible.

[music playing]

[music playing] Hello, friends. Welcome to the For The King podcast. This is your host, Rocky Ramsey.

And on this podcast, we proclaim the edicts of the king, namely and chiefly, that Yahweh reigns. I'm joined as always with Bryce for these Sunday episodes. Bryce, what's up? How are you feeling? How are you doing? What is up? I am feeling very well.

Good. That's good. So on this episode, we're going to be discussing just the idea of the simple working man.

And I wanted to, you know, initially give us some scripture to help us think about and categorize some of the things we're going to say. So let's look at Jeremiah 3. I'm just going to read the first five verses. It's a long chapter, but the gist is the wall is being rebuilt in Jerusalem, led by Nehemiah and Ezra.

So I'm going to read these first five verses here. "Then Eliashim, the high priest, arose with his brothers the priests and built the sheep gate. They consecrated it and hung its doors.

They consecrated the wall to the tower of the hundred and the tower of Henanal. Next to him, the men of Jericho built and next to them Zechar, the son of Imri built. Now the sons of Henasana built the fish gate.

They laid its beams and hung its doors and then its bolts and bars. Next to them, Merimoth, the son of Uriah, the son of Hakaz made repairs. And next to him, Meshelam, the son of Barakiah, the son of Meshezebel made repairs.

And next to him, Zadok, the son of Bana also made repairs. Moreover, next to him, the Techoites made repairs, but their nobles did not support the work of their masters." So there's some drama here. You know, they're like Nehemiah and Ezra and all the Israelites are warring against the people, trying to keep them from building the walls.

But the main point to extract out of here is we see a noble man, this high priest coming and helping build the sheep gate. But then we also see, you know, the men of Jericho and the sons of Imri, the sons of Hesseana are building the fish gate, right? So we're seeing just a bunch of men getting together to do a task of building, rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem. And to just apply that to our modern day world of where we're at, obviously our walls have been built down, the church has been infiltrated by a lot of false teachers and wolves.

So we're in a similar time, I guess, than what's happening here in Nehemiah and Ezra, the walls need to be rebuilt. And what is the, where's a lot of the work being done? Well, it's good to have Nehemiah as an Ezraist. A lot of work was done through those men, but then we see a bunch of just insignificant random dudes in Israel getting together to build the wall.

So that's kind of the introduction side of the stage. Bryce, any thoughts here on this text and then we can get into some of our application points? Yeah, I mean, this directly mirrors the work of being called the Nexus 31 as well to building the tabernacle. And it just fundamentally goes to show that we shouldn't have a, well, I guess maybe that's going to get too much into the application, but it's so important to recognize that these huge, glorious things like the temple, which is the apex of the Israeli society here, you know, the temple was so important to them.

That was the epicenter of their whole religion where they would go daily. They would see the, the incense would be burned daily. There'd be purifications there.

There'd be people who have leper spots coming before the priest day by day, because they were essentially the doctors, the apothecaries, people coming for atonement of sin, the festivals centered around the temple. So the temple was the whole epicenter of their worship. And I mean, we forget that, you know, this beautiful extravagant and pure and clean building was built by the calloused hands of men.

And it's super important to recognize that when these men were working, they were working, they wouldn't have cut any corners, because they knew they were serving their God, that this was his temple, that he was going to dwell in to meet with his people. Yeah. So it's just so beautiful seeing this reality that the glory is not just meant for the priests to serve in, but it's also meant for these works, these craftsmen to build it.

Exactly. That's good. Bryce, Amen.

Thank you for that. So that's some good background there, just about this story. Now I want to extract something from just the very first verse, and then Bryce is going to tell a short little story about George Washington.

So we see Elias Chipp, the high priest, arose with his brothers and he built, he helps build

the sheep gate. So we see a man that is, you know, he's in a position of authority, that Elias Chipp, he's a high priest, and he goes out with his men, and he builds a gate, right? That's not his usual duty. That's not what the high priest is usually doing.

But he goes out and does it anyway with the other priests. They sort of lead the way for Israel and set an example, and all the other men fall asleep. So Bryce, what is that story you were sharing with me before we started about George Washington? And you know, what the simple working man looks like, even in a high level of authority, somebody that's given a lot of authority that we might see as high up in the eschounge of society, but is still a simple working man at heart.

Yeah. Yeah. So my boss has been reading a biography about George Washington, and he told me this story, it was just so moving about godly leadership.

But yeah, so George Washington would wake up before the sun even rose, and he would get all this business paperwork done away with, he'd get all of his meetings scheduled, he'd, you know, he'd have his whole day aligned out. And as soon as dawn came, he would go out into the fields with his servants, and he would work for them. Because he knew that if he didn't do that, they wouldn't have respect for him.

And also, he wouldn't even be able to see the functionality of, you know, whether or not they needed two wagons to do a specific job or if their tools are breaking like he, he would be he was out in the field with the people to work with them alongside them to motivate love and mutual affection between a master and a servant. So he just really exemplified the same thing that Eliot should exemplify that, you know, he's not too high and mighty. He's not a noble man who's supposed to just have soft hands, but he needs to go and work with his people.

That's good. Amen. Yeah, that's a that's a powerful moving story.

So I guess for anyone listening, again, this goes for Bryce and I as well, if we ever do get to the point where we're at that position of authority, it does wonders to become the kind of man that can do the full range of jobs of everyone that's below you too, right? That's what the boss or the CEO technically should be able to do. They should know the function of the entire business and be a master at it, you know, it's, you know, just common sense, but that doesn't happen necessarily as much anymore. Another person we wanted to bring up a biblical character would be David.

This was a man that because he was a shepherd and had humble beginnings, he was a simple working man focused on his trade, and he fought lions to protect his sheep that prepared him for the day when he was king of Israel. So another another great example, and even our Lord, he was a carpenter, right? For many, many years, he was a simple working man before he was called to his ministry, right? So we see this all lit it all throughout the scriptures, the idea of the simple working man and that those virtues and

things that are taught at that stage of life. And honestly, that's the stage of life, Bryce and I are in right now.

So we're in this stage, we've been thinking about it, we're trying to be faithful in these ways that we're saying, Bryce and I both, and just want to encourage you with it too, if you're in that same stage, or if you're at that point now where you've been given authority, that you know that, you know, you've worked there for it and all those principles that you learned in those humble beginnings as a simple working man still apply. Anything you want to add there, Bryce? I mean, that's just how the model of even the eldership and the church is supposed to function. There's a reason why Paul used the word elder, right? It's, it has two connotations with it.

One, that this person is older and two, that they've actually lived a life of experience that they, you know, have gone through things that have prepared them just like, like David, you know, most of these, I mean, even thinking about Paul being called way later in his life, like a lot of times we have this notion that we need to do great things when we're in our 20s, when oftentimes the great people of history have been older when they've done magnificent. Yeah. No, that's good.

That's good. And also just on top of that, like this is just our, our culture is a culture of pride and arrogance. And we constantly think that we are the ones who have to be influencers, that we can't be influenced by anyone else, but we are supposed to be the ones who are noble and the ones who people look at.

And this is just, just a rampant sin that we engage in. We have completely forgotten what it actually means to be simple. And like it says, and Lamentations 3, that blessed is the man who bears his yoke in his youth.

Like we've forgotten the blessedness of being a simple man of getting up early in the morning, you know, drinking some, some black coffee, going to work and working all day long and coming home, opening a door for, in my case, seeing my little daughter and kissing her, kissing my wife, and then spending time with them. Like we've completely forgot. We, we've seen that as being inglorious and rather we view being a somebody like Joel Osteen on a big stage with everybody applauding him as being, Oh, that's what we should, that's what we should look like.

That's what's gorgeous. Or like even think about even during this time period here in Nehemiah, imagine being one of those men who built the temple. And then when it's completed, when they look at it, they say, Oh, I did that.

I did that for the Lord. But that might constantly be in their mind of the high priest up there or the, or the priests who are engaging in the atonement and burning the incense. And they might have the temptation in their mind to say, Oh, well, that's, that's more, more of a glorious task than what I've been given.

You know, it's just a sin of seeing just because someone is in a more public position does not mean that, that, that is more glorious. The word smiles, for instance, and Isaiah 40 11, it says that the Lord is with those who are with young, who, and that's just a beautiful verse for women specifically, because think about how private their role is, you know, like, where's the glory for wives? Like, wow, there's actually much glory. That's why, at least in our case, women are covering their heads because they're, they're a glorious thing.

They are our glory. Yeah. As and husband.

So it's just, there's just so much more glory to be had being a simple man and living a quiet life than being, you know, up on a mountain with everybody looking at you. Yeah. Yeah.

I was the sin that was trying to pinpoint this, the sin that came to my mind was that of envy, you know, when you were speaking about just the desire to achieve positions or whatever, or be seen by others. It's, we see somebody else that, you know, like a Joe, like Joe Osteen, you know, we see somebody with a lot of influence, a lot of money, you know, publishing books. And then we do have envy well up in our hearts that that ought to be us.

That's what it means to be a Christian. And that's actually not true. As you just went through those texts, Bryce, there's a lot of verses that say God is, God is near to the lowly and broken hearted.

He's near to those that are with young that are not that live a very private life. He's with the father that just goes to work every day and he might not know, you know, everything that a theologian might know, but that does not mean that he is any less godly than a theologian. So I think that those are big points.

Another thing where Bryce and I wanted to go on this episode about why we're maybe succumbing to this notion of degrading the idea of the simple working man is our social media, kind of, you know, YouTube, TikTok, Instagram, social media star, those kind of, I guess, are not even professions, they're just like things people do that they can monetize and make money off of. That, you know, this modern day notion of everything is based on, you know, how many followers or interactions can you get, you know, in a social media environment. And I think that's really what's driving this kind of, you know, this ideology of degrading that idea of the simple working man, even thinking back to, you know, 200 years ago with, you know, George Washington and the founding fathers, these men, even though they had influence and power, again, like we're saying, they started off as simple working men, but now you have young people, Bryce and I's age that want to immediately be very influential, make money by, you know, just sitting and doing nothing, right, just like making content online and being influential, you know, I think that's a lot of kind of the cultural milieu we're in that's growing up a generation,

even of Christians, Christians have been infiltrated by this big time, that want to be influencers rather than, you know, be faithful to just the sphere of influence God has given you.

And that may be that you're only influential over a handful of people, you know. So any thoughts there, Bryce? I mean, this goes back to just public school in general, like in my mind, I've been, as I've been pondering this, like, people who are trying to constantly be influencers or be popular, in my mind, I've just been calling them the high schoolers, like they haven't, they haven't ever left high school, they're still constantly thinking about the popularity contest, like it blows my mind when I see, like, people who are around my age, who are way past high school, who are like, I saw this, this, this guy in my class, graduated the same year as me, not too long ago, and he was like, just delivering food or something. For like some Chinese restaurant, he was just, I guess, I just saw that.

And it was just, he was super popular in high school. Everybody loved him. And it's like, wow, this dude's a total loser now.

Yeah. But he still has a lot of followers on Instagram. You know, we have such a backward society about what it comes to.

Like, what does it mean to actually be a man? Like, we've forgotten that it's the simple man needs to be attached to it. Well, and largely, there's a, there's really good song everybody should go listen to. It's called Simple Man by Shine Down.

Now, obviously, they're not, they're not Christians, but it's still a good song. At the beginning, he talks about his mother telling him, and the whole song is about his mother telling him to be a simple kind of man, right? To find a woman that you love, do something that you love and understand. Like, that is fundamentally the generation that we're raised in.

We're raised constantly being bombarded by our parents saying you can do whatever you want. You have thousands of choices. Well, what happens when you have thousands of choices? You don't even pick one of them, right? You become a loser.

Yeah, you get paralyzed. Like even somebody like Andrew Tate, which is for one, an extremely effeminate man with the way that he conducts himself. There's a lot of masculinity to him, don't get me wrong.

But fundamentally, what he's portraying is just a feminacy that all that's worthwhile is being on top and having a lot of, having a lot of women. Yeah. That, that is ultimately what he is teaching, but that's not the call that our parents should be teaching us.

Like, for me, my daughter, like I shouldn't tell my daughter, oh, you can go be anything you want. That's going to do nothing but be detrimental to her. I need to help mold her into the woman that she's going to be.

Yeah. Like we've just completely lost that. We've lost the wisdom of our, our fathers, our grandfathers.

Like we should be asking our, our grandfather and our father, Hey, what do you, what do you see in me that I'm good at? What do you think God has gifted me with? What should I be doing? You know, because going back to Nehemiah, you know, the high priest was fit to be a high priest. These craftsmen were fit to be craftsmen. You know, there's a whole different variety of tasks that can be given and done.

So that's what we need. That's what it means to be a simple man. Like even a high priest who has this very public office, like he can still be a simple sort of man by just waking up and doing the grind and doing what he does every day.

Yeah, exactly. Seeking glory from it, but giving glory to his God. That's the kind of like the call of being a simple man.

Exactly. That's good advice. Thank you for that.

And then one last point, as we kind of wrap up here, something I've been pondering a little bit is I had a buddy recently. I was at an open house for a friend that had graduated from law school. So we were going to celebrate and me and this guy were talking and he was talking, he was just confessing how tough it is for him sometimes to get wrapped up in this desire to just want to be the alpha male, want to try and steal someone's girl, I guess, or say, "Hey, I've dated your girlfriend in the past." He was talking about when he was a pagan, but now it's kind of transformed into like, the problem is still there wanting to be the alpha male, but instead of like, "I'm going to steal your girl." Now it's like, "I know more theology than you," or "X, Y, and Z," whatever, right? Just try to be the alpha male.

And as I was hearing him talk about that, it was kind of dawning along me that God has set up the institution of marriage where every man that has that desire to be the alpha male, every man, he has a desire to be the guy. He wants people to rely on him. That's what he's made for.

He's made to be the leader. Now, every man can't be a leader, right? Because there can only be one leader in an institution. So for instance, you have a school, there can only be one principal, right? Or you have a business, they're going to let you be one CEO.

But what's amazing about the family is that each man gets his own woman and together they beget children. And in that institution, who's the leader? It's the man. And every man gets to be that.

Every man gets to be the guy. He gets to be the alpha. He gets to be on top.

He gets to be the leader. And not obviously toxic masculinity kind of leader, but a godly,

masculine, Christian man that leads from the front and serves by leading, you know, not serves by being underneath his wife, but serves by leading. And that is how every man gets to experience the glories of being the alpha male.

It gets to bless others by being the leader. That's how that happens. And a lot of the church has succumbed to, I've heard a lot of men talk about this, but you know, every guy that gets interested in theology, oh, I should be a pastor.

That's what I'm supposed to be. No, you can like theology and be super good at training or be an environmental engineer or biomedical engineer. That can happen.

You don't have to just because you understand theology have to be a pastor. And then you have all these godly men that are butting heads and fighting and doing the alpha male thing, trying to become a pastor, you know, and there's not enough churches for all these young men that are Calvinists, young, restless and reformed or whatever to be pastors. So I don't know, those are just some of my thoughts.

I've been pondering that God has actually given us such a blessing in marriage. But the goal is you need to get married, you need to have a mission and then once you find your mission, go out and find a woman to accompany you on your mission to glorify God in what like Bryce was saying, in whatever skill God has given you and molded you into. So that that one thing that God's made you for, he's made you good at something and there's an aptitude be asking, like Bryce said, grown men around you to say, you know, what am I good at? And once you figure that out, and you go on that mission, you find a wife to help you and you get to be the alpha male.

And you should do that to the glory of God, you were made to do that. So that's a long spiel. But that's something I've been pondering.

What are your thoughts, Bryce? Yeah, just thinking about that, like, more on the simplicity aspect is, again, we have this mindset that like, even with that, that what you're talking about, the beauty of marriage that you like, you get to declare to the world after you say your marital vows and you kiss your bride, you declare to this world that this girl's mine. But then after that, like, that is just the beginning. And you can't just view this mountain top experience and say, that's it for me.

Yeah, that's that's the high top of my of me being an alpha. And now there's nothing else further. And that's why I mean, that's why a lot of men will end up getting in a divorce because like they just view, they just viewed the chase as that as what's important and as what's glorious.

Yeah, once started gotten it's like, it's like the whole problem with okay, I've, you know, you die, you go to heaven now what now I don't get to fight anymore. But no, like you get to go further up and further in and your simplicity with your life it's you now get to

exercise true mastery, not just not just dominion of taking, you know, like a like a Napoleon figure going through taking dominion and then leaving everything in rubble like, or I came I saw I conquered that's it. But now you actually get to exercise true mastery, true dominion.

And you get to live that simple life and you get to prove to be the man that you said to your wife and vowed to her that you would be exactly so like I just think about like thinking back to like my father. And there's so many little things that he did that I find so valuable to me now that glorious in the moment, like I'll say there's just one thing I'll say to my wife like, Oh, you'll you'll love that about me when I'm dead. Like it might be annoying now, but you'll remember this when I'm dead and you'll think back on it and take delight in it.

Yeah, so many little things that we need to be doing, you know, and that we fail us so often that truly shows whether you're a godly simple man or whether you're just opposed or wow, you know, like it's so good. Even holding your child or, or speaking to your child or, you know, kissing them or kissing your wife or, you know, even doing some things that they might find annoying, your wife might find annoying, but she actually delights in but like there's just little things that you need to be doing like to actually prove that you are a godly simple man. And so many we and I mean, I'm speaking to myself, like we'll just pass over all these super simple things.

And instead, we want to go read Calvin's Institutes and think that we're godly. Exactly. So exactly.

No, that's good. Yeah. So let's, let's work towards being simple working men.

And if your job is to be a pastor, do that in a simple, plotting away way, you know, don't seek for yourself glory, and whatever we're doing as the simple working man, we seek to give glory to our Father. And that's why it's a simple life. That's why it's good.

We want to live a simple piece of our lives. I forget where that where that is that in first that's the one I can't remember that text. But first Timothy Yeah, our goal as Christians is to live just a simple Christian life where we love our neighbor, we love God with all of our heart, mind, soul and strength.

And when we pass on, you know, the truths to the next generation to our kids, that's what the man does. That's what the simple man does. He leads in that teaches as he goes.

He works hard each and every day, and he cares for his wife, he watches her with the word, he honors her as the weaker vessel, and he teaches his children, and he loves them, and he picks them up and he kisses them. And they feel his presence both physically, and he is constantly showering them with blessing. That's what a man does,

you know, and it's simple, because if you do the same thing all the time, it's going to become mundane to you, but it's not mundane.

It's actually some of the biggest stuff you can do. Right. I think think about I guess this is just kind of a random application.

But like when you're trying to take care of your health, it's like, Oh, let me go on this super specific diet and do all these like really specific things. And it's like, the the leaps and bounds you can make in your health are some of the most simple things like go outside, touch the grass, sit in the sun and drink water. It's like, you know what I mean? Most of the stuff that you do that gives you the most impact in your life are just going to be the simple things because God's created the world in such a way that yes, it's very intricate.

There's secret things that we need to, you know, the king likes to search out those kinds of things, and we should. But for the most part, if it's revealed to us, it's usually just doing them over and over and over again in a simple way. Anything off base there, right? Or do you agree with that? No, I think that's killer.

I mean, water is super simple to a child. But yet you have scientists who will study water and the effects of it and the way that it, you know, evaporates and the water cycle like there's, there's so much depth and simplicity. And that's true.

That's true. It's both. You're right.

It's both. And then that's, that's the glories of the masculine, the simple working man life. It's, it is, it's simple, but there's also, there's a lot to do.

There's a lot to figure out at the same time. And that's what makes it enjoyable. That's why God hasn't created a dull world.

He's created a very spectacular world that we get to live in. So let's do it to his glory. Amen.

Good price. Good there. Amen.

Okay. Amen. Thanks for listening, guys.

Thanks for sticking with us. And if you had any thoughts on anything we said, we would be more than happy to interact with you. You can always send me an email for the King podcast at jimaloc.com to the King of the ages, a moral and physical, the only God being honored and glory forever and ever.

Amen. Soli Deo, Lord God. Amen.

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