



YOUR JOB IS TO STOP THE BAD GUYS

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October 11, 2023

Sermon Link: <https://realfaith.com/sermons/your-job-is-to-stop-the-bad-guys/>

I hope you got some non-alcoholic beverages. I mean, whatever your conscious allows is fine with me, uh, but there are people all over the globe joining us today. For real men, it's gonna be awesome. We're growing like crazy. Um, there's people all the way in other countries watching alongside you guys tonight, as well as churches that are gathering in their buildings, watching real men with you guys. It's awesome to have so many men across this country, across this world joining together to grow in their faith and to be encouraged with other brothers in Christ. That's what we're called to do. That's what men in this day and age need to do, um, to be good fathers, husbands, and, uh, leaders in their community. So thank you for joining, joining Real Men Today with us. Um, this series is gonna be absolutely epic. We are all about healthy masculinity and equipping men. Pastor Mark is passionate about reaching men with the gospel because when the gospel gets involved, everything gets better. We're pro Jesus, pro building men up. We're pro helping men become better husbands, fathers that bless women and children. If you wanna get connected and have all the updates about real men, the best way to do that is text men to 9, 9, 3, 8, 3 men to 9, 9, 3, 8, 3. That's not woman, that's not child, that's not baby, that's not trans. It's men to 9, 9, 3, 8, 3. We'll send you tons of free resources and all kinds of stuff that'll build you up to be a better man. And if you're like my wife and you're a woman watching alongside us, you should comment below because there's actually a surprising amount of women that watch this because they want better husbands and fathers in their life and single women trying to learn what a good man is. So, uh, if you wanna join us in person, uh, and you're a senior pastor, we would love for you to fly out, come to real men. Um, we will host a dinner with Pastor Mark. You can ask all of your questions, learn how real men is, learn the secret sauce and you can replicate it back in whatever state you're from. We've had people from North Carolina, South Carolina, from Texas, from Washington, from California, from Oklahoma. We have guys join us all the time. We gather together at Trinity Church in Scottsdale, Arizona, a round tables where we hear an awesome teaching from Pastor Mark, what you're about to hear. And then we build each other up in small groups, um, asking some questions that are sermon based and, uh, grow together. So it's awesome guys, and right now it's sermon time. So get those nachos ready and get ready to dive into some real protein. All right, welcome to guys, night out. Amen. So good to see you guys, so honored to have you and so glad we get to be together, right? We're gonna have a good time. Thank you for joining us. If you knew, uh, my name is Mark, one of the pastors here, and we're here to build men up to bless women and children. And we live in a world that is lost what was ever remaining of its freaking mind. It knows nothing of what to do with a young man, a grown man, or a strong man. And that's why we get together for real men. Amen. Alright, so what I'm gonna do, I'm gonna yell at you for a little bit and then you'll talk and pray round tables. That's how this thing works. And uh, we're doing a series called Dominion. And what we're starting with is that God is our father and he has all dominion, everyone and everything is under his rule and his reign and his dominion and his authority. And then as his sons, we live under our father's dominion. And as we live in obedience to him, he delegates a measure of his authority, dominion, rule and reign to us. And we looked at how that is to impact our lives where we need to rule and reign over ourselves, what this means for our marriage and our children. And today, what I wanna talk about is exercising dominion authority over relationships. And most of the time, men don't rightly assert themselves for the relationships that they have, that their wife has and their kids have. And the point is this, you are the head of household. You are the man of God. You have God-given authority, and you get to decide who speaks into your life and walks into your home. You have a right to decide whether or not certain people have access to and are spending time with your wife. Uh, and I know she's gonna fight you on this, so we're gonna put

this on the internet and you can tell her to watch. Uh, but, but Grace and I, my wife, we've been, uh, faithfully married 31 years. I was gonna say happily married 31 years, but I'm not sure that's true. We've been faithfully married for 31 years. You'd have to ask her if it was happily. Um, and we have this line item veto in our relationship where she doesn't have a close female friend that she confides in unless I agree. And I don't have a close male friend that I confide in unless she agrees otherwise. She could pick some gal that I don't really trust or I could pick some guy that she doesn't really respect. And so we have these agreements that we have the right to speak into each other's relationships. And then how many of you've got kids? How many of you, your dads, okay? Do not let your children choose all of their closest friendships and relationships. They have no idea what they're doing. This is doubly true. If you have a daughter quadrupling true if she's at the age where she can get pregnant, amen. You can't just let her pick her boyfriend, she doesn't know what she's doing. You gotta walk with her, work with her, come alongside of her and have categories and conversations with your wife, with your kids as a family that start early in the marriage, ideally, and then include the children as they grow up so that you're able to have discernment regarding relationships. So lemme lemme talk about this. The average person interacts with between 520 500 people a year. Okay? How many of you are hardcore introverts? And just seeing this many people, you got a nervous side twitch. So you're the 500 people. How many of you like this is your favorite night? You've already given every guy here the knuckles. And if you missed anybody, you're gonna get 'em at the exit. Okay? You're the 2,500 guys. And so what happens in our relationships, 40% of our time is spent with five people. Okay? So if you have a wife and you have kids, that's where most of your time and energy goes. And so what you've gotta decide is how are you gonna invest your time and energy? And what kind of relationships are you gonna have? Are you gonna have as a couple, right? Who are the people you're gonna hang out with with your wife? Maybe do double date. Who are the friends going to be for your family? Play dates for your kids, um, who are the people that your wife are gonna talk to and confide in as well as you? And so I wanna talk about three kinds of people wise, foolish and evil. Okay? So, uh, evil people. I'll start over here on the far left. Okay? So evil people. What, what did I say? Something so evil people. Um, if that's offensive, you needed to be here. Okay? So, um, so evil people, and then there are foolish people. And then I'll go way over to the right, the wise people, okay? Are we aware that so, so evil, foolish and wise? And, and these are the three categories. And so we'll look at it from God's word. And uh, these are major categories throughout an entire book of the Bible called Proverbs. If you wanna learn more about people and relationships and who to draw near and who to have boundaries with, Proverbs is a great place to go. But here's what Proverbs 24 says. Be not envious of evil men. So there's that category. Evil men, true or false? Some men are evil. Have you met those guys? Some men are just pure evil. People are always like, well, they've got a good heart. No, they don't. And even when some knuckle dragger is on the news, 'cause he murdered somebody, they always interview his mom and she's like, he, he had a good heart. No, he didn't. 'cause outta the overflow of the heart, the mouth speaks outta the overflow of the heart. Life is lived. And so what you do just reveals who you are. Some men are evil, some men are evil. We're gonna talk about them. They are coming for your business, they're coming for your wife, they're coming for your kids, and they're coming for your daughter. And if you are not the one to get in the middle and have the conflict and the conversation, then you're gonna allow the most evil people to have the greatest access to the people that you love. The most evil men, nor desire to be with them for their hearts, devis, violence, they're good at planning, problem, making their lips talk of trouble a wise man. There's the other category is full of strength. And a man of knowledge enhances his

might. By wise guidance, you can wage your war. And in abundance of counselors there is victory. Wisdom is too high for a fool. Um, in the gate, he does not open his mouth. So evil, foolish, wise, let's just, you guys can interact with me here. Of the three categories, which one do you think is where most people live? Evil, foolish or wise? Foolish. Foolish, right? I mean, just look at our country. I feel like drunk monkeys could make better leadership decisions. It's just foolishness from top to bottom. So most people are foolish. And every one of us has at least an area in our life where we're foolish. Some of you are very wise in one area. You may be, for example, very good at business and money, but you struggle to have a warm relationship with your wife. You're good with dollars and you're not good with dates. Hey, we've all got some area in our life that we are foolish. So two things. Number one, if you had to think of yourself, and we'll get into the categories, evil, foolish or wise, the people that you have most access to and spend most time with evil, foolish or wise. And we'll deal with these three categories. And this is one of the things too that, that I want you to know. One of the stupidest things we tell men is treat everybody the same. No, you don't. You treat evil people differently than you treat foolish people than you treat wise people go on a double date with wise people. Do not go on a double date with evil people go into business with wise people. Do not go into business with evil people. If, if, if a wise guy and an evil guy want to date your daughter, don't flip a coin. Pick the wise guy. So when it comes to evil people, let me deal with 'em categorically. And some of you guys are going to struggle with this category because you have a lot of compassion and empathy and you have hope for everybody. But the point is this, evil people are not beyond help. They're beyond your help. Unless God shows up, they are not going to change. This would be like the apostle Saul. He's murdering people. Jesus literally has to come down from heaven, knock him off his horse, blind him, and and literally just kind of punch him in the mouth. It literally, Jesus was the only one who could fix Paul. If you're, if you're dealing with an evil person, they are intentionally dangerous. It says here that they make plans for evil, a foolish person when they do something wrong. Is it intentional or accidental? Accidental foolish. People have not learned the cause and effect are related. You drove my car and you ran it outta gas, and then you left it and you don't know where you left it. And they're like, sorry man, I forgot. They're just, they didn't mean to, they're just stupid. They're just, they're just, they're not, they're, they didn't wake up in the day and plot to ruin your life. They just, they just accidentally do it. Evil people, it's malicious, it's intentional, and it's not accidental. Um, and oftentimes, um, these are people that have been through a lot of trauma in their life. Uh, they've been through hardship or pain or abuse or loss, and they're broken. They're not, they're not well. And as a result of that, they feel like whatever they say or do is justified because of all the pain and suffering they've had. I'll just speak to some of you about your dad. Some of you're your dad. He's not a good guy. He was an evil man. He would cheated on your wife, on your mom rather his wife. He would be violent. He he was not good at work. He was not dependable. He had maybe addiction or he was just a, an angry, grumpy, violent man. And if you dug into his story, you would realize that there was some trauma and some brokenness and some hurt and some bitterness in his past that explained him. But he's using it as an excuse to hurt people because people hurt him. And what he's doing, he's not healing from the pain in the brokenness. He's multiplying it usually to his wife and children. And so oftentimes these guys, they always feel like the victim. And if you tell them, Hey, that's not right, that's wrong, that's evil. You can't say that. You can't do that. Immediately, they'll get very indignant and very self-righteous. They'll bow up, they'll get loud, they'll get domineering, they'll get overbearing, they'll get intimidating. And then they will start to tell you about all the pain in their life so that you'll have sympathy and compassion on them, which just

allows them to continue to do evil. These people tend to be very controlling, very demanding, very domineering. And if you have a relationship with them, it runs through fear of punishment. They threaten you, you better do that. Or I'm gonna fire you. You better do that. Or I'm gonna divorce you. You better do that. Or I'm going to attack you. You better do that. Or I'm going to go on the internet and let the universe know who you are. It's a lot of fear and control. And what this creates, if you have an a relationship with an evil person who works through fear, the the condition of that relationship is anxious. Like if you're around that person, it's anxiety. It's stressful. If, if you know you're gonna bump into that person at work just all morning, you're just sort of tightened chest, dreading the encounter. If it's thanksgiving and they're coming over for dinner, you, you're just not looking forward to it. You're just trying to figure out how to endure it. It's, it's an anxious presence and it's a stressful relationship. Okay? Um, some of you had fathers who were evil. They were, they were, they were not just broken men, they were bad men. Um, and I'm not telling you that to be bitter against them, but to be honest so that you don't become like them. 'cause sometimes what happens, especially if you've got a father who's evil, the natural gravitational force of a son is to look up to his dad and to seek his father's approval. But if your father is evil, the only way you're gonna get that approval is by either being like him or supporting and aligning with him. When he does evil, these people as well, their relationships are win-lose. It's not a win-lose. They're very low on empathy, very low on compassion. If you're doing business with somebody who's purely evil, they're gonna squeeze you for everything. It's a win-lose. If you're in a relationship with this person, they're going to make it very painful for you. And, and if you're going to try to do life with this person, um, they are going to make sure that they're always winning. You're always losing. And that, that your life is not enjoyable and their life is controlled by you. Evil people live by the power of the demonic Judas Iscariot demon possessed. These are people that they have opened themselves up to evil to such a degree that the way they think is completely corrupted, the way they believe and behave is very dark and dangerous. And if you're dealing with them, they almost start to confuse you because they've done such a masterful job of deceiving themselves that they start to deceive you. And you wonder if you're the craz or the bad one when you're dealing with evil people. You need to know that most people aren't evil. It's a small percentage of people in our world that are purely evil. But one evil person can cause massive destruction. Massive destruction. Our world, I'll just verbal process. Did we learn this week that there are some evil men? See, we live in this. We live in a stupid culture that says people are basically good and all religions are the same. We just learned that's not true. We just learned that evil men can plot secretly to murder and kidnap and rape women and children while shouting God is great. That true or false? Men, that's evil. That is satanic and demonic evil. When you are shooting, raping, kidnapping, women and children shouting God is great, you are evil and you are demonic. And what you are doing is satanic and you are working for your father, the devil, okay? And our whole world right now is just sort of having to deal with reality that there really is evil. And if you don't believe that, it is going to come for you. Okay? Evil people. Um, here's what, did Jesus have anybody evil on his team? He did. He had Judas. And let, let's just verbal process this out. So if you were to look at Judas and Jesus through their three years together, and if I told you maybe the first time you'd ever read the Bible, one of these 12 guys is evil. They're gonna plot against Jesus. They're gonna bring the religious and the political leaders together. They're gonna open the court in the middle of the night. They're gonna have false witnesses. They're going to lie about him. They're gonna convict him under the cover of darkness. They're gonna strip him nearly naked. They're gonna beat him with an inch of his life and then they're gonna crucify him. And one of his quote unquote friends

who was with him for three years is gonna do it. How many of you would've not picked Judas? Judas doesn't say anything. Judas doesn't do anything. And the whole time he's plotting and he's scheming and he's planning, he's using access to Jesus and information about Jesus. And he knows where he goes and what he does and what his patterns and what his habits are. And he knows the ways that he can gut Jesus until he destroys him. Some of you have dealt with an evil person and you didn't know that they were evil until it was that day. You're like, well, I thought we were friends. Oh no, I thought we were business partners. Oh no, I thought we were married. Oh no, I, evil people are very, um, covert. You can tell them information. They won't tell you information. You can give them access. They're not going to be honest with you. Okay? Uh, I can sense it in the room. How many of you guys right now, somebody comes to mind and you're like, yeah, they're evil. And I didn't know. I did not know. Okay, so let me say this. Uh, have any of you ever had an evil woman try to become friends with your wife? Let me ask it another way. Have you ever have, how many of you have not had an evil woman try to become friends with your wife? You're just like, honey, you can't, like, I love you. No, no. I mean, she wrote a broom to her house. You should have seen this coming. That's her transportation. She's a witch. You know, like how many of you, you've had somebody evil try to get near your child or children, maybe they were grooming them and they were abusive, or maybe it was a dating relationship or a very needy, broken young girl. Found your strong son to be the hero and the rescuer. So she was gonna emotionally manipulate him and then sexually control him, or it's your daughter. And a, a really dangerous evil guy comes and he thinks, well, she's a naive Christian girl. She's gonna be fairly trusting and she's probably looking forward to marriage. And I can be covert and I can be very malicious and intentional, but I'm going to do the same thing to her that Judas did to Jesus. That I'm going to destroy her as men. You and I need to be aware of our relationships, our wife's relationships, our kids' relationships, and the families that we spend time with. And I'm not saying that you need to be paranoid, but you need to be discerning. And I just feel inclined in the spirit to say this to the young dads, be very careful who you leave alone with your children, right? Sometimes parents are like, well, I'm gonna just let 'em go play at so-and-so's house. Do you know, do you know who's there? Do you know who's coming over? Is there a crazy uncle? I mean, is there a big brother who's got a porn habit? Like what's going on at that house? And be very careful that you don't just release your kids to have overnight stays at people's homes. Like, 'cause if you're not there, somebody else is in charge. And are they gonna make sure that your child is safe? And so it's being aware of these categories. Number two, foolish people. Okay, so lemme ask you this are foolish people fun? They're awesome. They're awesome. There's, there's, because they, they don't think about the consequences. That's what makes 'em so fun. How many of you in high school you had the friend who would do anything for a dollar. You had that friend and you just, you always had a dollar. 'cause you're just going like, I'll give you a dollar to whatever it is. We've all had a guy, you're like, I I bet you won't eat all the Tabasco sauce. Oh, you won't. I bet you won't drink the fifth and jump on the, you know, um, trampoline. Yeah, he will. Um, we've all met that guy that there's no dare he won't take and there's nothing he won't do. And he's fun. Okay, let's be honest. This is weird. You guys are a little quiet tonight. Um, how many now? It's a little dark. So not every seat, but how many of you were that guy? Like you were the class clown. You were the idiot, you were the, you were the crash test dummy. You were that guy, right? At some point you were naked in your high school. You're that guy, right? And so here, here's who the foolish guy is. Um, they're not so, lemme ask you this, are foolish guys stupid? No, they have a high iq, they just don't use it. They act stupid so that people lower their expectations and they're so smart that they'll act stupid so that other people will take care of

them. Just gotta let that marinate for a minute in the room. Some of you're like, oh heck, my wife is not watching this. Um, so what sometimes people will do will pretend that we're incompetent or stupid. So then other people are like, oh, let me take care of that. And you're like, thank you. How many of you have got this guy at work? He, he, he feigns incompetence so that other people will do his job. Okay? So foolish people aren't always stupid. Lemme just say this. Some are like, there are some guys that's just like, did you not wear a helmet playing sports as a kid? You know, they're just not that sharp. But we're talking about with foolish people, they're irresponsible and they don't take responsibility. And what they do, they wait for other overly responsible, responsible people to pick up their irresponsibilities. So this is your brother where you're, you're paying his rent, you're like, no, no, you're a grown man. You gotta pay your rent. This is where, um, they're not, you know, spending time with their child. So you constantly end up taking them to and from school and sports. 'cause otherwise the poor kid won't have a parent. And what happens is, um, they're very selfish. So a a a foolish person is always thinking about what benefits them, not what burdens others, Right? And so like, if your guy just drinks all day and doesn't go to work, you don't think, okay, other people that are depending on me are now suffering because of me. Um, we need to pay that bill. Um, so let me ask you this. If you're with a foolish person, are they burden lifting or are they burden giving? Burden giving? Every time you talk to them, it's like, Hey, I need help. I need money. I need your car. I need your time. You're like, man, it's just, there's always withdrawals. There's no deposits in this relationship and I feel like if I don't rescue you, you're gonna wreck yourself. And it causes these men to be very immature because they don't take on any additional responsibilities. So, um, two things. One, these men are very liked, but they're not respected. Why are they liked? Because they're fun and they're nice and they're always available. You can call 'em three thirty seven on a Tuesday morning. Like, you wanna go to Vegas right now? I do in my pajamas and they're ready to go. So they're fun. So people like them, but they but do you respect them? No. Right? If, if your wife miscarried, would you call them for advice? No way. If your daughter was entering into the dating years, would you call them for fathering tips? No. And so the problem with these men is they think because so many people know them and so many people like them, that they're a good man. They're not. They're a fun man, but they're not, they're not a respected man. The only thing that motivates a fool is pain. True. And it's amazing how much pain some fools can endure, Right? You're like, dude, you were sleeping in the bed with your wife, then you were sleeping on the couch, now you're sleeping in your car. This is going the wrong direction. Okay? You, you had a job and then you got a demotion and then you got another demotion and you got fired. And, and you're still talking about how bad your boss was, but you didn't do your job. Um, and so with these and these men, they'll be like, Hey man, can I borrow some money? I'm out of money. Yeah, that's what happens when you spend more than you make. I mean, the government doesn't know that, but it is a fact. So what do you do with the man that's foolish, that likes to shift his burdens? Have you pick up, or this can even be a woman pick up the mess after them. And their primary motivation for change is pain. What do you need to let them do? You gotta let 'em find the bottom. You gotta let 'em find the bottom. And let me say this, if you have a son who's a fool, you're gonna need to teach and love and lead your wife to let him feel the pain of his decisions. Otherwise, he will never become a man who takes responsibility. And we've got an entire generation where boys, young men are acting like fools and the mom is there to rescue and save them. And if you're a dad, you're like, no, he actually, he needs to be hungry, then he'll go find a job. Actually, he, he needs to walk to work. Um, and then he'll stop drinking and driving. Um, he needs to have his girlfriend dump him, uh, so that he can get his head on straight. And,

and true or false men, a little bit of pain today can save a lot of pain tomorrow, right? And so, a little bit of pain today doesn't mean you don't love the fool. It means you love them so much that you wanna save a lot of pain tomorrow. And here's why. If you are a fool and you live as a fool for an extended period of time, just make foolish, short-term dumb decisions. Andous decisions. You don't think about the consequences. You don't make plans. Do you naturally become more wise or do you naturally become more evil? Which, which way does it go evil? So the longer you endure or tolerate a fool, the higher the propensity that they're gonna become evil. How many of you have seen a guy who's evil, but he started out as a fool, but he was a fool for so long that it just kind of got worse and darker? You're like, well, he would drink a lot and then he became an alcoholic, and then he became a drug addict. And then he became a thief to fund his drug habit. You're like, whoa. That went from foolish little bit of over drinking to evil fevery. This is the guy who starts as a fool, kind of flirting with gals, and then at the end he's cheating on his wife. Third category wise. Um, and lemme ask you this, did Jesus have a guy on his team who, so if Judas was evil, who was the fool? Peter, Peter. Peter. If you know the story of the, about Peter was the fool, like He, he had a magnificent ability to always say the wrong thing at the wrong time. He was fantastic, right? And so he, there's one time he rebukes Jesus. He's like, no Lord. I was like, that's a really bad idea. Like, 'cause no, and Lord probably shouldn't go together 'cause the Lord usually is right, right? And Peter was foolish. And so, um, lemme just verbal process with you. And when you come to men's, I just kind of verbal process. So here's the verbal process. So when is the time that that, so when is the time that Peter really failed? Jesus? Remember, remember sir, The night that Jesus was going to be crucified, there's a little fire and there's a girl by the fire Peter's, he loves Jesus kind of. Um, but he's trying to keep his distance 'cause he doesn't want any, you know, he doesn't want any trouble. Like they're gonna kill him. So I'm, they're not gonna be with him 'cause I don't, I don't wanna suffer with him. So he's sitting by the fire and a little girl walks up and she's like, Hey, weren't you with Jesus? What does he say? Nope. And then he starts cussing just to prove he wasn't with Jesus. Literally. Okay? Did Peter do that because he was foolish or evil foolish? How do we know that he was foolish and not evil? 'cause true or false? He's kind of doing the same thing as Judas. He's against Jesus and not being a good friend. So in this moment, Jesus' moment of greatest need, Peter and Judas are terrible friends. Peter is foolish. Judas is evil. How do we know that Peter was foolish and not evil repentance. He, he owned it. Jesus raises from the dead goes to look Peter. That had to be a weird day, right? Here comes Jesus. Like, oh Man, he's back. Like that's a thing, you know, like, so Jesus walks up to him, looks in the eye. That had to be. And I just, in my mind, I think it was like a eight or nine minute awkward silence. Jesus. Like, you know, can you imagine looking at Jesus for a few minutes? What does Jesus ask him? You love me? Peter says, I do. Jesus asked him three times. 'cause three times he denied Jesus. Can you love Jesus and be a fool? Yeah. Can you love Jesus and be evil? No, Judas didn't love Jesus. He was evil. Peter did love Jesus. He was foolish. So what did Jesus do? He gave Peter an opportunity to repent. That was stupid. I was wrong. I regret it. I made a dumb decision. In the moment I ask your forgiveness, what does Jesus do? He reconciles the relationship. You can love Jesus and be a fool. You just need to repent to Jesus and stop being a fool. And then what we learn is Peter goes from there. And does Peter live a perfect life? Never making a mistake? No. He ends up being a racist for a while. Like he, you know, he's gotten rid of the baggage, but he's still got a few carry-ons. You know, he's working it out. But in the end, they go to him and history outside of the Bible says this. It says that they went to crucify him. They said, you need to deny Jesus. You already did it once. Deny Jesus. Christianity's getting too big. Jesus is getting too popular. You

seem to be the leader. We're gonna cut the head off the snake. Deny Jesus. You know what he says is, no, they said that we're gonna kill you. I'm not gonna deny Jesus. I was a fool, but I'm not. I've repented. They said, okay, then we're gonna crucify you like we crucified Jesus. And you know what he said? Hang me upside down. I love Jesus so much. I don't even deserve to be crucified like him. So a fool can become wise if they repent. If they repent, right? Third category wise people, um, nobody's wise in every area. And wisdom is not intelligence. 'cause lemme ask you this, does our world value wisdom or intelligence? Intelligence. Intelligence. Can you be evil and intelligent? Oh yeah. I mean, the most evil people sometimes are the most intelligent. I mean, so again, a verbal processing. We're watching it in the news. Everybody's just like, how in the world did Iran since August coordinate with Hamas to have a land, sea, and air invasion of the most, um, observed military secured piece of dirt on the earth and nobody knew. I mean, Israeli intelligence, nothing. I mean, I'd say American intelligence, but you know, hypothetically nothing. And do you know what that means? This evil was coordinated by very intelligent people, right? Very intelligent people. And so don't just trust people because they're smart. Trust people because they're wise. And to be wise may not mean you have the highest iq, but you have humility. And as a humble person, you're teachable and you're honest. Um, I've shared the story before. First men's bible study, I joined in college. The pastor invited me to his home and it was mainly older men. It was a college town surrounded by farmers. And uh, literally the best guy in the Bible study was an old farmer that didn't go to college. And, and in the study was a bunch of college professors too. And they were good men. And I have nothing evil to say about them. But this old farmer spent time with Jesus every day on his tractor for his whole life, singing and praying and listening to the Bible on cassette. And he didn't say much. He was real quiet. But every time he opened his mouth, we all shut ours. I'll never forget the old farmer. I mean literally remind me, my grandpa George, he wore overalls when he would open his mouth, literally professors from the university would pick up a pen and just get ready to write down whatever he was gonna say. Because intelligence comes from school and wisdom comes from the spirit. And this is more about your personal relationship with the Holy Spirit. Your humility and your sensitivity to the speaking of the voice of God. Wise people, they embrace reality. Foolish people don't. They change, they will apologize. They will say they're wrong, they're teachable. Um, if you're coaching someone who's wanting to be wise, if you give them an assignment, they'll do it. If you give them a book, they will read it. And they're willing to have healthy conflict to grow a relationship. And so if evil people live by the power of demonic forces, foolish people live by the power of their sinful flesh wise people live by the power of Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit. He's the spirit of wisdom. What this means is, and this will be maybe a bit controversial, you can't be wise without the Holy Spirit. You could be smart, you can be intelligent, you could be capable, and you can be gifted, but you can't be wise. So, um, when you're dealing with an evil person, what do you give them? Nothing. Nothing. 'cause when you're dealing with an evil person, it's like a hostage negotiation and you don't negotiate with terrorists, okay? And, and if you don't believe me in this, I, this will get me kicked off the internet right now. But we, we forgave 6 billion. We, we unfroze \$6 billion to Tehran. And next thing you know, they're murdering some. They are, they are orchestrating and architecting and likely funding the murder of women and children. The raping, kidnapping and destroying of women and children screaming God is great. And so you know what? You give evil. Nothing. No time, no energy, no money. Hey, can I just give 15 minutes? No. Can I just take your daughter out once? Hell no. Nothing. What do you give a foolish person? Boundaries and consequences. This is a parenting lesson too. You got a foolish kid. Consequences. Hey dad, uh, I wanna stay out till 10. Great. Finish your homework

and if you get your homework done, we'll talk about it. Consequences. Boundaries. Hey, and the boundary is this, this is mine. It's not yours. This is my time. You can't take it. This is my money. You can't have it. This is my home. You can't live in it. This is my food. You can't eat it. That is my wife. You do not get to just blow her up even if you are related to her or her mother. And the hardest thing that happens when we're dealing with people who are foolish or evil, I didn't mean to get here. Here's the verbal process. The hardest thing is, and their family. Family, when they're family, because with strangers or coworkers or church members, you're like, we wanna find the wise people. We wanna learn from the wise people. We want to hang out with the wise people. But when it's a family member who's foolish, I, I'm just gonna go there, I just feel inclined in the spirit to go there. How many of you don't raise your hand, um, or share their photo on your phone, but there's somebody in your family, they're just foolish and the family tolerates them and accommodates them and makes excuses for them and works around them and, and it's just like, this is crazy. Like they're getting worse, not better. And we're getting worse. Not better. And it's like, why do we keep doing, why do we keep putting time and energy and money and rescuing and saving and pursuing? And you know why? They're a bucket with no bottom and the whole family just keeps pouring in. But nothing is being contained because they're family and they're foolish. But what I would say is this, choose your closest relationships based upon their character. Not whether or not they're a biological relative. And if somebody is foolish and you're like, I would never let that person stay at our house, why do they stay at your house? I would never have that person over for dinner. Well, why do they come over for dinner? Give them consequences and boundaries. Hey, we love you. If you want to come over for dinner, here's the rules. And if you break them, you leave. This is how it's gonna go. Because lemme just say this. Um, it's your house, it's your wife, it's your kids, it's your money, it's your business, it's your car, it's your life. It's your responsibility. You're the head and you can't let foolish people or evil people replace you. And what we looked at in the first lesson, and then, and then I will just close here. Um, if you don't exercise your dominion, somebody else will. And usually the most likely candidate to nominate themselves is foolish. And the person who would really like to nominate themselves is evil. And if we learn anything from our father, Adam in Genesis three, when he didn't exercise his dominion, Satan did. And so if you weren't the head of your home, Satan is, and he's gonna bring in foolish people to cause a lot of pain and distraction and disruption. And eventually he's gonna bring an evil person to bring a lot of destruction. True or false. And so even as head of household, you have a right with relatives to say, you know what? That's evil. You, we don't do evil. Well, you can't go stay at grandma's house 'cause you know, the drunk cousin or uncle lives there and he's unstable. And we just don't drop our kids off with unstable drunk people, even if they have the same last name. I'll close with this. Um, it got dark and heavy, didn't it on Sunday. I was hilarious. Um, six kinds of relationships. Um, let's just look at these real quick. A why isn't a foolish person? It's like a parental relationship. If your wife go back real quick. Um, so if your wife, if one of you in the marriage is foolish, it's gonna feel like a mother and a son or a father and a daughter, not a husband and a wife. Um, next one, a wise and an evil person. Distant relationship. If you engage, you will and rage. Just keep your boundaries. And what evil people will do, they'll check in, they'll try you again. They'll try and wear or grind you down. Just keep your distance. Number three, two foolish people. It's a codependent relationship. These are your drinking buddies. Uh, you know, if, if you've ever seen the movie Dumb and Dumber, that would be your homework assignment for this relationship. Um, a foolish and an evil person. This is devastating. 'cause this is an abusive relationship. How many of you have seen a foolish girl with an evil guy? Right? I mean, I'll never forget, I was a, a brand

new pastor, um, girl walked into my college ministry and she had a bruised face. And I said, what happened? She said, quote, I shouldn't have made him angry. I said, sweetheart, we're calling the cops. There is nothing you could say or do that should compel a man to lay hands on you. But she was foolish. So what she was thinking was, it's my, oh, no, no, no sweetheart. I don't know what you said or did, but any man that lays hands on a woman is evil and he's responsible. Amen. Um, two evil people. Freaking dangerous. This is like two barrels on a gun. Like, how many of you know a husband and wife? They're both evil and they're like, Hey, can we come over? You're like, we're moving, we are moving to another country. You know, when two evil people get together, they are deadly and dangerous. How many of you have gone into business with two people that were, you know, sort of aligned in the business but they were evil and they just, they just started gutting everything and everyone watch out for those people? And then here's what I want for you guys. 'cause I really do love you, despite the dark intense talk. Two wise people have a healthy loving relationship. Two wise people, there's not a lot of conflict. I'm sorry. Um, how can I help? Um, is there anything I can do for you? And, and in a, in a wise, wise relationship, it's mutual and it's life giving. Um, guess why we're here, gentlemen. Number one, we want you to be wise. I don't care if you're tough. I don't care if you're smart, I don't care if you're rich. A lot of that is not determined by the grace of God. But wisdom is something that every son of God can have and we want you to be wise. Amen. Okay, number two, we want you to find other guys that can help you grow wise in the areas where you're not wise yet. For you young guys. Find an older guy for you. Single guys. Find a married guy, a married guy with a wife who's smiling, um, for you guys that want to have kids, find a good dad. And just, Hey, help pull me out and that's why we're here. And then thirdly, we want you to find brothers who are wise. 'cause he who walks with a wise, I'll quote Proverbs, he who walks with a wise, grows wise. I'm so proud of you guys. I just, I feel like a, I feel like a dad looking at the father sons. You're here because you want to be wise. You're here because you wanna grow in wisdom. You're here because you want to help other men grow in wisdom. You're here because you want to be a wise man and a wise husband and a wise father. You're here because you want your children to grow up in a safe environment where you're bringing wisdom to them and you're keeping evil away from them. And I just wanna honor you men. I know we live in a world that speaks evil of men. Uh, the world needs you men and it needs a lot more men like you. And it's an honor to be with you. And I just am very humbled at this moment and awestruck that I get to teach. And so thank you for giving me that honor it, it means a tremendous amount to me. And you guys. Um, you guys mean the world to me. I'm here every week 'cause I deeply profoundly care for you. I care for you. I care for your wives. I care for your kids. I care for your grandkids. I want you to be wise. I want your marriage to be blessed. I want your kids to be safe and I want your legacy to be beautiful. Amen. Amen. Thank you.