

A WORD WITH YOU - By Ron Hutchcraft

10234 – “Men Who Run”

Genesis 3:7-10

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When we finally graduate from childhood to grownup hood, we trade in some simple games for some complicated games. You know, once you get bigger, you have to learn all the rules of football, baseball, and basketball. And they can get pretty complicated. But I remember some of those uncomplicated games I played when I was little, like dive bomber. Yeah, simple rules. All you had to do was come in with your arm extended and knock the hat off the other guys head. That was pretty simple rules. Oh yeah, and try not to knock off the head with the hat. And then we played keep away. That was pretty simple. Keep throwing the ball back and forth and keep it away from the guy in the middle. That was easy. And dodge ball, Did you ever play dodge ball? You know, we'd play dodge ball when a bunch of us guys would get together and we had a good sized ball. And the object of the game was very simple. When another guy tried to throw that ball at you, you just tried to dodge it. In fact, we boys got pretty good at dodging. In fact, some of us still are.

I'm Ron Hutchcraft and I want to have **A WORD WITH YOU** today about **“Men Who Run.”**

Now, our word for today from the Word of God comes from Genesis chapter 3, and I'm going to be reading from verses 7-10. It really introduces us to an interesting and often frustrating trait in a man; especially if you happen to be a woman. It's a trait that goes all the way back. Listen to this scene from the Garden of Eden, “Then the eyes of both Adam and Eve were opened and they realized they were naked. So, they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as He was walking in the garden in the cool of the day. And they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. The Lord God called to the man, ‘Where are you?’ He answered, ‘I heard You in the garden and I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid.’”

Now, it's interesting. When God came to talk after that first sin, Adam grabbed Eve's hand and ran and hid. Did you know Adam is still running from substantial conversation...from confrontation. He's even running from talking with Eve. You see it when it comes to conversations about feelings, about personal and inner personal problems, or conflicts. Oftentimes, we're the great postponer. You know, a wife says, “Honey, we need to talk.” So the husband turns out the light and says, “Yes, later, Baby.” A child is showing signs of needing some guidance or correction, and Dad will put off confronting that as long as possible—sometimes until there's a heart wrenching crisis.

Men tend to avoid areas where they aren't sure of their competence. So, you know, we'll talk about activities, and achievements, and work, and sports, and politics. But many of us men are unsure of ourselves when it comes to deeply personal areas. So, we play dodge ball when it comes to talking about personal problems. And those things just keep growing until they explode.

As a man, I must, with God's help, resist this urge to run...to postpone...to live with the word "later" when it comes to significant conversation. So many human tragedies could have been averted if only a man hadn't put off dealing with problems and not let the sun go down on it. If we're going to be the leaders God has commanded us to be, guys, we've got to turn and face the issues. Discuss our deep feelings and solve problems while they're small enough to solve.

It's far more manly to catch what's thrown at you than to dodge it.

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