



Ecce Homo: Beholding Jesus the Man and Imitating His Manly Virtues

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The Crisis of Contemporary Manliness

- There is a widespread crisis of manliness in culture and in the Church.
- There are various causes:
 - Radical Feminist attack on masculine virtue
 - Gender theory
 - Bad role models: from wimps, to hypermacho supermen, to flawed athletes and celebrities. Very few imitable good men depicted in movies, on television and in contemporary literature.
 - Likewise not enough role models in the Church today of saintly, manly bishops, priests, deacons, catechists, dads.
 - Not enough devotion to St. Joseph



The Crisis of Contemporary Manliness

- “Behold the Man”: Problem with images of Jesus.
 - Robert Powell’s famous depiction in *Jesus of Nazareth*
 - Stick-figure, weak depictions in crucifixes, bulletin covers, and catechetical textbooks. Un-inspiring kische statues of the Sacred Heart.
 - Misunderstanding of Jesus’ meekness as well as his words about “turning the other cheek.”
- The result is that meditation on Jesus often does not have the impact on Christian men that it should. They’re often not challenged to imitate his manliness, because to radical feminists, Jesus’ manliness is offensive.



Questions for Christian Men

- Jesus says, “No disciple is superior to the teacher; but when fully trained, every disciple will be like his teacher.” (Lk 6:40). Are we becoming more and more like him?
- Are we building on identity as Christian men on the rock of Jesus’ manly identity or on some form of quicksand? (Mt 7:24-27)
- How much does becoming one with Jesus in Holy Communion affect our overall identity as Christian men?
- When Jesus came to the Nazareth synagogue, people took offense at him. Jesus said, “A prophet is not without honor except in his native place and in his own house” (Mt 13:57). Do we honor him as he comes or take him for granted?



Behold the Man: Being Awed by Jesus

- “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be.” (Jn 1:1-3)
- “One who is coming after me is mightier than I. ... He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire” (Mt 3:11-12)
- “Whenever unclean spirits saw him they would fall down before him and shout, ‘You are the Son of God’” (Mk 3:11)
- “He woke up, rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, ‘Quiet! Be still!’ The wind ceased and there was great calm. ... They were filled with great awe and said to one another, ‘Who then is this whom even wind and sea obey?’ (Mk 4:39-41)
- “He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” (Lk 1:32-33)



Behold the Man: Being Awed by Jesus

- “Those preceding him as well as those following kept crying out: “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is to come! Hosanna in the highest!” (Mk 11:9)
- “A light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel.” (Lk 2:32)
- “They were all amazed and said to one another, ‘What is there about his word? For with authority and power he commands the unclean spirits, and they come out.’” (Lk 4:36)
- “Blessed are the eyes that see what you see. For I say to you, many prophets and kings desired to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it.” (Lk 10:23-24)
- John the Baptist “saw Jesus coming toward him and said, ‘Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.’” (Jn 1:29)
- “Jesus answered and said to her, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again; 14 but whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst; the water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” (Jn 4:13)



Behold the Man: Being Awed by Jesus

- “The woman said to him, ‘I know that the Messiah is coming, the one called the Anointed; when he comes, he will tell us everything.’ Jesus said to her, ‘I am he, the one who is speaking with you.’” (Jn 4:25-26)
- “Jesus said to them, ‘I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst. ... Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me.’” (Jn 6:35, 52).
- “This is the will of my Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life, and I shall raise him [on] the last day.” (Jn 6:40)
- “Jesus said to them, ‘Amen, amen, I say to you, before Abraham came to be, I AM.’” (Jn 8:58)
- “Jesus told her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.’” (Jn 11:25-26)



Twenty Traits of Jesus' Masculinity

- Going through the Gospels, we see Jesus' manly virtues on display.
- Some are easily appreciated as manly virtues in most cultures; some others are not because manliness is misunderstood.
- There are lots of ways to describe Jesus' masculine virtues and to order them. Different people could label and organize them in diverse ways.
- The most important thing for Christian men, however, is to seek with the God-man's help to imitate them!



Son

- He tried to help us ground our identity in our divine filiation and in the Father's love.
 - “The Father himself loves you” (Jn 16:27)
 - “When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come” (Lk 11:2)
 - “What father among you would hand his son a snake when he asks for a fish? Or hand him a scorpion when he asks for an egg? If you then, who are wicked, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the Father in heaven give the holy Spirit to those who ask him?” (Lk 11:11-13)
 - “Jesus said to her, ... ‘Go to my brothers and tell them, “I am going to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.”’” (Jn 20:17)



Son

- Jesus' identity flowed from awareness of his own divine filiation.
 - Baptism: "A voice came from the heavens, saying, 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.'" (Mt 3:17).
 - Transfiguration: "Then from the cloud came a voice that said, 'This is my chosen Son; listen to him.'" (Lk 9:35).
 - His prayers all focused on the Father, to whom he commended his spirit.
- He revealed to others his relationship with the Father
 - "The Father loves the Son and has given everything over to him." (Jn 3:35)
 - "My Father is at work until now, so I am at work." (Jn 5:17).
 - "Amen, amen, I say to you, a son cannot do anything on his own, but only what he sees his father doing; for what he does, his son will do also. For the Father loves his Son and shows him everything that he himself does, and he will show him greater works than these, so that you may be amazed." (Jn 5:19-20)
 - "The works that the Father gave me to accomplish, these works that I perform testify on my behalf that the Father has sent me." (Jn 5:36)
 - "The Father and I are one" (Jn 10:30).
 - "How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on my own. The Father who dwells in me is doing his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me" (Jn 14:9-11)
 - "I am not alone, because the Father is with me" (Jn 16:32).



Chaste Bridegroom

- Jesus identified himself as the long-awaited Bridegroom prophesied by Isaiah and Hosea.
 - “Jesus answered them, ‘Can you make the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? But the days will come, and when the bridegroom is taken away from them, then they will fast in those days.’” (Lk 5:34-35)
 - “The one who has the bride is the bridegroom; the best man, who stands and listens to him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom’s voice.” (Jn 3:29)
 - “Gird your loins and light your lamps and be like servants who await their master’s return from a wedding, ready to open immediately when he comes and knocks.” (Lk 12:35).
- Jesus was a chaste, virginal spouse who called us all to purity of heart, since lust changes the intentionality of a human being from a self-giver to a taker.
 - “Blessed are the pure of heart” (Mt 5:8)
 - “The lamp of the body is the eye. If your eye is sound, your whole body will be filled with light; but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be in darkness. And if the light in you is darkness, how great will the darkness be.” (Mt 6:22-23).



Courageous, Protective and Encouraging Shepherd

- Jesus identified himself as the Good Shepherd, who knows and calls his sheep by name, leads them out, lays down his life for his sheep, and gives them eternal life (Jn 10:1-18; 26-28).
- He says that he would leave the 99 to go after the one stray sheep (Mt 18:12-14; Lk 15:4-6)
- He calls us to be good sheep who listen to him, follow him, and eventually become good shepherds like him.
- He was courageous in the face of hardship and persecution and death and called us to be courageous too, reminding us not to be afraid of those who can kill the body but cannot kill the soul (Mt 10:26-28) and to rejoice and be glad when we're hated, insulted and persecuted, because our reward will be great in heaven (Mt 5:12).



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Courageous, Protective, and Encouraging Shepherd

- As the Good Shepherd, he constantly sought to protect others
 - “Why do you make trouble for the woman? She has done a good thing for me.” (Mt 26:10)
 - “Leave her alone” (Jn 12:7)
 - “And they said to him, ‘The disciples of John fast often and offer prayers, and the disciples of the Pharisees do the same; but yours eat and drink.’ Jesus answered them, ‘Can you make the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them?’” (Lk 5:33-35)
 - “Some Pharisees said, ‘Why are you doing what is unlawful on the sabbath?’ Jesus said to them in reply, ‘Have you not read what David did when he and those [who were] with him were hungry?’” (Lk 6:1-3)



Courageous, Protective, and Encouraging Shepherd

- Jesus would in turn encourage others:
 - “Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid.” (Mt 14:27)
 - “Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you [falsely] because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven” (Mt 5:11-12).
 - “Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul” (Mt 10:28)
 - “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me.” (Jn 14:1)
 - “In the world you will have trouble, but take courage, I have conquered the world.” (Jn 16:33)



Wise Teacher

- “When he disembarked and saw the vast crowd, his heart was moved with pity for them, for they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.” (Mk 6:34).
- Jesus was constantly teaching, on mountainsides, along journeys, from boats, in synagogues and the temple precincts, with parables, sermons, questions, citations.
- He taught with an authority that amazed and astonished.
- He used some many accessible images, seeds, fields, patches, wineskins, salt, light, buried treasure, fishing, farming and more.
- He taught so that others might follow: “You call me ‘teacher’ and ‘master,’ and rightly so, for indeed I am. If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another’s feet. I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do.” (Jn 13:13-15).



Man of the Word

- Against the temptations of the Devil, Jesus responded with the Word of God.
- He fulfilled Sacred Scripture: “Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing” (Lk 4:21).
- He wanted us to build our life on the rock of his word (Mt 7:24-27)
- Jesus, as Peter says, has the “words of eternal life” (Jn 6:69).



Prayerful

- He was constantly going to converse with his Father in secret, in his “inner room.”
- He would pray on mountains, in boats, early in the morning, in a garden at night, and before almost all of the major moments of his life.
- “Rising very early before dawn, he left and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed” (Mk 1:35)
- “He departed to the mountain to pray, and he spent the night in prayer to God. When day came, he called his disciples to himself, and from them he chose Twelve, whom he also named apostles” (Lk 6:12-13)
- His prayer was always to his Father.
- He was regularly teaching about the dispositions of prayer, which he himself modeled.



Faithful and Loyal

- He called us to faithfulness, which is a belief in something based on a trust in someone.
- He modeled that fidelity by his loyalty to Sacred Scripture: “Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. Amen, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or the smallest part of a letter will pass from the law, until all things have taken place” (Mt 5:17-18)
- He called us to be guileless men of our word: “Let your ‘Yes’ mean ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No’ mean ‘No.’ Anything more is from the evil one.” (Mt 5:37).
- “Simon, Simon, behold Satan has demanded to sift all of you like wheat, but I have prayed that your own faith may not fail; and once you have turned back, you must strengthen your brothers.” (Lk 22:31-32)
- “You are the ones who have stood by me faithfully in my trials” (Lk 22:28)



Zealous for the Kingdom

- “I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing! There is a baptism with which I must be baptized, and how great is my anguish until it is accomplished!” (Lk 12:49-50)
- After Jesus had cleansed the Temple, his disciples remembered the saying, “Zeal for your house will consume me” (Jn 2:17)
- He treasured his Father’s kingdom and placed his heart in it (Mt 6:21).
- He said that no one can serve two masters and he chose his Father, loving him with all his mind, heart, soul and strength (Mt 6:24; Mt 22:37).
- He praised the poor widow for loving God with all she had (Mk 12:41).
- He showed us that zeal for the kingdom is the path to happiness
 - “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven” (Mt 5:3)
 - “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they shall be satisfied (Mt 5:6)



Prudent

- Jesus was the model of the prudence to which he called all of us.
- Jesus was constantly extricating himself from predicaments by his prudence:
 - “Is it lawful to pay the census tax or not” (Mt 22:17-19)
 - “By what authority are you doing these things?” (Mt 21:23-27)
 - “Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.” (Jn 8:7)
 - ““You are misled because you do not know the scriptures or the power of God” (Mt 22:29)
- He similarly summoned us to prudence:
 - “Be as shrewd as serpents but as wise as doves” (Mt 10:16).
 - He praised the “prudent virgins” who had sufficient oil (Mt 25:4)
 - “Who, then, is the faithful and prudent servant, whom the master has put in charge of his household to distribute to them their food at the proper time? Blessed is that servant whom his master on his arrival finds doing so. Amen, I say to you, he will put him in charge of all his property” (Mt 24:45-47).



Meek

- This is perhaps the most misunderstood of the masculine virtues of Jesus.
- Meekness is not weakness. It is the self-mastery, an interior strength, that does not need to reveal its power, even when provoked.
- Jesus wanted us to learn it from him: “Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart” (Mt 11:29)
- We see his meekness throughout the Gospel
 - It was prophesied of him: “He will not contend or cry out, nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets. A bruised reed he will not break, a smoldering wick he will not quench, until he brings justice to victory” (Mt 12:19).
 - “Do you think that I cannot call upon my Father and he will not provide me at this moment with more than twelve legions of angels? But then how would the scriptures be fulfilled which say that it must come to pass in this way?” (Mt 26:53-54)
 - Jesus was “silent” before the high priest (Mt 26:63), did not answer Pilate (Mt 27:24), did not retaliate when the soldiers mocked him (Mt 27:29-31; Lk 22:64-65), when the thieves, chief priests and passerby mocked him (Mk 15:29-32).
 - “So Pilate said to him, ‘Do you not speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you and I have power to crucify you?’ Jesus answered [him], ‘You would have no power over me if it had not been given to you from above’” (Jn 19:10)



Meek

- Jesus wasn't being defeated by meekness, but *triumphing!*
 - By worldly eyes he had lost, but his ways are not ours!
 - He had predicted his suffering at least three times.
 - “Oh, how foolish you are! How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” (Lk 24:25-26)
 - “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; by the Lord has this been done, and it is wonderful in our eyes?” (Mk 12:10-11).
 - This was the means by which he showed his power: “For Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are called, Jews and Greeks alike, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.” (1 Cor 1:22-24)

- Jesus called us to meekness:
 - “Blessed are the meek” (Mt 5:5)
 - “But to you who hear I say, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. To the person who strikes you on one cheek, offer the other one as well, and from the person who takes your cloak, do not withhold even your tunic. Give to everyone who asks of you, and from the one who takes what is yours do not demand it back.” (Lk 6:27-30)



Disciplined and Determined

- We can see his self-discipline in his capacity to say no to his appetites in order to say yes to the will of the Father
 - “He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was hungry” (Mt 4:2)
 - “When you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites...” (Mt 6:16)
 - “Then the disciples of John approached him and said, ‘Why do we and the Pharisees fast [much], but your disciples do not fast?’ Jesus answered them, ‘Can the wedding guests mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast’” (Mt 9:14-15)
- He showed his determination with the focus he had toward his passion:
 - “When the days for his being taken up were fulfilled, he resolutely determined to journey to Jerusalem” (Lk 9:51)
- He called us to a similar determination, asceticism and the discipline that makes disciples
 - “Strive to enter through the narrow gate...” (Lk 13:24)
 - “If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one of your members than to have your whole body thrown into Gehenna. 30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one of your members than to have your whole body go into Gehenna.” (Mt 5:29-30)
 - “Greet no one along the way” (Lk 10:4)



Humble

- The Son of God was humble in his choice to become man and to be born of human flesh, to be baptized, and even more so to allow his creatures to take his life as he was giving it to save them.
 - “And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.” (Lk 2:12)
 - “Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” (Mt 3:15)
 - “Have the same mindset as Christ Jesus who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself humble, taking the very nature of a slave, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as man, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on the Cross.” (Phil 2:5-8)
- He was humble enough to say, truthfully, he was humble!
 - “Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart” (Mt 11:29)



Humble

- Humility does not mean we see ourselves “lower” than we are, but seeing ourselves as we really are. We see his humility paradoxically even in some statements that on the surface would seem quite inflated, but they were all true. He was humble enough to say them even though they may have seemed to be puffed up.
 - “I say to you, something greater than the temple is here.” (Mt 12:6)
 - “There is something greater than Jonah here. ... There is something greater than Solomon here.” (Mt 12:41-42)
 - “How can anyone enter a strong man’s house and steal his property, unless he first ties up the strong man? Then he can plunder his house” (Mt 12:29)

- He called us to humility in order to live in his kingdom.
 - “Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven” (Mt 18:4)
 - “Whoever exalts himself will be humbled; but whoever humbles himself will be exalted.” (Mt 23:12)
 - ““When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not recline at table in the place of honor. A more distinguished guest than you may have been invited by him, and the host who invited both of you may approach you and say, ‘Give your place to this man,’ and then you would proceed with embarrassment to take the lowest place. Rather, when you are invited, go and take the lowest place so that when the host comes to you he may say, ‘My friend, move up to a higher position.’ Then you will enjoy the esteem of your companions at the table. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.” (Lk 14:8-11)



Docile and Obedient

- Jesus allowed himself to be led
 - “Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil.” (Mt 4:1)
- His whole life was one of obedience, to his Father in Heaven, to his mother and foster-father on earth
 - “Abba, Father, all things are possible to you. Take this cup away from me, but not what I will but what you will.” (Mt 14:36)
 - “For I have come down from heaven not to do my own will but the will of the One who sent me” (Jn 6:38)
 - “He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart.” (Lk 2:51)
- He wants us to be docile and obedient
 - “Thy will be done!” (Mt 6:9-13)
 - “What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work today in the vineyard.’ ‘I will not,’ he answered, but later he changed his mind and went. Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, ‘I will, sir,’ but he did not go. Which of the two did what his father wanted? ‘The first,’ they answered. Jesus said to them, ‘Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you.’” (Mt 21:28-31)



Capable of Manly Weeping

- Many men think it is unmanly to cry. Jesus never got that memo.
- He wept over Jerusalem
 - “As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it and said, ‘If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes. The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God’s coming to you.’” (LK 19:41-44)
- Jesus wept over Lazarus (Jn 11:35)
- Jesus mourned with the widow of Nain
 - When the Lord saw her, he was moved with pity for her (Lk 7:13)
- He called us to model our lives on him in his capacity to weep
 - “Blessed are they who mourn” (Mt 5:4)
 - “Amen, amen, I say to you, you will weep and mourn, while the world rejoices; you will grieve, but your grief will become joy.” (Jn 16:20)



Candid and Challenging

- Jesus challenged people directly
 - “Come and follow me” (Mt 4:19)
 - “Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.” (Mt 16:24)
 - “If you wish to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to [the] poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” (Mt 19:21)
 - “Another of [his] disciples said to him, “Lord, let me go first and bury my father.” But Jesus answered him, “Follow me, and let the dead bury their dead.” (Mt 8:21-22)
 - The scene with the Canaanite woman, to whom he didn’t say a word, then said he was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel, then said it was not right to throw the food of the children to the dogs, before he said, “Woman great is your faith” (Mt 15:22-28)
 - “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ... “But who do you say that I am?” (Mt 16:13-15)
 - “Can you drink the cup that I am going to drink?” (Mt 20:22)
 - “Whoever wishes to be great among you shall be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave.” (Mt 20:26-27)



Candid and Challenging

- Jesus challenged people directly (*continued*)
 - “My friend, how is it that you came in here without a wedding garment?” (Mt 22:12)
 - “He said, ‘Master, you gave me five talents. See, I have made five more.’ His master said to him, “Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master’s joy.” (Mt 25:20-21)
 - “If any one comes to me without hating his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. ... everyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple.” (Lk 14:26-33)
 - “Do not work for food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you” (Jn 6:26)
 - “Then many of his disciples who were listening said, ‘This saying is hard; who can accept it?’ Since Jesus knew that his disciples were murmuring about this, he said to them, ‘Does this shock you?’ Jesus then said to the Twelve, ‘Do you also want to leave?’” (Jn 6:60-67)
 - “Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be.” (Jn 12:25-26)



Candid and Challenging

- When the situation demanded it, Jesus called things as they really were.
- Long series of denunciations of Pharisees, who lock the kingdom to others, make children of Gehenna, are blind guides, who neglect the weightier things of the law, strain the gnat and swallow the camel, are whitewashed tombs, are a brood of vipers and serpents (Mt 23:13-35)
- “O faithless and perverse generation, how long will I be with you?” (Mt 17:17)
- “Hypocrites, well did Isaiah prophesy about you when he said: ‘This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me’ (Mt 15:7-8)
- “Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do.” (Mt 16:23)
- “Go and tell that fox” (Lk 13:32)
- “Will you lay down your life for me? Amen, amen, I say to you, the cock will not crow before you deny me three times.” (Jn 13:37)



Hardworking

- Just reading a day in the life of Jesus can be exhausting
 - “He went around all of Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and curing every disease and illness among the people. His fame spread to all of Syria, and they brought to him all who were sick with various diseases and racked with pain, those who were possessed, lunatics, and paralytics, and he cured them.” (Mt 4:23)

- He patterned his diligence on the Father
 - “My Father is at work until now, so I am at work.” (Jn 5:17)
 - “The works that the Father gave me to accomplish ... testify ... that the Father has sent me” (Jn 5:36)
 - “I have shown you many good works from my Father” (Jn 10:32)
 - “The Father who dwells in me is doing his works” (Jn 14:10)



Generous

- Jesus himself was generous, becoming a ransom for others
 - “The Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (Mt 20:28)

- He showed in the miracles of the multiplication of loaves and fish and promised even greater in heaven
 - “Jesus said to them, ‘Amen, I say to you that you who have followed me, in the new age, when the Son of Man is seated on his throne of glory, will yourselves sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has given up houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands for the sake of my name will receive a hundred times more, and will inherit eternal life.’” (Mt 18:28-29)

- He gave a parable about his generosity and “Am I not free to do as I wish with my own money? Are you envious because I am generous?” (Mt 20:15)

- He summoned us to similar generosity, based on his own
 - “Give to everyone who asks of you, and from the one who takes what is yours do not demand it back. ... If you lend money to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit [is] that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, and get back the same amount. But rather, love your enemies and do good to them, and lend expecting nothing back; then your reward will be great and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.” (Lk 6:30-35)



Merciful

- Jesus' heart was often "moved to pity" and in response did five things: taught, healed, fed, forgave and instructed to pray for laborers, calling those who had been praying.
 - He showed his compassion in healing lame, blind, deaf, mute, withered hands, great crowds, one by one.
 - He forgave the paralytic, taught the Parables of the Two Debtors and the Prodigal Son, called sinners to be his apostles, and prayed "Father, forgive them"
- He identified with those to whom he wanted us to show mercy and said our salvation would depend on it
 - "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me." (Mt 25:34-36)
 - "Give them some food yourselves...." (Mt 14:6)
 - "How many loaves do you have?" (Mt 15:34)
 - "Blessed are the merciful" (Mt 5:7)



Peacemaking

- Jesus is the long awaited “Prince of Peace” (Is 9:6)
- He came to give us definitive peace with God through the forgiveness of sins
 - “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you” (Jn 14:27)
 - “Peace be with you!” (Jn 20:19)
- This peace with God doesn’t mean that we will have peace with others
 - “Do not think that I have come to bring peace upon the earth. I have come to bring not peace but the sword.” (Mt 10:34)
- He says that if behave as true children of God we will be, not peace *wishers*, but peacemakers.
 - “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God” (Mt 5:9)
- Sometimes we can’t avoid conflict, but men of God should not seek to foment conflict but to be reconcilers.



A Team Former

- Jesus formed a team of manly men around him, those who would give their lives.
 - “As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew, casting a net into the sea; they were fishermen. He said to them, ‘Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.’ At once they left their nets and followed him. He walked along from there and saw two other brothers, James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They were in a boat, with their father Zebedee, mending their nets. He called them, and immediately they left their boat and their father and followed him.” (Mt 4:18-22)
 - “The names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon called Peter, and his brother Andrew; James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew, Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James, the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddeus; Simon the Cananean, and Judas Iscariot who betrayed him.” (Mt 10:2-3)
- His team was ultimately a family
 - “Here are my mother and my brothers. For whoever does the will of my heavenly Father is my brother, and sister, and mother.” (Mt 12:49-50)
- He wanted others on the team
 - “Whoever is not against us is for us.” (Mk 9:40)



A Team Former

- He prayed for those who would join the team
 - “I pray not only for them, but also for those who will believe in me through their word” (Jn 17:18)
- He wanted them to become not just his followers but friends
 - “I no longer call you slaves, because a slave does not know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father. 16 It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you.” (Jn 15:15-16)
- He gave them his authority and explicit instructions and formation: to go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel instead of to pagans or Samaritans, to announce the kingdom, to exorcise, heal and resuscitate, to give freely, depend on his providence, not to look for a better deal, to extend his peace, not to bear grudges, to recognize their sheep among wolves.
- He chose them to complete his mission
 - “As you sent me into the world, so I sent them into the world” (Jn 17:18)
 - “As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” (Jn 20:21)
 - “You are witnesses of these things” (Lk 24:48)



Imitating Jesus' Manly Virtues

Son	Disciplined and determined
Chaste Bridegroom	Humble
Courageous, Encouraging Shepherd	Docile and Obedient
Wise Teacher	Capable of Manly Weeping
Man of the Word	Candid and Challenging
Prayerful	Hardworking
Faithful and Loyal	Generous
Zealous for the Kingdom	Merciful
Prudent	Peacemaking
Meek	A Team Former



Imitating Jesus' Manly Virtues

- In response to the crisis of masculinity today, in society and the Church, Christian men are called to step forward, in their homes, in their communities, in the Church.
- They're called to grow in their image of Christ, who was not just 100 percent human but shows men who they really are.
- Christian men are also called to train the younger generations in manly virtues during a time in which our culture is not only not transmitting them but transmitting so many unmanly vices.
- "Ecce Homo" (Jn 19:5)
- "Esto vir!" (2 Sam 10:12)



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The screenshot shows the homepage of [catholicpreaching.com](http://www.catholicpreaching.com). The header features the site's logo, "Catholic Preaching" by Fr. Roger J. Landry, and a navigation menu with links for Home, Homilies, Articles, Plan of Life Book, Retreats, Teaching, and Biography. A search bar is located in the top right. The main content area begins with a "Welcome!" message from Fr. Landry, followed by a paragraph about his ordination and a quote from Cardinal Edmund Szoka. Below this is a section titled "Most Recent Homilies, Articles, and Talks" with three columns of links to recent content.

Home Homilies Articles Plan of Life Book Retreats Teaching Biography

Search this website ... Search

Welcome!

I warmly welcome you to this website, put together at the insistence and with the assistance of friends.

During my diaconal ordination, Cardinal Edmund Szoka gave me the following instruction from the Ordination Rite as together we gripped the Book of the Gospels:

*"Receive the Gospel of Christ, whose herald you now are.
Believe what you read.
Teach what you believe.
Practice what you teach."*

Those words have never lost their resonance.

Since that day -- October 8, 1998 -- I have tried to live up to that commission to be a "herald of the Gospel," by striving to teach what the Church believes, to practice what I preach to others, and to spread with joy and enthusiasm the truth Christ has entrusted to His church -- in and out of season, in and out of the pulpit.

This website is a chronicle of those attempts.

It constitutes the "five loaves and two fish" (or even less!) that I have placed into the hands of the Lord as an attempt to feed a hungry crowd, confident that, if He wishes, He can multiply and supplement that meager offering to nourish many more (Jn 6:1-14).

In Christ,
Fr. Roger J. Landry

Most Recent Homilies	Most Recent Articles	Most Recent Talks
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Bearing Fruit Attached to the Vine, 12th Wednesday (II), June 27, 2018▪ Following the Lead of the Precursor, Solemnity of St. John the Baptist, June 24, 2018▪ Placing Our Heart and Treasure in God, 11th Friday (II), June 22, 2018▪ Longing to See God's Face in Prayer and in Others, 10th Friday (II), June 15, 2018▪ The Surpassing Righteousness of Christ-like Merciful Love, 10th Thursday (II), June 14, 2018▪ Greatest in the Kingdom, 10th Wednesday (II), June 13, 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The Secular Push to Get Priests to Break the Seal, The Anchor, June 29, 2018▪ Approaching the Suicide Surge with Honesty and Resolve, The Anchor, June 15, 2018▪ The Abortion Exception to the Practice of Discrimination, The Anchor, June 1, 2018▪ The Contemporary Attack on Motherhood, The Anchor, May 18, 2018▪ The Euthanasia of Alfie Evans, The Anchor, May 4, 2018▪ "Do Not Be Afraid of Holiness," The Anchor, April 20, 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The Church and International Diplomacy, Acton University, June 20, 2018▪ The Entrepreneurial Vocation, Acton University, June 20, 2018▪ The Social Teaching of Pope St. John Paul II, Acton University, June 20, 2018▪ The Necessity and Art of Trinitarian Prayer, Catholic Medical Association Boot Camp, June 18, 2018▪ Christ, the Redeemer of Marriage: Living and Proclaiming the Gospel of the Sacramentality of Marriage at a Time When Sex, Love,