

FAMILY

TRAINING CAMP – PERSONAL COMMITMENT

Opening Narrative:

In his autobiography, “Long Walk to Freedom,” Nelson Mandela speaks of what he believed were the hard choices he had to make between being a purveyor of freedom and a family man. “Perhaps I was blinded to certain things because of the pain I felt for not being able to fulfill my role as a husband to my wife and a father to my children...As I later said at my daughter Zindzi's wedding, it seems to be the destiny of freedom fighters to have unstable personal lives. When your life is the struggle, as mine was, there is little room left for family. That has always been my greatest regret, and the most painful aspect of the choice I made. “We watched our children growing without our guidance,” I said at the wedding, “and when we did come out [of prison], my children said, ‘We thought we had a father and one day he’d come back. But to our dismay, our father came back and he left us alone because he has now become the father of the nation.’” To be the father of a nation is a great honor, but to be the father of a family is a greater joy. But it was a joy I had far too little of.

A. Singleness

1. Being complete in Christ – the reason Christians aren’t handling marriage well is because they don’t handle singleness well
2. Famous singles: Jesus, Paul, John the Baptist
3. Single does not mean selfish

B. Marriage

1. Coming back to scriptural submission
2. Lavishing in love
3. Men being men so that women can be women

C. Fatherhood

1. Protecting without smothering
2. The importance of touch
3. Admitting when we get it wrong
4. Don’t relegate the “spiritual stuff”
5. Know where you end and your child begins