

ACTION THAT VISION

# FINISHING STRONG

GOING THE DISTANCE FOR YOUR FAMILY – STEVE FARRAR

## CHAPTER 2 – FINISHING SO-SO

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SUNDAY FEBRUARY 19, 2023

# **PART 1: THE PRIORITY OF FINISHING STRONG**

CHAPTER 1 – ONE OUT OF TEN

**CHAPTER 2 – FINISHING SO-SO**

CHAPTER 3 – STAYING THE COURSE

# FINISHING TYPES

13-year study by Dr. Robert Clinton of 100 prominent leaders showed 4 types of finishes

- ❖ Cut-off early
- ❖ Finished poorly
- ❖ Finished “so-so”
- ❖ Finished well

# Finishing Types – Defined (1/2)

## ❖ Cut-off early

- Taken out of leadership
- E.g. Samson, Ahab, John the Baptist, Abimelech, Josiah
- Few were good leaders, but most have some were bad and had some tragic story that explains their finish

## ❖ Finishing poorly:

- Going downhill in later part of life
- Decline could be in relationship with God or competency, or both
- E.g. Gideon, Eli, Saul, Solomon
- Barely able to crawl across the finish line (or carried across)

# Finishing Types – Defined (2/2)

## ❖ Finishing “So-so”

- Did not do what they could/should have done
- Did not complete what God had for them to do
- E.g. David, Jehosophat, Hezekiah
- Pretty good guys...but had some negative ramifications (from their past) which lingered on even though they were walking with God

## ❖ Finished well:

- Walking with God personally at the end of their lives – strong in faith and close to the Lord
- E.g. Abraham, Job, Joseph, Joshua, Caleb, Samuel, Elijah, Jeremiah, Daniel, John, Paul, Peter
- Barely able to crawl across the finish line (or carried across)

# Ambushes

“The bottom line in determining how a man will finish centres around getting through the ambushes...to finish strong means that you survived the ambushes”

❖ Key is to “anticipate the ambushes”

- ✓ Ambush of another women
- ✓ Ambush of money
- ✓ Ambush of a neglected family

# The Ambush of Another Woman (1/2)

*Research by Dr. Howard Hendricks – 246 men in full-time ministry who experienced moral failure over a 2-year period*

- ❖ None was involved in any kind of personal accountability group
- ❖ Each had ceased to invest in daily personal time of prayer, scripture reading and worship
- ❖ Over 80% became involved with another woman via counseling the woman
- ❖ All 246 men were convinced that moral failure “will never happen to me”

# The Ambush of Another Woman (2/2)

*Are you high or low risk? Answer the following questions*

- ❖ Do you spend personal time with the Lord in prayer and reading scripture at least 3 times a week?
- ❖ Are there at least one or two men in your life who you have built a friendship based on trust, confidentiality and accountability?
- ❖ Are you currently spending significant time with any attractive woman that is not your wife?
- ❖ Are you absolutely sure you will finish strong?

## Grade yourself:

1 wrong answer (**at risk**); 2 wrong answers (**moderate risk**); 3 wrong answers (**bad risk**); 4 wrong answers (**dead meat**)



# The Ambush of Money

*The ambush of money often starts small – with “creative financing or accounting”*

- ❖ Are you straight with people when it comes to money?
- ❖ Are you falsifying loan applications or tax returns or your financial statements?
- ❖ Have you misled someone recently in order to profit financially?

“If you make money your god, it will plague you like the devil”- Henry Fielding

# The Ambush of Neglected Family (1/2)

***1 Cor 9:5* “Have we not power to lead about a sister, a wife, as well as other apostles, and as the brethren of the Lord, and Cephas?”**

- ❖ “Better to face the adversity together as a family than to neglect one another through a distorted understanding of Christ’s demands on one’s family”
- ❖ “What shall it profit a man if he should win the whole world and lose his own family”
- ❖ “Does Christ give a man a wife and children and then ask him to willfully neglect them?”
  - ❖ Luke 14:26 – If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple
  - ❖ Intent – Our children, wives cannot be our gods. Only God can be our God

# The Ambush of Neglected Family (2/2) – Some counsel

- ❖ It is every believer's job to make disciples (Mat 28:18-20)...but the Great Commission must start from our homes
- ❖ A man is only to be given a public ministry after he has first proven his leadership abilities with his own family (1 Tim 3:4-5)
- ❖ The core qualification for holding a public office is not giftedness but proven character (forged at home)
- ❖ Don't be intimidated by the "stupid" expectations of your job of the Church. Life with your children is too short – your opportunity to mold and shape their lives will be gone forever. They don't need more things. They need you!!!
- ❖ The more time you spend with your children, the more they want to be like you and know the heavenly Father who made you such a great dad. That's how you lead your children to Christ.

