A Few Related Thoughts…

3:10 to Yuma

“When I was a child, I used to talk as a child, think as a child, reason as a child; when I became a man, I put aside childish things.”

—St. Paul (1 Corinthians 13:11)

“I do not think that I have any right to pray for exemption from physical harm in the discharge of my duty… but only [for] protection from moral wrong that I may always be prepared to die, come what may.”

—Maryland Confederate soldier

in a letter to his mother, U.S. Civil War[[1]](#footnote-1)

“It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.”

—St. Paul (Galatians 2:20)

“He must increase, as I must decrease.”

—John the Baptist (John 3:30)

“Those who say that we're in a time when there are no heroes, they just don't know where to look.”

—President Ronald Reagan

1st Inaugural Address, Jan. 20, 1981

“The world admires only spectacular sacrifice, because it does not realize the value of sacrifice that is hidden and silent.”

“Through his annihilation, through his simplicity and obedience, by divinizing the everyday, common life of men, the Son of God conquered.”

—St. Josemaría Escrivá, ***The Way***, #185;

***Christ is Passing By***, #21

“True heroism is remarkably sober, very undramatic. It is not the urge to surpass all others at whatever cost, but the urge to serve others at whatever cost.”

—Arthur Ashe

Presidential Medal

of Freedom Recipient

“After all, what are the few short years we might have lived in the enjoyment of each others’ friendship compared to that Eternity we shall spend together beyond the grave?”

—18th Missouri Regiment soldier

in a letter to his wife, U.S. Civil War[[2]](#footnote-2)

“Though we may fear the test, at the same time we yearn to be tested, to discover that we have what it takes… A man must *know* he is powerful; he must *know* he has what it takes.

If we believe that man is made in the image of God, then we would do well to remember that ‘the Lord is a warrior; the Lord is his name’ (Exodus 15:3)… Like it or not, there is something fierce in the heart of every man.

Masculinity is *bestowed*. A boy learns who he is and what he’s got from a man, or the company of men. … He cannot learn it from other boys, and he cannot learn it from the world of women. The plan from the beginning of time was that his father would lay the foundation for a young boy’s heart, and pass on to him that essential knowledge and confidence in his strength. Dad would be the first man in his life, and forever the most important man.

Where does a man go to learn… his true name, a name that can never be taken from him? That deep heart knowledge comes only through a process of initiation. You have to know where you’ve come from; you have to have faced a series of trials that test you; you have to have taken a journey; and you have to have faced your enemy… Where do we go? To whom can we turn? To a most surprising source. ‘God alone. For no one but God sees what the man is.’

—John Eldredge, ***Wild at Heart*** (12; 21-22; 102-03)

“Safe? Who said anything about being safe? ‘Course he isn’t safe. But he’s good.”

—C.S. Lewis

“Many who would willingly let themselves be nailed to a Cross before the astonished gaze of a thousand onlookers cannot bear with a Christian spirit the pinpricks of each day! Think, then, which is the more heroic.”

—St. Josemaría Escrivá, ***The Way***, #204

“Outside of war or some physical threat to our safety (as in our poorest city neighborhoods), physical courage isn’t often needed in civilized society. But moral courage certainly is. Living a moral life means taking risks and grappling with hardship—including the problem of looking different from our peers… Personal courage, enhanced by sound judgement, means coming to terms with a fact of reality: life brings hardships, and many of these are unavoidable, even insoluble.”

—James B. Stenson, ***To Be a Man*** (20)

“In the world you have tribulation; but be of good cheer—I have overcome the world.”

—Christ (John 16:33)

“For to me, to live is Christ; and to die is gain.”

—St. Paul (Philippians 1:21)

# For further reading…

—“Christ Triumphs through Humility”, in ***Christ is Passing By*** by St. Josemaría Escrivá (New York: Scepter, 1974),

—“The Wound”, Ch. 4 in ***Wild at Heart*** by John Eldredge, (Nashville: Nelson, 2001).

1. Robert Lemmon, quoted in James M. McPherson, ***For Cause & Comrades: Why Men Fought in the Civil War***, 68. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Pvt. Benjamin Guffey, quoted in McPherson, 70. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)