



Happy Father's Day!

"I wanna ride right in and save the day. I wanna be strong. I wanna be John Wayne." – Phil Vasser

"Some time later Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us go back and visit the believers in all the towns where we preached the word of the Lord and see how they are doing."³⁷ Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them,³⁸ but Paul did not think it wise to take him, because he had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work.³⁹ They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company. Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus,⁴⁰ but Paul chose Silas and left, commended by the believers to the grace of the Lord.⁴¹ He went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches."

- Acts 15:36-41(NIV)

1. **Strong Conflict** (Acts 15:36-39)
[paroxysmos] - "stirred anger"
2. **Strong Advocate** (Acts 15:39 -41)

"Paul came to Derbe and then to Lystra, where a disciple named Timothy lived, whose mother was Jewish and a believer but whose father was a Greek.² The believers at Lystra and Iconium spoke well of him.³ Paul wanted to take him along on the journey, so he circumcised him because of the Jews who lived in that area, for they all knew that his father was a Greek.⁴ As they traveled from town to town, they delivered the decisions reached by the apostles and elders in Jerusalem for the people to obey.⁵ So the churches were strengthened in the faith and grew daily in numbers."

- Acts 16:1-5(NIV)

3. **Strong Sacrifice** (Acts 16:1-4)

Better Days Series / week 6

Pastor Scott Stevens

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4. **Strong Legacy** (Acts 16:5)

- Who your father is matters.

*³Children are a heritage from the Lord,
Offspring a reward from him*

*⁴Like arrows in the hands of a warrior
Are children born in one's youth*

⁵Blessed is the man

Whose quiver is full of them."

- Psalm 127:3-7 (NIV)

Small Group Questions

1. Who is your favorite "tough guy" actor and why?
2. Conflict is unavoidable; escalation of conflict to irreparable harm is avoidable. Thoughts on that statement?
3. If you have children what was your most recent conflict? Did it escalate?
4. Who has been an advocate for you in life?
5. What sacrifices have you made recently for the advancement of the Gospel? If the answer is somewhat "weak," what could you do in the coming months?
6. What is one positive character trait you received from your father that you would like to pass onto the next generation? If you have children, how would you hope they would answer that question?