



Here are two sermon outlines intended for use in a Sunday morning setting to encourage men to start groups and study the book *No Matter the Cost*. These are merely bones; you need to add meat as needed (personal illustrations, additional verses, etc.).

Outline #1

Introduction –

*This is a sermon for the barely brave
who've lived long enough to know
the texture of pain,
the smell of defeat,
the sound of loneliness,
the sight of betrayal,
and the taste of discouragement.
This is a sermon for broken men
who've come to their senses
and are limping toward home,
refusing to give up no matter the cost.*

- I. **A Tale of Two Brothers** – Tell opening story of George and Harry Bailey and ask: which one are you? Instead of some epic struggle, do you feel like you're just fighting the Battle of Bedford Falls? Are you all alone, exhausted, weary, bone-tired, questioning your worth, feeling much more dead than alive?

- II. **The Purpose of Our True Brother** - Read John 10.10 – “My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.” (NLT) So is Jesus just spouting super-spiritual language, pulling our legs? Or are His words just a reality for someday in the heavenly

future but not in the earthly right now? What comes to mind when you hear the words “rich” and “satisfying”?

- III. **The Cost** - “Rich” and “satisfying” does not mean “easy” or “free.” None of the great heroes whose stories are told throughout Scripture, those who accepted Christ’s call to true discipleship, had an easy life with no scars (Paul: “For I bear on my body the scars that show I belong to Jesus” – Gal. 6:17 NLT). The gift of salvation is free (read John 3:16) – but to answer the call to be a true disciple, a saint, one who may be used by God to overcome evil – that comes at a cost – (read Luke 14:28; 33 NLT). What does that mean for Christians today? What is the cost? Is Jesus asking for such followers for such a time as this?
- IV. **The Rewards** - What if, contrary to the famous line of a wildly successful book, it is about you? Maybe not all about you, but at least a little about you, and me? Can you believe that? If not, why not? Know this – You’re not expendable or replaceable. Your life matters to God and it matters to others. And the rewards? Do you want to live out the purpose for which you were created? Do you want an eternity filled with no regrets? Do you want a cloud of witnesses cheering you on?

Conclusion –

One last thing, there will be scars if your desire is to become more like Christ...John 20:27 [He showed them His scars]...but the scars will mean something; they will not be in vain; they will be scars you can tell stories about.

Outline #2

Introduction –

Read “A Brother’s Story” - pp.31-32

- I. Over ten years ago John Eldredge wrote in *Wild At Heart* “Most messages for men ultimately fail. The reason is simple: They ignore what is deep and true to a man’s heart.” He also wrote:

“Don't even think about going into battle alone.” Ask the question – why do we try and go it alone? Why does God use broken men for such epic purposes? Why do we need each other for a mission as big as “overcoming evil”? (read Rev. 12:11)

- II. Read the poem “Broke” – p.35. Share scriptural and personal examples of the benefit of “us” versus “me.” (the Lord’s Prayer, etc.)
- III. What are some ways to live out true brotherhood? (e.g. no secrets, fighting for each others’ stories/songs – reference to the story of Jonathan and David)
- IV. If you had to choose a passage of Scripture to rouse the men to battle, what would you choose? (ask for some options) Does the Lord’s Prayer rank high on your list of inspirational verses? What if these twelve lines are much more than we’ve thought? What if they’re a topographical map of The Last Battle? What if the Lord’s Prayer tells us what it looks like to be a saint?

Conclusion –

Tell story found on pp.38-39 and expand of the theme of “so close”...concluding with a challenge to the men to commit to six-weeks and read/study through *No Matter the Cost* with a small band of men.