

THE EPIC LIFE – BOB HALLMAN

Duct Tape Dads: Holding Fast in a Loose World

Deuteronomy 10:12-22

Introduction

Jesus would often use objects to get His truth into the hearts and minds of people, so they would remember it easily for long time and get the point. Fish, nets, fishing, bread, water, rivers, trees, fruit, vineyards, wooden board/pole, shepherd/sheep, etc.
So today I'm using duct tape to illustrate some important spiritual truths to help us be successful dads.

Humor:

It's been said that a guy only needs two tools in life: WD-40 to make things go, and duct tape to make them stop.

Duct tape is like the force, it has a light side and a dark side and it holds the universe together – everything from our car's dangling side-view mirror to making our slippers last just a little longer!

History of Duct Tape:

During World War II, the U.S. military needed a strong, waterproof tape to help keep ammunition cases dry. By modifying medical tape, researchers at Johnson & Johnson came up with a three-ply tape that sandwiched a fabric mesh between a layer of polyethylene on top and a rubber-based adhesive on the bottom. Their tape performed beyond people's expectations. It was extremely strong, yet allowed soldiers to tear it easily into strips. Its ability to repel water inspired people to call it *duck tape* because it reminded them of a waterfowl's waxy feathers. Among countless applications, soldiers used it to mend boots, patch holes in tents, and strap equipment to jeeps and tanks.

Following the war, the housing industry took off, as soldiers returned home and took construction jobs. They remembered the effective, strong tape from their military days and recommended it to heating, ventilating and air-conditioning contractors, who needed something to hold ductwork together. It wasn't long before manufacturers started making the tape with a silver-colored polyethylene top so it matched the aluminum ducts and *duck* tape became *duct* tape. And now, duct tape can be found in every household!

Five lessons from “Duct Tape” on being a great Dad:

I Stick To The Main Thing

A. *Hold fast to* **God**

Hold fast = Dabaq = “To adhere or cleave to”

Gen 2:24 “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be **united** to his

wife, and they will become one flesh.”

Deut 10:20 “Fear the Lord your God and serve him. **Hold fast** to him and take your oaths in his name. He is your praise; he is your God.”

B. *Hold fast to the Word*

Ps 119:31 “I **hold fast** [Dabaq] to your statutes, O Lord ...”

Josh 22:4-5 “Now that the Lord your God has given your brothers rest as he promised, return to your homes in the land that Moses the servant of the Lord gave you on the other side of the Jordan. But be very careful to keep the commandment and the law that Moses the servant of the Lord gave you: to love the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to obey his commands, to **hold fast** to him and to serve him with all your heart and all your soul.”

C. *Hold fast to your calling:*

Quote: “Promises are like babies: easy to make, hard to deliver.” (*Unknown Author*)

1. Your **spouse**

Eph 5:25-28 “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.”

2. Your family

Deut 6:4-9 “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.”

Eph 6:4 “Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.”

Prov 22:6 “Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.”

3. Your **ministry**

What is it that God has called you to do?

a. Jesus completed his calling:

John 17:4 “**I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do.**”

b. Paul completed his calling

Acts 20:24 “However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me -- the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace.

c. We are to complete our calling

1 Cor 9:24-25 “Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.

II Hold It Together

1 Tim 4:12 “Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.”

A. Be an example of **faith**:

1. Strong

Old Testament = Chazaq = “To fasten upon, seize or cleave”

New Testament = Krataioo = “To be empowered or strengthened”

Ps 27:14 “Wait for the Lord; **be strong** and take heart and wait for the Lord.”

1 Cor 16:13 “Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; **be strong**. Do everything in love.”

2. Courageous

Josh 1:6-9 “Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their forefathers to give them. Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”

3. Persevering: “Hupomone” and “Prokope”

In the realm of ideas everything depends on enthusiasm... in the real world all rests on perseverance.

Hupomone: “To cheerfully stand firm under pressure”

Heb 12:1 “Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance [Hupomone] the race marked out for us.”

James 1:2-4 “Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops **perseverance**. **Perseverance** must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.”

Prokope: “To beat the breast in grief and advance anyway”

“To advance despite stiff opposition”

Phil 1:12 “Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance [Prokope] the gospel.”

Phil 1:25 “Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith ...”

Application: “90% of life is just showing up – Woody Allen
(Medium. <https://sfaldin.medium.com/what-woody-allens-showing-up-quote-really-means-ee743f0adb3b>)

B. Be an example of **hope**

Heb 11:1 “Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.”

1. Your legacy: What earthly legacy are you leaving behind?

2. Your destiny: What heavenly destiny are you preparing for?

Rom 5:2-5 “And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.”

C. Be an example of **love**:

1. Love for God

2. Love for others

Mark 12:30-31 “**Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.** The second is this: **'Love your neighbor as yourself.'** There is no commandment greater than these.”

C.S. Lewis: “Christian love, either towards God or towards man, is an affair of the will.” (Lindsey, Arthur W. (2012/9/12). *C.S. Lewis on Love*. C.S. Lewis Institute. <https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/resources/c-s-lewis-on-love/>)

III Be Strong Yet Flexible

Meekness = “Strength under control”

A. In your **leadership**:

1. With your wife

Eph 5:25 “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ...”

Col 3:19 “Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.”

1 Peter 3:7 “Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.”

2. With your children

Eph 6:4 “Fathers, do not exasperate your children ...”

Col 3:21 “Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.”

a. Here are a few helpful questions to ask yourself:

- Do your kids and wife see you as a source of strength? Are you strong yet flexible to do the wisest thing under a shifting set of circumstances? Do you keep major and minor things separate or do you have them mixed?
- Do you show self-control, even when you are stressed or angry? Do you have safe outlets in place to release it?
- Do you refuse to change just in order to prove a useless point? Or are you confident and secure enough in yourself that you can be flexible in areas that can be flexible?

b. Helpful things I remind myself of:

- a. “Is this a hill you want to die on?”
- b. “Say “Yes” as often as possible!”
- c. “Do I care more about “stuff” than people?”

3. With others

Col 3:12-14 “Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.”

B. In your planning

Prov 16:9 “In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps.

C. In your **implementation**

1 Cor 9:22 “I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some.”

IV Avoid Exposure to Damaging Elements

While duct tape is strong, it is not without its weaknesses!

Exposure to sun, moisture, solvents, etc. can undermine and cause it to lose its adhesive strength!

In the same way, we have to avoid exposing ourselves to elements that are damaging to

our health, integrity, reputation, our character, our walk with Christ and our relationship with our wife and kids.

A. Be on guard against the **world**

Something has gone very wrong with the American experiment:

1. Our families are imploding!
2. Our national debt is exploding -- we are on an unsustainable trajectory and need to change course!
3. We are experiencing an epic failure at nearly every level of American society!

1 John 2:15-17 “Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world -- the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does -- comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.”

B. Be on guard against your flesh

2 Tim 2:22 “Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.”

C. Be on guard against the **devil**

1 Peter 5:8-9 “Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.”

V Remember: You’re Not the Permanent Solution

Duct tape can fix practically anything, but even under the best of circumstances, it is only temporary! Unless you aren’t planning to keep it, you will eventually have to find a permanent solution!

Moral of the story: The real problems you have in life won’t ever be fixed with Duct Tape!

A. Be strong in the **Lord**

Eph 6:10 “Finally, be strong in the Lord ...”

1. Strong in your knowledge of God - Col 1:9
2. Strong in your obedience to His Word - Jn 14:21
3. Strong in your modeling of Christ - 1 Cor 11:21

B. Be strong in His mighty power

God is not looking for strong men, he is looking for men through whom He can show Himself strong!

Eph 6:10-18 “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our

struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.”

Jer 9:23-24 “This is what the Lord says: "Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom or the strong man boast of his strength or the rich man boast of his riches, but let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight," declares the Lord.”

2 Cor 12:9-10 “But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”

C. Be strong in **grace**

2 Tim 2:1-2 “You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.”

Quote: “I once heard a preacher put it this way, “Whatever I have, wherever I am, I can make it through anything in the One who makes me who I am.”
(Peterson, Eugene. *The Message*. Php 4:13).

That’s what it means to be strong in grace. It is experiencing the empowering presence of God enabling us to be who God created us to be, and to do what God has called us to do – right where we are! And then to teach the next generation to do the same!

Conclusion

Invitation:

1. To receive Christ
2. To rededicate your life to Christ
3. To rededicate your fatherhood to the leadership of God & His Word

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