

Sons of Katie Elder

All right, I admit it. I've always been a John Wayne fan. He was the prototype of the tough American hero, especially along the Western frontier. His movies were always dramatic, filled with action and left viewers with the feeling that good had triumphed over evil.

In *The Sons of Katie Elder* (1965) – starring Wayne, Dean Martin, Martha Hyer, Earl Holliman and Jeremy Slate – three wandering sons return home to attend the funeral of their mother, Katie Elder, who has been murdered. The brothers then set their sights on the man responsible for her death, as well as for the death of their father, who was killed six months earlier. They receive help from a fourth brother, who has remained at home.

Getting revenge, however, won't be easy because the culprit, who has also gained possession of the family's ranch, will do anything to stop them – including hiring an assassin to kill the oldest brother, John

This picture marked the return of John Wayne to work after having a cancerous lung removed nearly 18 months before. He insisted on doing all his own stunts to show the public that the illness had not slowed him down.

In the movie, each of Katie Elder's sons had different strengths and weaknesses that shaped how they acted, but the strongest factor in each of their lives was whom they were. They were the sons of Katie Elder, and they sought to honor her with their actions.

As believers, we are “the sons (or daughters) of God.” We are all different in our strengths and weaknesses, but the overriding, controlling factor in our lives must be whom we are. As “sons of God,” we must seek to honor Him with our lives.

In the centers of Life Care and American Lifestyles, and in the work of Life Care at Home, our associates do just that – we honor God with our lives by serving His children.

--Beecher Hunter