

THE MODEL FATHER

Pastor Richard's Notes
Father's Day June 16, 2024

It's Father's Day and this morning I want to speak to and about fathers. We are not all fathers, but we all have (or have had) fathers. When you talk to people about their fathers you get all kinds of answers: Father's are like a box of chocolate: You never know what you are going to get!

First of all, let me speak to those of you who are fathers:

I don't know any fathers who are completely satisfied with their fathering:

- You may have some disappointments in yourself, or in your kids, But I know that the Lord wants to bring about restoration and healing.
- If you have grown children now, It's never too late to be a impactful father.

The last verse in the Old Testament is a prophetic verse about what God desires of to do in families

"I will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the hearts of the children to their fathers." Mal 4:6 (KJV "Restore the hearts")

Consider this for a moment: Obviously there is a situation here, where the hearts of the fathers had been turned away from their children. Their hearts are focused on other things.

4 weeks ago we spoke about modern day idols

1 John 5:21

"Dear children, keep away from anything that might take God's place in your hearts"

We can certainly apply this to our Fatherhood

"Dear Fathers, Guard your heart and keep away from anything that might take your child's place in your heart..."

Keep away from anything or anyone that would distract you or take priority over your devotion to your family

1 in 4 children in America are living in a home without their father.

That's one statistic,

But the statistic we don't have is how many kids are living in a home, with a dad whose heart is not in loving and parenting his children? A dad whose heart is elsewhere.

Family researcher, David Walsh, says: "Merely being physically present at home is not enough, data suggests that even for children with a father present in the home, the average school-age child spends less than minutes per week in one-on-one conversations with their father.

For comparison, that same child, on average, will spend 40 – 50 hours per week watching television, playing video games, and surfing the internet

God says:

I will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children

And I will turn the hearts of the children to their fathers

As men we need to grab ahold of this promise

Because only God can do what needs to be done here.

When He turns our heart

The problem begins to take care of itself
love, acceptance and forgiveness begin to flow

I love the example of Jairus: AN EXAMPLE OF A COMMITTED FATHER

Mark 5:22-24

- 22 Then one of the synagogue rulers, named Jairus, came. Seeing Jesus, he fell at his feet
- 23 and pleaded earnestly with him, "My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live."
- 24 So Jesus went with him.

WHAT DOES THIS PASSAGE TELL US ABOUT JARIUS

1. He took personal responsibility for His daughter
 - a. He didn't send his wife or a servant
 - b. He personally took charge of the family crisis
 - c. So many of today's males avoid responsibility like the plague....A wholehearted Dad looks responsibility in the eye and says "This is what life is all about, bring it on"
2. He was willing to sacrifice His pride for his daughter
Though he was a prominent synagogue leader: "He fell at the feet of Jesus in front of everyone and pleaded with Him
3. This man loved his daughter more than himself
4. He was not ashamed to bring Jesus into his home
5. He was a man of faith and prayer
 - a. In front of everyone, he declared his faith
 - b. "come and put your hands on her and she will be healed"

Now, like many of you, I left my childhood with **Father Issues**: And I came to know and understand that Only God could heal me of these issues.

Not only did God say: I will turn the hearts of the Fathers to their children, he said I WILL TURN THE HEARTS OF THE CHILDREN TO THEIR FATHERS

Up until I met the Lord, I had made it a practice to avoid my father. My thoughts were: There's no sense trying to talk to him, he's a stone wall

But there came a day when God spoke to me in a very strong and direct way and said: It was one of those "Read my lips moments" And God said: "I am going to make you a son to your father, though he was never a functioning father to you."

So after that, I began to follow him around in his garden or in his garage trying to break through the barrier....

As we celebrate Father's Day and Fatherhood this morning, I don't want to focus on the negative.

Rather I would like us focus on the ultimate role model and to model our parenting after Him.

The ultimate role model is our Heavenly Father.

Not only is God the ultimate Father

He has provided all that we need to heal us from the effects of Ineffective and even abusive fatherhood in our lives

The heart of our Heavenly Father is revealed so clearly in Ephesians 1 and the model for our parenting is clearly seen here.

EPHESIANS 1:2-12

- 2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 3 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ,
- 4 just as He (*God the Father*) chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love
- 5 He (*God the Father*) predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,
- 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He (*God the Father*) freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.
- 7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace
- 8 which He lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight
- 9 He (*God the Father*) made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him
- 10 with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, *that is*, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. In Him
- 11 also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will,
- 12 to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory.

GOD: THE MODEL FATHER

The first thing is: Grace

1. GRACE: The model father has grace for his kids (*Verse 2,6 & 7*)
 - *Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*
 - *to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.*
 - *according to the riches of His grace which He lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight*

He freely bestowed grace upon us, He lavished grace on us

Graceless parenting is a huge problem in our culture

Parents without grace for their own kids

Parenting is a daunting task

And the older they get the more grace is needed

Grace is an essential ingredient to success

Titus 2:11-12

- 11 For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people.
12 It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age

Grace teaches us to say “No” to our busy schedule
To our temper, To our self-centeredness, to our own priorities, to our flesh

And enables us to give our best to our wife and kids

Almost every dad tells himself: I will never neglect my kids like my dad neglected me, but, without grace, we repeat the patterns of our upbringing or we go to opposite extremes:

He was harsh, I am permissive.....
He was never involved, I am over involved

Children grow up without a relationship with Dad and mom Because they have no grace,
No tolerance, No Patience, no softness, Mercy, No understanding

So many of us here today were injured by this kind of model. It has affected our relationship to all authority figures. And Our relationship with God - We need healing

An invitation from God

Hebrews 4:16 “Come boldly before the throne of grace to receive mercy and grace to help you in time of need”

The grace you need for parenting

The second thing is Blessing:

2. BLESSING: The model Father blesses his children

Verse 3-Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing

Every chance He gets, he blesses us...

The Blessing of the Father...Such an important thing in Hebrew tradition

Genesis 12

God takes a man named Father (Abram) Awb = Father
And makes him Abraham = The Father of a multitude

He tells him: “Through you I will bless all the families of the earth...”

God had found a channel for the chief desire of His heart..

What was His chief desire?

To Bless all the Families of the Earth

So many of us were left struggling for approval because of the inability of our parents to bless us through Affirmation and encouragement and love

The third thing is:

3. CHOOSING YOUR CHILDREN:

The Model Father Chooses his own children
He chose to have children.....

VERSE 4: just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world

Now you might say: You can't choose your own children???

God chose us: He wanted us in His life -- You were not a mistake

A model Father will choose his children above all other distractions:

Your children want you MORE THAN STUFF...

It's all about time...

If you give them time... You are choosing them

If you make them a priority you are choosing them

So many dads absentmindedly send another message

And they have so many regrets later on

So many of us are injured because of this one thing and need healing

A vast number of girls grow up feeling like dad doesn't love them, because dad doesn't spend time with them

He is awkward around them: Press through this.

The forth thing is:

4. CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT:

Verse 4 that we would be holy and blameless before Him.

A model dad is devoted to the character development of his Kids

So many dads run from this: Leave it to mom

Are absent from the process of training and discipline

One of the foundational problems in our world...

The 5th thing is

5. DESTINY: A model dad is part of the destiny of his kids

Verse 5: He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will

He had our destiny in His mind

He took an active part the fulfillment of our destiny

"Sets his will to help us get there"

Each Your kids has a destiny

A part of your destiny is to help them find it, understand it and fulfill it

The 6th thing is

6. SACRIFICE: A model dad lays down his life for his kids

Verse 7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses

He gave his own life to see to it that we were not left in our own sin, willing to do everything to reconcile us to God

The 7th thing is teacher:

7. TEACHER: A model dad teaches his kids about life

Verse 9: He made known to us the mystery of His will,

Life is full of questions: Mysteries

A good dad is a teacher -- The mysteries of God's will

This is especially important when there are young and think you have all the answers

If you don't take an active interest in answering your kid's questions they will stop asking you and take their questions elsewhere

The final thing is Inheritance

8. INHERITANCE:

The model Dad leaves an inheritance, a lasting legacy

Verse 11 also we have obtained an inheritance

So many dads today are giving no thought to the future of their families. Running around in their motor home with a bumper sticker that says: I'm spending my children's inheritance:

A Godly Father asks himself: "What can I give to my kids and grandkids and great grand kids that will enrich their lives

In so doing he endears himself to God
He becomes godly....Like God in his passions

I want my kids to inherit good things from me

I WANT TO CLOSE BY GOING TO

Mark 10:13-16

- 13 People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them.
- 14 When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.
- 15 Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."
- 16 And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them

Did you ever hear anyone say: "children need to be seen and not heard?"

My parent's generation was big on this And it left it's mark on us

Jesus' attitude was quite the contrary

"Children need to be seen and heard and blessed and loved and protected."

Jesus did 4 things that every dad should do:

1. HE REBUKED THE THINGS THAT WERE HINDERING THEM:

Don't be passive
There is a war on for the very life of your child
Influences, peer pressure, teachers, tv, internet
You are the counterbalance

2. HE LIFTED THEM IN HIS ARMS

Do you think this ends when your kids get over 100 pounds?
Jesus: used His strength to lift them up

I will always use my strength to lift you up, never to hurt you

The Blessing of a parent is: "I will always be there to lift you up. A lifelong intercessor: I will never quit lifting you up

And then I will be there to lift up your kids and their kids "I will never leave you or forsake you" Never cut you off.

3. HE BLESSED THEM

A child's greatest need – every child needs to know the blessing. Give them affirmation and approval

Bless them whenever we can.
You may not think your words are very important
You may not think they appreciate it
They may tell you, you are cheesy
But continue to bless them

Finally:

4. HE LAYED HANDS ON THEM (TOUCH THEM)

Physical Affection
Physical Touch
The one's who don't like it need it the most
When we quit touching something is lost
Let's get back to it

When Jesus healed he touched
Even lepers, who no one touched

LAST THING I'LL SAY

The Need for blessing never goes away

Genesis 27:38 Speaks about how Esau lost his fathers blessing, because of the choices he made:

"Esau said to his father, "Have you only one blessing, father? Bless me also, father!" And Esau lifted his voice and wept."

Here is a grown man weeping over the blessing he never received.

This Became a lifelong obsession with him
I was robbed!

This is how many of us are today.

Still longing for a blessing
That we never received

God wants to give you that blessing today
“This is my beloved son/daughter
In whom I am well pleased.

THIS MORNING I WANT TO

Pray for those who realize that many of your present problems are the result of the blessings and affirmations you never received in your life.

God wants to step into that gap
He wants to be your “Heavenly Father”
In a very practical way.

If you are a man...Don't blow this off
Don't be too proud to ask God to come near and affirm you and bless you and touch you