

Message preached on Father's Day, June 16, 2024

It is amazing how accurate the Bible is...prophetically, medically, financially, etc.

IN THIS DAY one of the greatest of neglect in the world is the areas of fathers. A famine of fathering! Missing fathers. Lazy fathers.

We've even seen a de-masculinity of men/fathers...afraid to be what God created us to be.

Malachi 4:5,6

- 5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD:
- 6 And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

NOTICE: In the end times...there will be a coming back of fathers...fathers becoming fathers again.

I've been really hearing this in my spirit the past couples weeks...

My original plan was to minister on healing again today, but I kept hearing God speak to me about fathers.

- * How important fathers are.
- * How essential it is for men to pick up their responsibilities.
- * If a child comes to Christ first 3.5% of families will follow
- * If mom comes to Christ first 17% of families will follow
- * If dad comes to Christ first 93% of families will follow.

It is amazing how we live in a day where even if dads are in the picture...they defer to the mom in going to church, giving, and even raising the children.

- **ESSENTIAL:** I am not neglecting moms...I am simply saying that moms are to do the work of moms and dads the works of dads...the family is not complete until that happens.
- <u>Matthew 3:17</u> (baptism) "And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."
- <u>Matthew 17:5</u> (transfiguration) "While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and be hold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him."
- I think this is the desire of every dad (and mom), that you will be pleased with your children. Make us happy.

"well pleased" - take pleasure in greatly

ILLUSTRATION: Ryne in eighth grade state football game...coming in at quarterback as time was expiring and throwing a touchdown. We had obnoxious visiting parents next to us the whole game and when he threw that perfect pass, I stood up and yelled (in their general vicinity), "That's MY BOY!"

I was pleased, to say the least.

- **HOWEVER:** As much as I like when people talk about my kids athletic exploits, the best feeling is when they look at me as tell me "they are just really good kids!" That is very pleasing!
- **IMPORTANT:** If we are going to raise kids who are pleasing to us...we need dads to stand up and be dads. To raise them the way the Word says to raise them...

As I was meditating on this topic of fathers...a phrase came to me: "my son".

In the Bible...men of God...fathers being who God created them to be often were recorded, by God, giving their son's directions and would start with MY SON!

There are several...but three of them stuck out at me and I want to take a look at them today. **POINT BEING?** These are responsibilities of fathers. Yes, mother's too...but it is Father's Day, so...

1.) God will provide.

Genesis 22:1-8

- 7 And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?
- 8 And Abraham said, *My son, God will provide himself* a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.

(discuss the confusion of Isaac...honest question...quick answer)

We know that Abraham had spent 25 years believing for Isaac. Abraham knew God and God knew Abraham...and Abraham had seen God provide Isaac in impossible circumstances.

Two things we learn from the Bible:

- a.) Abraham had already killed Isaac in his heart...it was done.
- b.) Abraham had already received Isaac back to life again...it was done. Hebrews 11:19

This HONEST question...Abraham didn't say, "Well you never know." He had walked it out...trusted God...tested God...believed God...and knew what God would do.

- * We don't give...because we don't know what God will do.
- * We don't tithe...because we don't know what God will do.
- * We don't go to church...because we don't know what God will do.
- * We don't obey...because we don't know what God will do.

BELOVED: If we are going to teach our children that GOD will provide, we must be doing things and working our faith, so that we have the testimony of God providing.

We must be living in faith in front of them.

Show them how to sow seed...show them how to tithe...show them how God provides.

<u>Psalm 112:2</u> – "His seed shall be mighty upon earth: the generation of the upright shall be blessed." Our kids are blessed...but WE MUST do our jobs!

2.) Know God, Serve Him, Perfect Heart, Willing Mind.

David has just spoken to Israel and placed Solomon has the next king. **THEN he** turns to Solomon and gives him this charge.

<u>1 Chronicles 28:9</u> – "And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever."

You may think...well by this time it is later in life.

BELOVED: This is not the first time David would have taught this to Solomon. This was another reminder as David was preparing to die.

Four things he was reminded to do:

- * Known God
- * Serve God
- * Perfect Heart (whole heart, complete heart) Passionate and Integrity
- Willing Mind.
 Don't be forced to do it...be willing! A willing obeyer, a willing giver, a willing attender.

Don't just tell them...show them how to do it.

- <u>Ephesians 6:4</u> "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."
- **NOTE:** We have tried to take that first part seriously and NOT PROVOKE our kids, so we let them stay at home if they don't want to come to church. We let them go with friends, that we know better than letting them, if they want to go.

HOWEVER: It does not end there.

RAISING them in the nurture (instruction, correction, discipline) and admonition (mild rebuke or warning) OF THE LORD.

Dad's we are suppose to be in contact with God...

- * We must know Him
- * We must serve Him
- * We must have a heart of integrity
- * We must have a willing mind...don't drag your feet.

Men of God create environments where their children can flourish. They foster growth in their children.

3.) Teach them the Word.

Proverbs 4:20-23

- 20 My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings.
- 21 Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart.
- For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.
- 23 Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.

OBVIOUSLY the first point is to teach them to obey dad.

"Listen to my words!" It always prolongs life.

HOWEVER: If you look through Scripture (even much of what we have said today), you will see the number one job of a parent (father) is to teach them what the Word of God says.

So, here it is actually dealing more with a father teaching his children about the Word...what it says...how it answers their questions...don't look away.

There are a lot of other voices they can listen to...but let them get well versed in what God says...why?

- a.) Health to their flesh.
- b.) Increases their boundaries of life.

Proverbs 13:1 (AMP) – "A WISE son heeds [and is the fruit of] his father's instruction and correction, but a scoffer listens not to rebuke."

ILLUSTRATION: My learning to shoot from my dad...I would not listen, it didn't make sense to me. I taught Ryne how to shoot...he listened to me, whether it made sense or not. One of us was an All State Basketball player and one of us played football! One of us broke records shooting the ball and one of us just broke backboards shooting the ball.

Conclusion

We need men of God. We need men of God doing what God said for them to do. Following the Word. Living the Word. Manifesting what the Word says are ours.