Fathers: The Good, The Bad, And The Godly

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday June 17th, 2018

Text: Prov. 1:8; 6:20

### Intro

1. The beginning of Father’s Day:
	1. The first Father's Day was observed in the State of Washington on June 19, 1910 at the urging of Sonora Smart Dodd from Spokane, WA to honor fathers as hers raised her when her mother died.
	2. In 1924, President Calvin Coolidge recognized Father's Day as the third Sunday in June of that year and encouraged states to do the same. Congress officially recognized Father's Day in 1956 with the passage of a joint resolution.
	3. In 1966, President Lyndon Johnson issued a proclamation recognizing the third Sunday in June as Father's Day. *(In 1972, President Richard Nixon permanently established it)*
	4. Sonora Smart Dodd lived to see her idea come to fruition. She died in 1978 at the ripe old age of 96. *(A Brief History of Father's Day by Andrew Hollandbeck)*
	5. Though this is a special one-time event each year, we all should honor our fathers on a daily basis – especially those who are pleasing to God.
2. Ps. 128: Blessed is a man whose faith is in God; blessed in his home and family!
3. Each Lord’s Day we gather together to remember the death of Jesus, the greatest sacrifice of all and learn how we can be better fathers, mothers and children.
4. As it is Father’s Day, let us look at fathers in light of how they responded to God’s word and their influence on their families! (As we did on Mother’s Day; Prov. 1:8; 6:20)
5. There are many lessons that we can learn from fathers – lessons that help us define love, duty, honor, bravery, courage and sacrifice, and examples that serve as warning of what not to do!
6. We will consider the examples of fathers in light of the good, the bad, and the godly!

#### The Good – Physical Well-being

* 1. Nobleman/Jairus – Jn. 4:46-54; Lk. 8:41-42, 49-56; Mk. 5:22-23, 35-43
		1. Similarities:
			1. Both sought Jesus to heal their children who were dying.
			2. Both wanted Jesus at their child’s bedside.
			3. Both men realized their positions (Jairus was an official of the synagogue), wealth, nobility, or leadership could not save their children.
		2. Differences:
			1. The nobleman’s ***son*** was ill; Jairus’ ***daughter*** was ill.
			2. Jesus did not go to the nobleman’s house (25 miles) but said, “Go; your son lives” – Nobleman did not witness the miracle, but was told about it later (John 4:51-53).
			3. The nobleman and his whole household became believers! (Jn. 4:53)
			4. Jesus went to the house of Jairus, even though He was told not to bother since Jairus’ daughter had died – Jairus witnessed the miracle (Lk. 8:51).
			5. Jairus and his wife were amazed (Lk. 8:56) and astounded (Mk. 5:42).
		3. *Both men were looking out for their children’s physical well-being!*
		4. Both men were loving fathers willing to do anything to save their children!
	2. Noteworthy Mentions:
		1. Abraham – *Gen. 24:1-15, 67:* After Sarah’s death *(Gen. 23),* Abraham sought for Isaac a wife from his relatives, not the Canaanites, and sent his trusted servant so that Isaac would not return to the place God called him from.
		2. Joseph – *Gen. 48:13-20:* Jacob blessed Manasseh and Ephraim, but crossed his hands to bless Ephraim (the younger) with the blessing of the first-born.
		3. Joseph didn’t understand and tried to get Manasseh his due by right of birth.
	3. To love and want the best for your children is a good trait for a father to possess!

#### The Bad – Ungodly Influences

* 1. Ahab – I Kings 16:33; 21:25
		1. I Kings 16:30-33: King Ahab of Israel married Jezebel and became an idolater!
		2. *I Kings 18:3-4:* Jezebel hunted down and killed the prophets of God. *Ahab didn’t restrain her – he was the king and her husband!*
		3. *I Kings 19:1-2:* After the false prophets were killed at Carmel, Jezebel threatened the life of Elijah! *Ahab didn’t restrain her – he was the king and her husband!*
		4. *I Kings 21:15-16:* After Jezebel orchestrated the death of Naboth *(21:5-15),* Ahab took possession of his ancestral vineyard.
		5. His and his wife’s ungodly influence over their family caused their deaths:
			1. *I Kings 22:51-53:* Ahaziah, their son, walked in all the evil of his father and mother and it caused his death *(II Kings 1:16-17).*
			2. *II Kings 9:22-24, 27:* Jehu killed Joram their son for his wickedness as well as Ahaziah their grandson (son of Athaliah and Jehoram of Judah).
			3. *II Chr. 22:3-5:* Athaliah, like her parents, was an evil influence on her son “to his destruction” (II Chr. 22:4, 7). She was so evil that after her son’s death she killed all but one of her grandchildren so she could be queen!
			4. *II Kings 10:1-11:* Jehu had Ahab’s remaining 70 sons killed, and “killed all who remained of the house of Ahab in Jezreel.”
		6. He was a father of evil influence and caused his family’s downfall!
	2. Dishonorable Mentions:
		1. Isaac/Jacob – *Gen. 25:28; 37:1-5:* Isaac and Rebekah showed favoritism and it tore their family apart. Jacob learned from them and showed favoritism as well, which also tore his family apart for many years! *Favoritism causes jealousy, anger, and hatred, and can tear a family apart!*
		2. Eli – *I Sam. 2:12-17, 22-25:* Eli, judge and priest of Israel, knew his sons were “worthless men” but “did not rebuke them (I Sam. 3:13). He is an example of failing to discipline/raise his children in the Lord!
	3. These fathers are examples of what NOT to do!

#### The Godly – Spiritual Well-being

* 1. Abraham – Gen. 18:16-19
		1. God said He had chosen Abraham because he would teach (“command”) “his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice.”
		2. What a compliment and commendation towards Abraham’s character!
		3. God chose him to be the father of a great nation *(Gen. 12:2)* because he would teach them about righteousness and justice! *Friend of God – Js. 2:23*
		4. *Abraham was a father concerned for the spiritual well-being of his family!*
		5. Abraham was a godly father and godly example to many! *(Gen. 24:10-15: His servant prayed to “the God of my master Abraham”) – John 15:14*
	2. Honorable Mentions:
		1. David – *I Kings 2:1-4; I Chr. 28:2-10, 20-21:* David was a “man after God’s own heart” *(I Sam. 13:14),* and he did all he could to ensure Solomon would walk faithfully in his footsteps! He left him words of encouragement, admonition, and warning, and above all told him to be faithful to God and he would be blessed!
		2. Solomon – *Prov. 1:1-9; Eccl. 12:10-14:* He, like David, left words of wisdom and godly encouragement to his son. Solomon laid out the clear duty of man: “Fear God and keep His commandments” for there is a day of “judgment” *(Eccl. 12:13-14).*
	3. Every child should be thankful and honored for fathers who have showed their love and duty for God first and for teaching God’s word to their family!

## Conclusion

1. In the home, godly fathers are needed to lead the family in the charge of God!
2. A godly father, along with his wife, will diligently train his children to know God.
	1. Prov. 1:8; 6:20: “Hear, my son, your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching.”
3. A godly father will not forsake his God-given role as teacher and disciplinarian of his children.
	1. Prov. 13:24; 22:15; 23:13-14; 29:15; Eph. 6:4: Discipline is for the child’s good, and is necessary to train them in proper way for them to go, in “the instruction of the Lord!”
4. A godly father should be a godly example for his children *(Read “Walk A Little Plainer, Daddy” by Forrest Flowers).*
	1. I Chr. 28:9, 20; Titus 2:2, 6-8; Col. 3:21: Our children ought to know the God we serve, “the God of their father,” and in everything we need to be a godly example!
5. God the Father is our supreme example of Fatherhood *(II Cor. 6:17-18)* and what fathers ought to be like!
	1. *Ps. 86:15; Rom. 9:22-24; II Pet. 3:9:* Compassionate, Patient, and merciful!
	2. *Lk. 11:9-13; Js. 1:17:* He provides all blessings, and everything good is from Him!
	3. *Jn. 3:16-17:* God, the Father, gave His only Son to save the world, to cleanse mankind of their incurable disease of sin! Sacrificial love!
6. Godly fathers deserve our praise and honor because they diligently watch over our souls!
7. What kind of father are you or will you be?
	1. The good, the bad, or the godly?
8. If you are not a Christian, you need to be. Repent and be baptized into His name!
9. If a Christian in error, don’t wait till it’s eternally too late. Repent and be renewed!
10. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!

**Walk A Little Plainer, Daddy**

Written by Forrest Flowers, Jan. 13, 1969

“Walk a little plainer daddy,” Said a little boy so frail.

I’m following in your footsteps, And I don’t want to fail.

Sometimes your steps are very plain, Sometimes they are hard to see.

So walk a little plainer daddy, For your are leading me.

I know that once you walked this way, Many years ago.

And what you did along the way, I’d really like to know.

For sometimes when I’m tempted, I don’t know what to do.

So walk a little plainer daddy, For I must follow you.

Someday when I’m grown up, You are like I want to be.

Then I will have a little boy, Who will want to follow me.

And I would want to lead him right, And help him to be true.

So, walk a little plainer daddy, For we must follow you.