Godly Father: Job Prayed For His Children

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday June 18, 2023

Text: Job 1:1-5 Scripture Reading: Proverbs 2:6-9

### Intro

1. 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, grandparents and children, and how better to serve God! In May we honored our mothers and grandmothers on Mother’s Day.
2. As today is Father’s Day, I want us to take a look at a godly father from Scripture this morning.
	1. Though Father’s Day is a special one-time event each year, we should all honor our fathers on a daily basis – especially those who are faithful to God! (READ STORY!)
3. When we think of Job, we think of TRIALS.
	1. James 5:11: “We count those blessed who endured. You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord's dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful.”
	2. James tells us that Job is a great example in endurance and patience and learning to trust in God.
4. But there is another lesson that we learn from Job: Job is an example of a godly father that courageously led his family!

#### Job’s Character

* 1. Job 1:1: There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job; and that man was blameless, upright, fearing God and turning away from evil.
		1. Blameless
			1. KJV: “perfect.” Doesn’t mean sinless. Means “complete,” undefiled.”
			2. Proverbs 13:6: Righteousness guards the one whose way is blameless, But wickedness subverts the sinner.
		2. Upright
			1. Means he practiced honesty and justice with his fellow man.
			2. Proverbs 2:6-9: For the LORD gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding. He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk in integrity, Guarding the paths of justice, And He preserves the way of His godly ones. Then you will discern righteousness and justice And equity and every good course.
		3. Feared God
			1. The Fear of God corresponds to a person who conducts his or her life in reverent awe and acknowledgment of God.
			2. Proverbs 1:7: The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; Fools despise wisdom and instruction.
		4. Turned away from evil
			1. The fear of God gives man the power to avoid evil.
			2. Proverbs 16:6: By lovingkindness and truth iniquity is atoned for, And by the fear of the LORD one keeps away from evil.
	2. Job’s character and reputation was spotless. He had a wonderful relationship with God and others.
	3. Job feared God and lived a righteous life and that was his foundation to face trials!

#### Job’s Family

* 1. Job 1:2: Seven sons and three daughters were born to him.
		1. Job had ten children: 7 Sons and 3 Daughters
		2. They all liked each other! It is implied they were adults in their own homes as they would invite each other over to their homes for dinner regularly (Job 1:4)
		3. Because it says, “His sons used to go and hold a feast in the house of each one on his day…” some have concluded that it means they celebrated birthdays. It doesn’t necessarily mean that, but could mean it was that son’s turn to host.
		4. Whatever that meant, it shows they all got along with each other!
		5. Job would intercede to God for his children (Job 1:5). They were the first thing on his mind in the morning.
	2. Job, a God-fearing man, loved his children and prayed for them!

#### Job’s Possessions

* 1. Job 1:3: His possessions also were 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen, 500 female donkeys, and very many servants; and that man was the greatest of all the men of the east.
		1. Job was not only the head of a large family but he was a very wealthy man!
		2. In those days, wealth was measured in land, animals and servants. Job was blessed with all three. His sheep provided food and clothing. The camels and donkeys provided transportation. The cattle provided food, milk, and labor. He needed many servants to take care of his ranch. *He was the richest of the rich!*
		3. Lamentations 4:21 tells us Uz is in the land of Edom, which means in the land of the descendants of Esau (Genesis 36:8).
		4. To get that wealthy Job overcame many temptations to keep himself blameless and upright before God!
	2. Application: Job’s character, family and possessions…
		1. Job had things in proper order:
		2. The first thing recorded about Job is his relationship with God (Job 1:1).
		3. Second, relationship to family (Job 1:2).
		4. Third, relationship to things, material wealth (Job 1:3).
		5. I don’t believe the order is happenstance!
		6. Jesus later teaches His followers that God must come first in all things: Matthew 6:33: “But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”
	3. Job had the proper perspective: God first!

#### Job Prayed For His Children

* 1. Job 1:5: When the days of feasting had completed their cycle, Job would send and consecrate them, rising up early in the morning and offering burnt offerings according to the number of them all; for Job said, “Perhaps my sons have sinned and cursed God in their hearts.” Thus Job did continually.
		1. This further tells us that Job lived during the patriarchal period before the Law of Moses, because he acted as priest for his family.
		2. Under the Law that came later only the Levites could offer sacrifices to God.
		3. Here, Job prayed and offered sacrifices for his children.
		4. Job “had them purified.” Job 1:4-5 tells us that Job made routine sacrifices for his children. In this way, he took full responsibility and functioned as the “priest” for his family. The end of verse 5 tells us that this was his regular custom.
	2. Application:
		1. We can learn a lesson from Job. Job loved them all; Job provided for them all; Job prayed for them all; Job did this continually!
	3. What should we pray about for our children?
		1. Pray for character. Job walked with God & prayed for his children (Job 1:1-5).
			1. There is no indication that anything wicked was going on at the parties of Job’s children.
			2. However, Job knew outward appearances can be deceiving, so he interceded on behalf of his children.
			3. Job prayed for their heart. Pray for your child’s heart!
			4. That their heart would be tender and obedient to God.
		2. Pray for God’s will. Job practiced and lived in faith (Job 1:21-22; 2:10).
			1. Job’s concern was that his children may have cursed God in their heart.
			2. He wished for his children to follow God.
			3. Pray that your children will do what God wants them to do.
			4. If you don’t know what to pray for your children, pray that God’s will be done in their life and that they would do God’s will.
			5. Matthew 6:10: Jesus taught His disciples to pray, “Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.”
			6. Luke 22:42: Jesus practiced that when He prayed, “Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Yours be done.”
		3. Pray for salvation. Job knew his relationship with God (Job 1:1; 2:3, 10).
			1. Job prayed for their relationship with God. He was worried that they may have sinned and wanted them to be right before God.
			2. The most important relationship our children will ever have is with God.
			3. Our prayer can’t save our children because salvation is personal and requires obedience.
			4. But we can pray: Pray for your children to turn their hearts to God!
	4. On a routine basis, Job is constantly before his children demonstrating to them the importance of fearing God and turning away from evil!

#### Three Lessons from Job’s Prayer for His Children

* 1. *Don’t allow God’s blessings to lead you away from God*
		1. Job was a very rich man. But he did not allow his possessions to tempt him away from his relationship with God and responsibility to his family. Don’t let the blessings distract you from the Blesser.
		2. Also, it’s important to realize that Job’s children grew up in a good home with many blessings.
		3. It could be that they would see the blessings and forget God. Job did not allow all the blessings to lead him or his family away from God. The blessings brought them closer to God.
	2. *You can’t control your children but you can pray for them and influence them with your godly example*
		1. Job knew that he couldn’t be with his children all the time. As children grow up, they get out on their own and parents have little control over what happens to them. What can a parent do?
		2. We can pray for our children. Prayer goes where we cannot go. Prayer does what we cannot do. Prayer changes what we cannot change.
		3. As Job went to prayer, he set a godly example before his children. His morning sacrifice to God on their behalf impressed on his children the fear of God and the consequences of sin. He was a great example of a godly father!
	3. *Prayer doesn’t always work the way we want it to (God doesn’t always answer us the way we want!)*
		1. The irony is that in spite of all his prayers, his children all died in a severe storm (Job 1:18-19). Sometimes our prayers don’t get answered the way we want them to. But that’s what prayer is – asking.
		2. Sometimes God has a plan that we don’t understand. This shouldn’t stop us from praying. But we should always pray for God’s will to be done for our children. *We must trust Him.* This must have been hard for Job to do.
		3. Parents want what is best for their children: we try to provide for all their needs and prepare them to face the world as adults, send them to good schools and provide experiences that will enrich their lives.
		4. We want to protect them from any danger and deliver them from all harm.
		5. We will do anything for our children. But the best and most we can do for our children is teach them and to pray for them – to have a relationship with God.
		6. All else is temporary. God is eternal.
	4. A lesson from China:
		1. In ancient China, the people wanted security against the barbaric people to the north, the Mongols.
		2. So they built walls to keep them out (Begun in 220 B.C. through A.D. 1644). These walls were built so high that no one could climb over it and built so thick that no one could break it down. So they settled back to enjoy their security.
		3. It is told that during the first 100 years of building the walls, China was invaded three times. How?
		4. The gates were left open. The enemy had bribed the gatekeepers. The Chinese spent all their time building a wall, but they neglected on building character and integrity in their children.
		5. <https://www.farmvilleherald.com/2016/04/gatekeepers-and-integrity/>
	5. Application:
		1. May we never become so pre-occupied with providing for the financial, athletic, and academic security of our children that we neglect to teach integrity and righteousness!
	6. Job prayed for his children: Fathers, teach & pray for your children that they may turn their hearts to God and be people of integrity!

## Conclusion

1. Job is a great example in the Scriptures of a godly father.
	1. His story is included to instruct us concerning the reason for suffering and how to suffer in a godly way (James 5:11).
	2. But at the heart of the story is a picture of a man who feared God, turned from evil and prayed for his children.
	3. On this Father’s Day I encourage each of us to follow his example!
2. Bring your cares and concerns to God in prayer!
3. Philippians 4:6
4. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.
5. Let us thank God for godly fathers and grandfathers who have helped guide us to God!
6. Pray for your children, no matter what their age or where they live!

**INTEGRITY: THE LEGACY OF A LOVING FATHER**

June 10, 2020, by Norma Gail

Integrity, love, and faith were the legacy of my father. Integrity is a sorely lacking trait in our world. Politicians, businessmen, educators, even some in the ministry handle the truth like a novel where the readers write their own ending.

“Do the right thing and you’ll never have to apologize,” my father drilled into us from an early age. Right wasn’t some nebulous concept based on popular perception, convenience, or individual circumstances. Daddy saw the world in black and white when it came to right and wrong, truth, and lies. The harshest punishment meted out in our home resulted from the failure to be honest and kind. Although, his honesty was questioned at one point.

**Integrity Questioned**

As if it were yesterday, I remember men in business suits gathered around our dinner table when examiners from the insurance company where my father was an agent came to investigate some missing money. As a high school student, I was aware of the tension that buzzed like electric current under the surface of the conversation. These men had the power to take my father’s job and forever change our family.

A few days prior, Daddy explained that a large amount of money was missing from his office. A secretary who moved out of state embezzled from premiums paid in cash, crediting only partial payment to the customers. She couldn’t be held accountable because she couldn’t be found. The men combed through records for days to ascertain my father’s innocence.

**Integrity Proven**

In order to set things right, he repaid every cent. I learned that integrity and reputation are treasures to be guarded and cherished. He believed Proverbs 22:1 and expected his children to live the same. “A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold.”

Sometime later, my father located his former secretary. Though she never repaid everything, he accepted partial payment and forgave what almost cost his reputation. Daddy’s mercy and grace provided a powerful example on how to treat others. “A man’s wisdom gives him patience; it is to his glory to overlook an offense.” (Proverbs 19:11) By the same token, he expected nothing less from his children. Our most severe punishments stemmed from lies.

Because of his example, my father’s teaching on integrity colors my attitude to this day. Honesty is not an option but a necessity. As King David prayed, “I know, my God, that you examine our hearts and rejoice when you find integrity there.” (1 Chronicles 29:17 NLT)

**A Father’s Legacy**

This mindset is uncommon in our world today. How different our world would be if people treated each other with integrity and mercy. Mudslinging and lies would vanish. Justice would be assured. We could trust those in power because clear principle, humility, and gentleness would be their hallmarks. All people would receive fair treatment in spite of skin color, socioeconomic standing, or educational level.

“A good man leaves an inheritance for his children’s children…” (Proverbs 13:22). I was privileged to be raised by a man who left a legacy of faith, love, and integrity. Likewise, I rejoice when my children display these traits. May we, as Christians honor our Lord in the current climate of societal unrest by treating others the way that honors our heavenly Father.

“Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but whoever takes crooked paths will be found out” (Proverbs 10:9).