

SERIES: Father's Day 2016
SUBJECT: The Value Of Godly Fathers;
READING: Gen 6:8 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

Introduction:

A few weeks ago we celebrated Mother's Day; one of the most celebrated holidays of the entire year. And after I read this article while researching the importance of Mother's Day compared to Father's Day IT WAS A REMINDER TO TAKE MOTHER'S DAY SERIOUSLY! **This past Thursday**

“A Beaumont woman, accused of killing her children's father because he did not buy her a Mother's Day gift, was found not guilty by a jury Friday. Paige Parkerson, 20, was found not guilty in the stabbing death of Clifton Barkin, Jr. the jury acquitted her saying she did it in self-defense”.

Although Father's Day spending is fast approaching , \$12.7 billion which sounds like a lot of money, but it doesn't stack up to the \$21.2 billion spent on Mother's Day!

Surveying of 700 Brad's Deals Father's Day shoppers their biggest takeaway was that there were four reasons Dad's are getting cheated;

1. Summer Retail Fatigue because the three biggest shopping evens of spring/early summer are Mother's Day, graduation, and Memorial Day, all of which precede Father's Day.

2. Buying For Dad is Tricky; For many gift givers it's because he's more difficult to buy for.

3. Quality Time is an Acceptable Gift; The most popular Father's Day gift – quality time – costs nothing but a little time!

4. Saying "Happy Father's Day" is Enough for Many. The vast majority of poll respondents (83 percent) consider it important to acknowledge their dad (or another father in their life) by wishing them happy Father's Day.

It takes two people, a mother and a father to make a child and the best situation for raising that child is when mother and father contribute to them equally in their own unique and God given ways.

As we look at our society today we discover that many of the problems youth face have to do with the deficient contribution from mothers and fathers;

The percentage of Children living in single parent homes with all ethnic groups have been fairly consistent between 2010 and 2014 with 35% of the children living in single parent homes. The high % is among American Indians at 53% and African Americans and Blacks the highest with 66% and the lowest being Asian and Pacific Islander at 17% and Non-Hispanic White at 25%!

23.6% of US children (17.4 million) lived in father absent homes in 2014.

72 Percent of African-American Children Born to Unwed Mothers these fatherless homes ultimately affect children in numerous tragic ways:

- * 63 percent of youth suicides are from fatherless homes
- * 90 percent of all homeless and runaway children are from fatherless homes
- * 85 percent of all children who show behavior disorders come from fatherless homes
- * 80 percent of rapists with anger problems come from fatherless homes
- * 71 percent of all high school dropouts come from fatherless homes
- * 75 percent of all adolescent patients in chemical-abuse centers

come from fatherless homes

* 85 percent of all youths in prison come from fatherless homes

Although the percentages of white fatherless homes is considerably lower they too need to recognize that successful families are more likely when fathers are in their place doing what is right!

If we are going to save our country a part of the solution is going to be dealing with fatherlessness in our communities. The place we must start is giving fathers some examples to which they can aspire!

Whether you are a music ICON, an all American athlete, a successful businessman, or just a hardworking guy; if you have children your greatest value to them is to be a good father! The bad news is that it is a challenging task! **The good news is that God has given us examples of Great and Godly fathers to emulate and learn from. The first Godly father I want to call your attention to today is...**

I. Noah

a. Noah's task as a father was likely the most difficult of all the Biblical fathers we have to learn from. Why?

- i. Noah did not live in a "Little House On The Prairie" world!
- ii. Like us today Noah lived in a violent and ungodly world!
- iii. All of Noah's peers were evil; they lived selfish lives, engaged in vile acts and thought only about themselves!

- b. The people in the days of Noah were on God's radar and the behavior caused God to move against them!**

Gen 6:7 And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.

- i. Wickedness does not increase without God's notice!
- ii. The day in which we live beloved are on God's overhead display and what He sees He does not like!
- iii. He has not acted yet because He is not willing that one soul who can be saved will be swept away with the hopeless.

- c. In Noah's day that one soul was Noah! Gen 6:8
But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.**

- i. In this environment Noah had no allies to join him, not role models for his children!
- ii. But God had Noah!**

Gen 6:18-19 But with thee will I establish my covenant; and thou shalt come into the ark, thou, and thy sons, and thy wife, and thy sons' wives with thee. (19) And of every living thing of all flesh, two of every *sort* shalt thou bring into the ark, to keep *them* alive with thee; they shall be male and female.

- iii. Because Noah lived right in his generation and lived right before his children, God spared him and his family along with a reproducing pair of every species!

Noah was the first father to be emulated because he lived right before God and his family! ARE WE AS DAD'S AND GRAND DADS LIVING RIGHT BEFORE GOD AND OUR FAMILIES? The second Godly father I want to call your attention to today is...

II. Abraham;

Gen 18:18-19 Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, **and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? (19) For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment;** that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.

Children come into this world on the outside as these sweet adorable little people but inside they ALL have the seed of rebellion that unless dealt with properly and biblically will bring heartache and heart break to their parents and to themselves.

- a. God saw in Abraham something that is in our day a rare commodity; **that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment**
 - a. Instead of letting his children and household dictate the rules, **Abraham commanded them!**
command his children and his household after him,
 - b. How different from the average household of today in which the children are either ignored or laughed off "*well that's just the way kids are!*" Or "*Kids will be kids!*"

c. **That is not what God has ordained;** Pro 22:15
Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the
rod of correction shall drive it far from him.

b. **Another quality fathers can emulate from the life of Abraham setting a Godly example. that he will command his children and his household AFTER HIM,**

a. Abraham set the proper example before them and then commanded them to follow him.

b. Paul said **Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.** 1Co 11:1

c. As fathers we may be able to get our children to do as I say not as I do while they are young; **but when they become teens or young adults they will recognize that such behavior is that of a hypocrite!**

i. Not only will they NOT buy that logic but they will lose respect for the one practicing it!

ii. When Abraham expected Isaac to follow God by faith **Isaac remembered his father's example that day on Mount Moriah!**

As a father Noah lived right before God; Abraham commanded his children and family to follow God by faith and set the example he set! The Third Godly father I want to call your attention to today is...

III. Job;

Job 1:5 And it was so, when the days of *their* feasting were gone about, that Job sent and sanctified them, and rose up early in the morning, and offered burnt offerings *according* to the number of them all: for Job said, It may be that my sons have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts. Thus did Job continually.

a. **Job as all Godly fathers set a Godly example for them to follow; Job 1:1-2** There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name *was* Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil. (2) And there were born unto him seven sons and three daughters.

- i. Whenever Job's children would remember their father they were reminded that he was a man who not only loved God but loved them!
- ii. His godly behavior was a continuing example and tremendous challenge for them to live right!

b. **Job knew that Godly parents do not automatically raise Godly children.**

- i. His children had as all children do free wills, a sin nature, and a heart that tended to evil!

Jer 17:9-10 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? (10) I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

- ii. He realized that without his prayers and in spite of his example the possibility of one or more of his seven children rebelling against

God and their father and the right way loomed before them!

- iii. And furthermore the Godley's mortal enemy is lurking in the shadows looking for an opportunity to prove that Job or his family could be led to betray His blessings!

c. And so it was that Job prayed daily for his children and sought God's protection from the world the flesh and the devil!

- i. I know in my own life that my example has not always been what it should have been which means I need God's protection for my children and family,
- ii. That is why Job prayed and brothers as fathers it may be our daughters and **sons have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts.** And like Job we must continually hold their lives up before God.

As a father Noah lived right; Abraham commanded his children and family right; Job lived and prayed right before God setting an example for his family to follow!
Fourthly the Godly father I want to call your attention to today is...

IV. Caleb;

Num 14:24 But my servant **Caleb, because he had another spirit with him, and hath followed me fully, him will I bring into the land whereinto he went; and his seed shall possess it.**

- a. **Children are subjected to the culture in which they are raised.**

- i. Caleb was one of the twelve most influential men in Israel!
- ii. He along with eleven others were sent in to the promised land to assess their chances of success against the heathen tribes that inhabited the land!
- iii. You may remember that God had promised them victory in the battle for Canaan;

Jos 1:3-8 *Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses. (4) From the wilderness and this Lebanon even unto the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast. (5) There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. (6) Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I swear unto their fathers to give them. (7) **Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest.** (8) This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.*

1. I expect the night before the spies left they gathered in their respective families and the children asked questions of what they might expect to find.
2. Caleb likely said to his children and his wife; “God told us it was a land

of plenty with beautiful places and much fruit and plenty of food.” “I have also heard that the people who live in Canaan are fierce warriors and live to destroy their enemies. They do not believe in our God. They hate those of us who trust in Him!”

3. But one thing I do know is what God has promised” *Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses. (4) From the wilderness and this Lebanon even unto the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast. (5) There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.*

4. God’s promises never fail!

- iv. When the spies returned I have no doubt that their children came to greet them and hear of their findings!
 - v. To the dismay of his children Caleb had to say “Everything God said is true! But everyone but me and Joshua our commander refused to fight for God.
- b. Caleb’s children surly said so what will we do dad? And Caleb said we’ll continue to follow God!”**

- i. Disappointed and perhaps angry at the 10 faithless spies Caleb's children watched year in and year out as their family wandered in the wilderness!
- ii. One by one the fathers of their friends died just as God had said;

Num 14:35-38 I the LORD have said, I will surely do it unto all this evil congregation, that are gathered together against me: in this wilderness they shall be consumed, and there they shall die. (36) And the men, which Moses sent to search the land, who returned, and made all the congregation to murmur against him, by bringing up a slander upon the land, (37) Even those men that did bring up the evil report upon the land, died by the plague before the LORD. (38) **But Joshua the son of Nun, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, which were of the men that went to search the land, lived still.**

- iii. Some of Caleb's children may have even lost hope; other married and began families of their own life changed but it went on!
 - iv. One thing however never changed! Caleb's children never saw their father give up!
 - v. Day and day out; year after year Caleb wholly and consistently followed God;
- c. Then after forty years pass only two men of that generation that came back with an evil report were still alive; Joshua and Caleb!**
- i. They led the Israelites in conquering Canaan and after five years of fierce battles the time Caleb had been waiting for came;

Jos 14:5-13 As the LORD commanded Moses, so the children of Israel did, and they divided the land. (6) Then the children of Judah came unto Joshua in Gilgal: and Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenezite said unto him, Thou knowest the thing that the LORD said unto Moses the man of God concerning me and thee in Kadeshbarnea. (7) Forty years old *was* I when Moses the servant of the LORD sent me from Kadeshbarnea to espy out the land; and I brought him word again as *it was* in mine heart. (8) Nevertheless my brethren that went up with me made the heart of the people melt: but I wholly followed the LORD my God. (9) And Moses sware on that day, saying, Surely the land whereon thy feet have trodden shall be thine inheritance, and thy children's for ever, because thou hast wholly followed the LORD my God. (10) And now, behold, the LORD hath kept me alive, as he said, these forty and five years, even since the LORD spake this word unto Moses, while *the children of* Israel wandered in the wilderness: and now, lo, I *am* this day fourscore and five years old. (11) As yet I *am as* strong this day as *I was* in the day that Moses sent me: as my strength *was* then, even so *is* my strength now, for war, both to go out, and to come in. (12) Now therefore give me this mountain, whereof the LORD spake in that day; for thou heardest in that day how the Anakims *were* there, and *that* the cities *were* great *and* fenced: if so be the LORD *will be* with me, then I shall be able to drive them out, as the LORD said. (13) And Joshua blessed him, and gave unto Caleb the son of Jephunneh Hebron for an inheritance.

- ii. *What I'm going tell you now can be found in the first book of Cooley chapter 5; **As they sat around the table for their first family dinner on Hebron one of Caleb's older sons stood up and said; "Dad there were times when I doubted; there were times when I felt sad for you, but you never stopped believing God! I propose a toast to Dad; You***

believed God, you kept on believing God, and you have shown us your children; That what God Promises will come to pass if we wait and wholly follow our God!”

Finally the Godly father I want to call your attention to today is...

V. Joshua;

- a. The second of the two spies that wholly followed God is Joshua and because the time has flown by I will challenge all of us Great Grandfathers; Grandfathers, fathers and all of you men who will one day become fathers with three things;

JOS 24:14-15 Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD. (15) And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

- i. **FEAR THE LORD; Give Him the Respect and Honor He deserves!**
- ii. **SERVE THE LORD; serve him in sincerity and in truth:**
 1. **THIS IS NOT SOMETHING WE CAN TAKE LIGHTLY!**

**2. THE ONLY TRUTH WORTH
GIVING OUR LIVES FOR IS
THE TRUTH OF THIS BOOK.**

- iii. LET YOUR FAMILY KNOW THAT
SERVING GOD IS A CHOICE; the
right choice YOU MAKE FOR THE
ONES YOU LOVE! but as for me
and my house, we will serve the
LORD.**

Invitation:

Jos 24:15 And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD,
choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods
which your fathers served that *were* on the other side of the
flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell:

WHAT IS YOUR CHOICE TODAY?