

SERMON JUNE 18, 2006 **“A FATHERS RESPONSIBILITY”**

Deuteronomy 6:1-12

A little boy defined Father’s Day when he said,
 “It’s just like Mother’s Day, only you don’t spend as much on the present.”

My father died in 1982
 He was a biology teacher turned farmer,
 But I still remember some of his word and have passed them on to my kids.
 Like:

It’s only blood, wipe it off.
Close the door. Were you born in a barn?
Bring back all the change.
Quit playing with your food.

Its tough to be a father in today’s culture with so many things we’re
 Supposed to say and do, think, feel, and understand.
 We’re to fix things like McGyver
 Stand up for the innocent like Schwarzenegger,
 and look as good as Brad Pitt in a pair of jeans.

All Christian men can add to the pressure a long list of things they have to avoid.
 magazines located at the front of gas stations,
 questionable movies,
 and approximately 95 percent of the Internet.
 Most men suffer from powerful, internal pressures as well,
 The drive to be successful
 To be a good family man,
 To do something that our kids will remember us for.
 That’s why every father needs an encouraging word.
 And we will take it from where and whoever we can.

It’s good to be a man, isn’t it, men?
 Some of you women might be wonder “Why?”
 1: Phone conversations are over in 30 seconds flat.
 2: A 5-day holiday requires only one suitcase.
 3: We don’t have to stop at every channel where somebody is crying.
 4: Car mechanics tell you the truth.
 5: If another guy shows up at the party in the same outfit,
 you just might become lifelong buddies.

God was a father.
 He created all of you and said it was good.
 And then he gave you a job description.

**These are the commands, decrees and laws the LORD your God directed me to
 teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess,² so that
 you, your children and their children after them may fear the LORD your God as**

long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life. Deuteronomy 6: 1-2

FATHERS MUST HAVE FAITH

F-FAITH

Deuteronomy 6:5 Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

If a father has faith in God and His word and in everything seeks to obey Him. His children will most likely follow and put their confidence in God.

I came home late the other night and “Wife Swap” was on TV.

I don't always watch that, but this particular family caught my attention.

The father wanted to go to church, but not the wife.

But after the swapped spouse had lived with the other family for two week.

They started going with the father to church.

And it showed the whole family kneeling at the altar.

And the wife said: It just felt right to be together in church as a family.

Because the Father kept the faith.

The family followed.

Father are to be responsible for the faith of his family.

to make sure his children know God,

know how to be saved,

and know how to walk in the ways of the Lord.

Eph. 6:4 "Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord."

CEV "Parents, don't be hard on your children. Raise them properly. Teach them and instruct them about the Lord."

A pastor had a very ill young son.

After undergoing exhaustive tests, the father was told the son was terminal.

The boy had accepted Christ as his Savior,

So the father knew his boy would go to heaven.

but how do you tell a son he's dying.

After praying he went to the boy's bedside.

He read a story about Jesus loving the little children.

Then he told his little boy in the next few days he would die and see Jesus.

He asked Him: "Are you afraid to meet Jesus?"

The little boy bravely blinking away the tears said:

No Dad, Not if he's like you.

His little arms crept round my neck,

And then I heard him say,

Four simple words I can't forget,

Four words that made me pray.

They turned a mirror on my soul,
On secrets no one knew,
They startled me, I hear them yet,
He said, "I'll be like you!"(Bruce Howel)

Fathers need faith.
Fathers need to accept.

A--ACCEPT

These are the commands, decrees and laws the LORD your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess...

Deuteronomy 6:1

Will you accept the command God gives?

Will you accept the children God gives?

Will you accept the responsibly to be their father?

39.6 % of the children go to bed every night without their biological father in the home.

Children from fatherless homes are:

11 times more likely to exhibit violent behavior

5 times more likely to commit suicide.

32 times more likely to runaway.

20 times more likely to have behavioral disorders.

14 times more likely to commit rape.

9 times more likely to drop out of high school.

10 times more likely to abuse chemical substances.

9 times more likely to end up in state-operated institutions.

20 times more likely to end up in prison.

11 times more likely for violence to be exhibited

We must accept our duty to our God, our Wives and our children.

Accept your children for who they are and speak positive words into their lives.

Fathers need to ACCEPT

Father also need TIME

T -TIME.

One of the name's the Bible uses to describe God is

Jehovah Shammah--THE GOD WHO IS THERE,

God sets the example of a good father.

By being there for us.

He is here with us.

Deuteronomy 31:6 Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Jesus repeated these word in NT.

Spend time with your family.

King Henry IV of France would frequently join his children in their fun and one day he was playing horsy on his hands and knees with his son on his back, and an ambassador suddenly entered the apartment, and surprised him in this unkingly position.

But King Henry said without changing his position:

“Monsieur Ambassador, have you any children?” “Yes Sire” he replied.

“Very well then”, said the king, “I shall finish my race around the chamber.”

Pastor Robert Schuler of Crystal Cathedral once said: I choose to fail so I can succeed. When ask about it. Said I chose to fail at golf, because I wanted to succeed as a father. He said: “I knew I could never devote adequate time to golf, my job, and my family. So I choose to fail at golf.”

Children love their mothers,
But they will follow their fathers.

FATHERS HAVE TIME

FATHERS WILL HELP

H- HELP

The God of Israel helped his people.

Deuteronomy 6:10 says: When the Lord your God brings you into the land he swore to your fathers to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give you---

**God THE Father of Israel --not only gave them the promised land,
But he brought them along the way.**

He came with them to the promised land.

The Psalmist in his need said:

"MY HELP COMES FROM THE LORD, WHO MADE HEAVEN AND EARTH"

Psalm 121:2

As our Heavenly Father God has promised to help his people

And he expects his earthy father to do the same.

I Tim. 5:8 "If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever."

Wow! That's powerful. If a father does not provide materially for his family (food, clothing, shelter) then he has denied the faith of Christ and is worse than unbelievers.

Why would such a father be worse than unbelievers?

BECAUSE EVEN UNBELIEVERS PROVIDE FOR THEIR FAMILIES!

A son wrote home to his dad. He said,

"Dear Dad, Please let me hear from you more often, even if it's only five or ten."

But we must be wise in our help:

One father said: You can imagine the excitement I felt when my oldest son began playing baseball. That had been my game and this would be one of our main bonding mechanisms. If my son would just listen, I could help him be a great baseball player. Learning to read curve balls, shift his body weight with the swing, steal bases, turn double plays - these things separate the amateurs from the pros."

He said: "A pattern developed in our relationship.

Because of my familiarity with the game,

I saw every mistake my son made. In addition, I knew how to correct them.

"So post-game drives home became a critique of how to improve his game.

One night he finally said, 'DAD, COULD YOU NOT START BY TELLING ME EVERYTHING I DID WRONG. TELL ME WHAT I DID RIGHT FIRST.'"

Faithful help and instruction is important,
but we have to be wise and careful how we deliver it.

ARE YOU A COACH OR A CRITIC?

Ephesians 6:4 Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

Exasperate means:: To make very angry ; annoy greatly.

To increase the gravity or intensity of a scene...

FATHER WILL HELP

FATHER WILL ALSO ENCOURAGE

E-ENCOURAGE

Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil for thou art with me, thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Psalms 23

God is an encourager even in the midst of darkness and death.

When you walk through the valley don't be afraid

When you struggle with relationship don't be afraid.

When you struggle financially.

When you are anxious and worried, don't be afraid.

When we awaken in the night, don't be afraid.

My God will supply all your needs according to his riches in Glory by Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:19

Fathers, you can know that when your there for your family,

God is there for you.

God is an encourager.

We men need encouragement.

We get enough putdowns.

A school superintendent and a principal were observing a seventh-grade class in session.

They heard the teacher say to a tall boy,

"Carl, will you please open the window?"

After Carl had obliged, the teacher said to the whole class,
 “I just don’t know what I would do without Carl!
 He’s the only one who can reach and open the window for me.”
 After they had left the class, the principal said to the superintendent,
 “Did you notice what a loving thing that teacher did for Carl?
 He is large for his age and awkward. The children call him Clumsy Carl.
 He is a slow learner, has low self-esteem, and badly needs encouragement.
 That window really didn’t need opening,
 but Carl needed to open it.
 He desperately needed recognition,
 and the teacher was responding to that need.”

**FATHERS NEED TO ENCOURAGE
 FATHER NEED TO REACH OUT**

R--REACH

Are you an open handed father?
 My father used an open hand to keep me in line.
 And it was a good reminded that God has commanded me
 To obey ‘my father and mother.

But he also used his open hand to teach me about life.
 On Sunday afternoons Dad would gather our whole family
 And we would take a Sunday afternoon walk up the hillside.
 Dad taught us how to find and dig the Indian Potatoes and
 Pick the blue bells and pasques.
 And learn the different kinds of mushrooms.

Dad gave me an open hand of learning.
 What is in your hand today dad?
 If it available? Of is it full of stuff?

In Texas during a flood a lady lost her life.

Her daughter told reporters.
 “My mother did not climb the tree with us.
 She lost her way before we got to the tree.
 Because she would not let go of her purse with all her papers and bills in it.
 The family had tried to make a chain holding hands to get through the water.
 But the mother had her insurance papers all balled up in her hand
 And she wouldn’t let them go.
 And she just washed away.

Fathers? are our hands so full of the stuff of life,
 Our business, our hobbies, our possession,
 That we don’t have room for our family?
 We don’t have time to hold our children.
 And when the floods come in their lives they are just washed away.
Because we were just to occupied.

What would have happened to Gods family.

If Jesus would have had his hands full of himself.
And when time came for him to heal, and to feed the multitude,
To touch the eyes of the blind,
to heal the skin of the leper,
To raise the dead,
To go to the cross.
He could have said:
I just don't have time for that.
I just don't have any room in my schedule.

But he opened his hands and his heart
He took your sin and mine in his hands
And took them to the cross that
We might open our hands and heart for our family.
And for our world.

Give God the things in your hands,
Trust him and he will take care of you