

# FATHER'S DAY

A GRADE SCHOOL TEACHER ASKED ONE OF HER STUDENTS WHAT FATHER'S DAY WAS ABOUT. SHE THOUGHT FOR A LITTLE WHILE AND HER EYES GOT BIG AND SHE SAID, " IT'S JUST LIKE MOTHER'S DAY BUT WE DON'T HAVE TO GET A PRESENT!!"

BUT SERIOUSLY, BEING A FATHER IS ONE OF THE HIGHEST CALLINGS A MAN CAN HAVE. MANY TIMES WE FORGET HOW MUCH A FATHER AFFECTS OUR LIVES, GOOD AND BAD.

85% OF CHILDREN WITH BEHAVIORAL PROBLEMS COME FROM A FATHERLESS HOME. 63% OF YOUTH SUICIDES ARE FROM FATHERLESS HOMES

THE FACT IS, THAT ALL OF US, WHETHER YOUR FATHER WAS A GOOD ONE OR A BAD ONE, HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY OUR DADS. WHAT WE MUST REALIZE IS, THEY WERE DOING THE BEST THEY COULD WITH WHAT THEY HAD. JUST LIKE WE ARE. WHAT WE MUST REALIZE IS THAT WE HAVE A HEAVENLY FATHER THAT KNOWS HOW TO FATHER WELL.

Romans 8:15-16 New International Version (NIV)

<sup>15</sup> The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship.<sup>[a]</sup> And by him we cry, "Abba,<sup>[b]</sup> Father." <sup>16</sup> The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

I COULD PREACH THE REST OF THE YEAR ON THIS SUBJECT AND I STILL WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO ADEQUATELY EXPLAIN THE SCOPE OF HIS LOVE TOWARD US.

SOME OF US HAVE GROWN UP FEELING LIKE WE NEVER MEASURED UP FOR OUR EARTHLY DADS APPROVAL AND WE ARE STILL TRYING TO ACHIEVE THAT.....HE MAY NOT EVEN BE ALIVE ANYMORE. WE TAKE OUR “DADDY ISSUES” INTO ALL OF OUR RELATIONSHIPS. THIS IS WHY IT IS SO IMPORTANT FOR A FATHER TO TRAIN HIS SONS AND DATE HIS DAUGHTERS.

TODAY I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE 5 ATTRIBUTES THAT MAKE A GOOD FATHER

### 1. HE IS A PROTECTOR

A FATHER PROTECTS HIS FAMILY. HE’S THE HEAD. HE IS TO LEAD HIS FAMILY IN THE WAY THEY SHOULD GO. A GOOD FATHER IS SUBMITTED TO GOD. A FATHER STANDS IN FRONT OF THE ADVERSITY, IN BETWEEN IT AND HIS FAMILY. HE CARRIES THE WEIGHT SILENTLY.

### JESUS PROTECTS HIS FAMILY

John 17:9-16 New International Version (NIV)

<sup>9</sup> I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. <sup>10</sup> All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. <sup>11</sup> I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of<sup>[a]</sup> your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one. <sup>12</sup> While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by<sup>[b]</sup> that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled.

<sup>13</sup> “I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. <sup>14</sup> I

have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. <sup>15</sup> My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. <sup>16</sup> They are not of the world, even as I am not of it.

YOU SEE, JESUS DOESN'T WANT TO TAKE US OUT OF OUR SITUATIONS. HE WANTS US TO TRUST HIS PROTECTION THROUGH IT. MANY TIMES I HAVE PLEAD THE BLOOD OF JESUS OVER MY SITUATIONS. HE IS THE NAME ABOVE ALL NAMES. USE IT TO PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY

## 2. HE IS A PROVIDER

A FATHER PROVIDES FOR HIS FAMILY, NOT JUST FINANCIALLY, BUT ALSO THINGS LIKE WISDOM, GRACE, INSIGHT, STRENGTH, COUNCIL, AND FRIENDSHIP. A FATHER ADDS TO YOUR LIFE.

1 Timothy 5:8 New International Version (NIV)

<sup>8</sup> Anyone who does not provide for their relatives, and especially for their own household, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

## GOD IS A PROVIDER

Romans 5:17 New International Version (NIV)

<sup>17</sup> For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ!

## 3. HE IS A PROMOTER

A FATHER PROMOTES HIS FAMILY. HE BUILDS THE LIVES OF HIS FAMILY. SPEAKING LIFE AND ENCOURAGEMENT INTO THEM. PROMOTION OF THIS SORT IS THE BEST WAY TO BREAK GENERATIONAL CURSES. JUST BECAUSE YOUR DAD DID THE SAME THING AS HIS DAD AND HIS DAD AND HIS DAD BEFORE THAT, DOESN'T MEAN YOU HAVE TO TAKE THE CURSE ANY FARTHER. IN FACT, IT STOPS RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW, WITH ME.

Ephesians 6:4 New International Version (NIV)

<sup>4</sup> Fathers,<sup>[a]</sup> do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

WE ARE TO TRAIN OUR CHILDREN WITHOUT BREAKING THEIR SPIRIT. THEY SHOULD KNOW THEIR FATHER LOVES AND BELIEVES IN THEM, EVEN WHEN IT COMES TO DISCIPLINE. REMEMBER TO PRAISE IN PUBLIC AND REBUKE IN PRIVATE. BOTH ARE EQUAL IN VALUE.

GOD IS A PROMOTER

Luke 14:11 New International Version (NIV)

<sup>11</sup> For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

4. HE IS A PRIEST

A FATHER NEEDS A PRAYER LIFE. HE IS THE HEAD, CASTING HIS CARES TO THE FEET OF JESUS SO HE CAN BE STRONG

FOR HIS FAMILY. A FATHER CAN BIND AND LOOSE THINGS IN THE SUPERNATURAL. HE HAS AUTHORITY OVER HIS FAMILY'S SPIRITUAL WELL BEING. A FATHER CAN AND SHOULD BE BREAKING GENERATIONAL CURSES OVER HIS CHILDREN. HE SHOULD ALSO BE A PIECEMAKER AND A GRACE DEALER.

1 Peter 2:9 New International Version (NIV)

<sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

A FATHER CAN PRAY BLESSINGS OVER HIS FAMILY

JESUS IS OUR CHIEF PRIEST

Hebrews 2:16-18 New International Version (NIV)

<sup>16</sup> For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants. <sup>17</sup> For this reason he had to be made like them,<sup>[a]</sup> fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup> Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

5. HE IS A PROPHET

A FATHER WILL PROPHECY

A FATHER SPEAKS TO HIS FAMILY'S POTENTIAL. HE SPEAKS LIFE INTO HIS CHILDREN. HE SPEAKS TO THEIR DESTINY. LIKE OUR HEAVENLY FATHER, A FATHER SEES THE REAL YOU. HE'S NOT HUNG UP ON ALL THE CRAP YOU GOT GOING ON, AND THE MISTAKES YOU'RE MAKING. HE WILL DISCIPLINE YES, BUT HE WILL ENCOURAGE BECAUSE IT AIN'T OVER. HE WILL REMIND YOU OF YOUR GREATNESS AND BE YOUR SUPPORT UNTIL YOU ACHIEVE WHATEVER GOAL YOU ARE TRYING TO REACH.

GOD WILL PROPHECY INTO YOUR LIFE WHEN YOU SEEK HIM

John 16:13-15 New International Version (NIV)

<sup>13</sup> But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. <sup>14</sup> He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. <sup>15</sup> All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you."

NOW, TRYING TO MASTER ALL OF THESE QUALITIES AS A MAN AND A MAN OF GOD IS TOUGH. WE TOO ARE SINNERS. WE GET HUNGRY, ANGRY, LONELY, AND TIRED. WE GET DISTRACTED AND FORGET WHAT'S REALLY IMPORTANT SOMETIMES. PRAISE BE TO GOD FOR ALWAYS BEING THE PRODIGAL FATHER WITH US AS WE JOURNEY. ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS PRESS INTO GOD AND STAY IN THE FIGHT CONSISTANTLY. HE MANAGES THE OUTCOME.

EVERYDAY I ASK GOD TO FILL ME WITH HIS HOLY SPIRIT.

WHY? BECAUSE THERE IS NO WAY I CAN ACOMPLISH THE 5 QUALITIES OF A GODLY FATHER UNLESS I'M FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT.

EVEN THOUGH I COME FROM A DISFUNCTIONAL PAST, EVEN THOUGH I'VE NEVER HAD ANY REAL EXAMPLES OF WHAT A GODLY FATHER LOOKS LIKE. I GET TO LEARN A NEW W AY OF LIFE.

A LIFE WHERE I FATHER AT A HIGHER LEVEL THAN I WAS EVER CAPABLE OF DOING ON MY OWN. NOW I'M A BLESSING AND NOT A CURSE. I'M THE HEAD NOT THE TAIL, ABOVE AND NOT BENEATH. I AM TRULY BLESSED SO MY FAMILY IS BLESSED (WHETHER THEY REALIZE IT OR NOT)

WITHOUT SAYING A WORD, YOU AND I CAN MAKE A COMMITMENT TODAY TO BE MORE LIKE THE PERSON I'VE BEEN DISCRIBING FOR THE LAST 45 MINUTES. ITS ALL THERE INSIDE EACH ONE OF US. HOW MUCH ARE WE WILLING TO DIE TO THE OLD SELF AND PICK UP THE MANTLE OF THE NEW SELF. A SOLID, CONFIDENT, CHILD OF GOD.