

THE EXPECTATIONS OF A FATHER

As men, let us look to our Heavenly Father and His Word as our example of what a father should be

KEY POINTS

- ❖ “Father’s Day” is the day we annually show our fathers our appreciation. We may buy them gifts, take them to dinner, or simply get them a card. But whatever we do, the reason for this day is to ensure that fathers get the recognition they deserve for the influence they have had in their children’s lives.
- ❖ In our text, Jesus touches on fatherhood a little bit. He asks the question: if a child asks for something that they need to sustain life, would a father give them something that is of no use or even harmful to them?
- ❖ We like to use this scripture to point out the fact that God is our Heavenly Father and that He will provide whatever we need if we only ask Him. While this is true, this passage of scripture also gives us a glimpse of what is expected of an earthly father.
- ❖ Today, many expectations are placed on fathers from societal, ethnic, cultural and even religious sources.
- ❖ As men, our expectations of a father are based on our experiences with our own dad, the influence of those around us, and our own present reality.
- ❖ As fathers we have internal expectations of ourselves. As we hold our children for the first time, we already have dreams and aspirations for them. There is a sense of pride and joy, but there is also a sense of awesome responsibility, realizing that this small, defenceless baby is now depending on us to be their protector, provider, and support. We hold them, hoping and expecting to be “the best dad ever”.
- ❖ But sometimes reality gets in the way. We might have a career that is demanding or tension in other relationships that cause us to spend less time with our children than we would like.
- ❖ Now, from a child’s perspective, your newborn baby has no idea about your flaws or your shortcomings.
- ❖ If your child ever made the statement “My dad can beat up your dad!” (as most children have), it’s probably because you, as their father, impressed them with your strength, even without realizing it.
- ❖ Even an absentee father has an impact on their child’s view of fatherhood. Granted, it is a negative impact, but an impact nonetheless.
- ❖ Society (including sitcoms, children’s literature, etc.) downplays the importance of an involved and engaged father – the message being that fathers are an accessory to our lives, not a necessity; it’s nice if you have one, but if you don’t, no big deal.
- ❖ But what does the Bible say about fathers?
- ❖ In biblical times fathers were vitally important to their families and to the nation at large. A father’s role was so important that if a father sinned the whole family perished (e.g. Achan’s family in Joshua 7).
- ❖ As the “priest” of his home, Job offered sacrifices on his children’s behalf, just in case they had sinned

KEY SCRIPTURE: Matthew 7:7-11

- ❖ against God during their celebrations (Job 1).
- ❖ According to scripture, Fathers should:
 - **give instruction** – Proverbs 1:8a
 - **provide discipline** – Proverbs 13:24
 - **provide training and equip their children with life skills** – Proverbs 22:6; Ephesians 6:4
 - **be compassionate** – Psalm 103:13
 - **be protectors** – Hebrews 11:7a
- ❖ One of the biggest expectations of a father was to pronounce a blessing on the next generation. It was a very important act that helped to determine the future of not only his children but the generations to come.
- ❖ To God, being fatherless is a serious issue, so much so that He promises to be “a father to the fatherless” (Psalm 68:5; see also James 1:27).
- ❖ And “the Lord your God...God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God.... defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow” (Deuteronomy 1:17, 18a (NIV); see also Deut. 24:17).
- ❖ Regardless of what society thinks, fathers are vitally important to the lives of their children.
- ❖ In God’s eyes, fathers are not just figureheads or place-fillers; they have a very important and specific role to play within the family structure, within churches, and within society.
- ❖ You may be saying, “This doesn’t apply to me, I don’t have children.” But the truth is, you probably know someone who needs a father figure in their life. It could be a baby, a toddler, or a teenager in need of a father figure in their life, or a young adult needing fatherly guidance.
- ❖ Now more than ever before, the world needs fathers to be fathers. Let us look to God and His Word for our ultimate example of what a father should be. Let us look to Him for guidance and direction in leading our children.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Discuss how a father’s influence affects a child’s overall development (physical, emotional, spiritual, etc.).
2. How do societal, personal, cultural and other expectations of fathers affect fathers/families?
3. As the child of a father, how has the Bible helped you to have appropriate expectations of your father and/or to give grace to your father where he may have “fallen short”?
4. In unstable times such as these, in what practical ways can a father positively influence his home/family?

PRAYER TIME

Dear Father, help our fathers and families to thrive in You as they represent Your name.



Start-up: Do/Did you approach your father differently than you approach(ed) your mother, or for different things? Share how that works/worked for you.

WEEK OF SUNDAY, JUNE 21, 2020

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week’s message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

✓ (Reminds me/Confirms)  (New idea)  (Think about)

! (Do this)  (Speaks to my heart)  (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

*Go deeper with your Life Group family.
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD
Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline*

"WE PRAY" FS FACEBOOK GROUP

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/wepprayatfaithsanctuary/>

PRAYER FOCUS: Revelation of the divinity of Jesus Christ to religious non-Christians



ANNOUNCEMENTS

TO SUBMIT A BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENT

Obtain approval from Head of Department and send to announcements@faithsanctuary.com by Wednesday @ 4:00 p.m. (If projection is desired send to media@faithsanctuary.com.)

FAITH SANCTUARY DONATIONS

For email transfers, please use the following address:
donate@faithsanctuary.com

JULY

Sunday 5: FIRST SERVICE BACK IN THE SANCTUARY, 11:00 a.m.

I've seen many searching for answers far
and wide

But I know we're all searching
For answers only you provide

'Cause you know just what we need

Before we say a word

You're a good good Father...

NOTICE:

Faith Sanctuary services are suspended until further notice, at the direction of public officials.

Watch our services at 10:15 a.m. (Bible Study) and 11:00 a.m. (regular service) every Sunday morning.

Ways to connect to the services:

- Go to www.faithsanctuary.com >click "livestream" link (or type in www.faithsanctuary.com/live)
- Go to www.youtube.com >search for "Faith Sanctuary"
- Sign in to Facebook >search for "Faith Sanctuary"
- Call 1-844-268-4848 for toll-free telephone access

Participate in in-depth Bible Study each Monday evening from 6:30-8:00 p.m. (Facebook and Zoom).

FAITH FOUNDATIONS

GOD

We believe there is only one God: the eternal, holy, loving, all-knowing, all-powerful, omnipresent Spirit, creator of all (Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Timothy 1:17; Leviticus 19:2; 1 John 4:8; Hebrews 4:13; Revelation 19:6; Jeremiah 23:24; John 4:24; Isaiah 44:24; Colossians 1:16).

GOD'S WORD

We believe the Holy Scriptures—The Bible—is God's true and complete Word to humanity, verified most notably through fulfilled prophecies concerning Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Isaiah 41:21-23, 42:8-9, 46:9-10; Luke 24:25-27; John 17:17).

GOD'S CREATION

We believe all people were created in the image of God for His pleasure, to be His children, His church and His bride, living in eternal love and fellowship with Him (Revelation 4:1; Genesis 1:27; John 1:12-13; Romans 8:16; Ephesians 5:25-32; Revelation 19:7).

HUMANITY'S FALL

We acknowledge that we have all sinned and failed to fulfill God's plan and purpose for our lives, through willful disobedience to the word of God and our own conscience. All sinful acts lead to separation and alienation from God's pure, holy presence, eventually resulting in both physical and spiritual death (Romans 3:23, 6:23a).

THE GOSPEL

We believe that Jesus Christ is the Almighty God, fully divine and fully human (1 Timothy 3:16). He came to Earth and suffered death by crucifixion, willingly substituting Himself for us in receiving God's judgment against sin (Isaiah 53:5). But God raised Him from death (Acts 5:30), and He now offers eternal life to all who will believe in Him (John 3:14-17, 6:29; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21; Romans 6:23b; Ephesians 2:4-9). Faith is sparked within us when we hear the gospel, the "good news" that Jesus died, was buried and rose from the dead for our benefit (Romans 10:14-17; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

OUR FAITH RESPONSE

Hearing the gospel is intended to lead us to repentance, a divinely inspired change of heart that causes us to turn away from our sins and turn to God (2 Corinthians 7:9-10; 2 Timothy 2:24-26). Faith and repentance lead us to obey the scriptural command to be baptized in Jesus' name for the forgiveness of our sins and to receive His gift of the Holy Spirit. His Spirit gives us the power to live a righteous, godly life, joyfully sharing the good news of our new life in Christ with others (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38, 4:12; 1 Peter 1:22-23).

CHRIST'S RETURN

We believe our Lord Jesus Christ will soon return to Earth to receive His people to Himself and establish His righteous, eternal kingdom (John 14:3; Matthew 25:34).

JUNE 21, 2020


Faith
SANCTUARY
Know Jesus, Love Jesus, Share Jesus

2020 ~the year of vision~ 2020

Pastor: Rev. Granville E. McKenzie

*"A father of the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in His holy habitation.
Psalm 68:5 NKJV"*

SUNDAY SERVICES

Worship: 8:00 a.m. • 11:00 a.m. • 6:30 p.m.
Sunday School/Bible Study: 9:45 a.m.

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