

BIBLE FATHERS

Int.

1. Aim: To show some of the fathers mentioned in the Bible and learn some things we as fathers should and should not imitate.
2. **Deut. 5:16** "Honour thy father and thy mother, as the LORD thy God hath commanded thee; that thy days may be prolonged, and that it may go well with thee, in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee."
 - a. Moses gave this commandment to the children of Israel
 - b. Repeated by Paul - Eph. 6:2-3
 - c. Fathers Day - Started in 1910 by Mrs. John Gruce Dodd
3. There is a great need in our day for fathers to live up to their God-given tasks.
 - a. One of the reasons that the church is as weak as it is in many places is because fathers are not fulfilling their spiritual duties
 - b. One of the reasons that so many of the youth of our day are involved in drugs, premarital sex, gangs activity, and a host of other sinful things is because fathers are not fulfilling their responsibilities.
4. It is time that we as fathers and grandfathers realize the awesome responsibility we have in molding our children's spiritual lives
 - a. It is time that fathers do more with their children than just play ball or paper dolls with them.
 - b. It is time for fathers to act like spiritual giants in the family.
5. We will discuss: The kind of fathers not needed. The kind of fathers desperately needed

Discussion

I. THE KIND OF FATHERS NOT NEEDED

A. We do not need fathers today who will pitch their tents toward Sodom as did ancient

Lot.

1. When time came for the separation of Abraham and Lot, Lot clearly made a choice indicating his materialism
 - a. Genesis 13:10-13
 - b. Sodom was not a prosperous place for the raising of a family
 - c. 2 Peter 2:7-8 "And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: 8 (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed [his] righteous soul from day to day with [their] unlawful deeds;)"
2. If righteous Lot was tormented day by day by the wickedness surrounding him, just think about the effect this would have on his family
3. Genesis 19 seems to indicate that some of Lot's children choose to remain behind - and not leave with Lot.
4. All too often fathers make many of life's decisions with materialism as a dominant factor. Where can I make the most money. What company offers the best retirement.
5. Things to consider when moving:
 - a. Church
 - b. Schools
 - c. Community
6. We need fathers who will choose carefully.

- B. We do not need fathers today who will not restrain their children like the **Eli** of old.
1. 1 Samuel 2:12, 17, 24 ... the reason they were so wicked
 2. Eli "restrained them not" (1 Sam. 3:13)
 3. We live in a permissive age
 - a. Many children grow up and never see daddy set out a boundary line for their actions - They do not discipline their children.
 - b. They never hear daddy say no to their demands
 - c. They never feel his weight behind corporal punishment
 4. Fathers who are too permissive are the greatest enemy of a child
 - a. Proverbs 29:15 "The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left [to himself] bringeth his mother to shame."
 - b. Pro. 29:17 "Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul."
 - c. Fathers must discipline their children
- C. We do not need fathers today who practice theft, deception, and dishonesty as did **Achan** in Joshua's day.
1. Israel has just crossed the swollen Jordan River and plans were made to capture Jericho ... God said - **Joshua 6:2**
 - a. The Lord made it plain that all the spoils belonged to Him ... Joshua 6:17-19
 - b. After Israel defeated Jericho, they travel next to conquer Ai, but Ai defeated Israel - Joshua asks God why? ... Joshua 7: 11 - there is sin in the camp - Someone had taken that which belonged to God and the whole congregation was suffering the consequences

- c. Achan was the guilty party ... Joshua 7:20-21
 - d. Joshua 7:25-26 "And Joshua said, Why hast thou troubled us? the LORD shall trouble thee this day. And all I srael stoned him with stones, and burned them with fire, after they had stoned them with stones. And they raised over him a great heap of stones unto this day. So the LORD turned from the fierceness of his anger. Wherefore the name of that place was called, The valley of Achor, unto this day."
2. The practice of dishonesty marches rampantly through the land today
 - a. How can fathers who practice dishonesty be good fathers?
 - b. When children see ... tools taken from the job / Holiday Inn / taxes / bragging about short changing the local merchant - they will be influenced
- D. We do not need fathers today such as **Jeroboam** was to Nadab
1. Jeroboam was the first of 19 kings of the northern kingdom, and had the opportunity of setting a righteous tone for his government and for his successors, one of who would be his son Nadab - but instead he choose to walk by his own sinful stubbornness
 - a. Note 1 Kings 15:25-26 "And Nadab the son of Jeroboam began to reign over I srael in the second year of Asa king of Judah, and reigned over I srael two years. 26 And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the way of his father, and in his sin wherewith he made I srael to sin."
 - b. Nadab did not have a righteous father to emulate
 2. We do not need fathers today who set a sinful example to their children

E. We do not need fathers today who rear their children in **the speech of Ashdod**

1. Such was the case in Nehemiah's day
 - a. Nehemiah 13:23-24 "In those days also saw I Jews [that] had married wives of Ashdod, of Ammon, [and] of Moab: 24 And their children spake half in the speech of Ashdod, and could not speak in the Jews' language, but according to the language of each people."
 - b. The root of the problem was that Jewish men made the wrong choice of women, and it was effecting the purity of their speech
2. Making spiritual application to this - we are getting further removed all the time from the language of sound doctrine
 - a. Many of our young people no longer call Bible things by Bible names and are not doing Bible things in Bible ways
 - b. Fathers are many times to blame

II. THE KIND OF FATHERS DESPERATELY NEEDED

A. We need fathers today who will imitate **Enoch** - Genesis 5:21-24

1. Hebrews 11:5 "By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God."
2. Jude 14-15 "And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, 15 To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard [speeches] which ungodly sinners have spoken against him."

3. These verses picture Enoch as a father who walked with God, a man of great faith, and a man who was not afraid to speak out against ungodly speech and conduct
4. Are we as fathers leaving this kind of example for our children?

B. We need fathers today who will imitate Noah

1. Genesis 6:8-9 - walked with God
2. Hebrews 11:7 "By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith."
3. Peter called him a "preacher of righteousness" (2 Pet. 2:5)
4. Noah was a great father:
 - a. Concerned about the saving of his children
 - b. He taught them (a preacher of righteousness) - only converts = successful
 - c. He walked with God leaving his children a great example to follow

C. We need fathers today who will imitate Abraham

1. Genesis 18:19 "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."
 - a. He "trained the way they go" (Pro. 22:6) Ephesians 6:4
2. If Abraham would have failed as a father it is doubtful that he would have had the title "father of all them that believe" (Rom. 4:11)
3. Abraham is a good model for all fathers

D. We need fathers today who will imitate Joshua

1. Joshua trusted in God when others would not (spies ...promise land) ... what a great example to leave his children!
2. Joshua 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: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."
 - a. Joshua didn't care what other fathers were doing - he and his family were going to serve the Lord - He had Courage!
 - b. Have you determined that you and your family will serve the Lord?

E. We need fathers today who will imitate Zacharias, the father of John the Baptizer

1. Luke 1:5-6 "There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judaea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the course of Abia: and his wife [was] of the daughters of Aaron, and her name [was] Elisabeth. 6 And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless."
2. These are high commendation for a man
 - a. He acquired these qualities before he became a father
 - b. choose a wife with the same qualities
3. Godly preparation for fatherhood is imperative
4. Men need to excel in the keeping of Biblical commands if they are going to succeed as fathers.

Conclusion

1. Today is Fathers' Day, a day that we remember and give respect unto our fathers - a day that we say thank you.
2. But let us also use this day to evaluate our fatherhood.
 - a. Are we being the kind of fathers that will be of spiritual benefit to our children?
 - b. Are we being the kind of fathers that are pleasing unto God?
3. Fathers, let us work harder in our obligations as the father of our children.
4. Faithful
 Attentive
 Thoughtful
 Honorable
 Encouraging
 Responsible And very
 Special !

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