



YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER
Sermon Five of the Family Series 2014

Sunday, June 15, 2014

Mt. 6:6-15; 7:1-11

Portions from William T. Flint

OPEN: THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING A DAD (From David R. Grant)

OPEN: TROUBLES IN THE HOME (Tom S. Brandon)

What troubles the home today?

- A. *The home is troubled by the relative **morals** of the times.*
- B. *The home is troubled by **social** pressures, as seen in financial pressures, moral needs, and social demands.*
- C. *The home is troubled by **moral** inconsistencies.*
- D. *The home is troubled by **spiritual** indifference, as seen in the crumbling foundations of faith and in the uprooting of spiritual relationships.*

Introduction: On this Father's Day we can most profitably give consideration to "our Father...in heaven." *Father* is the supreme name for God. Within the four Gospels the name *Father* occurs more than 150 times. The term *Father* is in the first recorded utterance of Jesus: "Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?" (Luke 2:49), and Jesus used this title for God in his last dying cry: "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit" (23:46). Jesus placed his main emphasis on helping his disciples to accept and to respond to the God who reveals himself as a loving Father. To grasp this understanding of the nature of the eternal God can impart faith to our hearts. It can create love and motivate service.

What kind of Father is God whom Jesus came to reveal?

I. THE FATHER'S **COMPASSION** (Mt. 5:45, 48)

- Our heavenly Father loved with a perfect love (Matt. 5:45, 48).
- A. Love is Rooted in God's **Nature**
 - The love of God finds its source in the nature of God rather than in the loveliness of his children.
- B. God's Love is not Related to Our **Performance** (Rom. 5:8; 1 John 3:1)

II. THE FATHER'S **COMPANIONSHIP** (Mt. 6:6)

- Our heavenly Father is instantly available at all times (Matt. 6:6).
- Pure religion, pure worship, should be natural and regular and personal rather than formal, and stilted and impersonal.

III. THE FATHER'S **CARE**

- A. Our heavenly Father **rewards** his obedient children (Heb. 6:10; Matt. 6:6; 3 John 1:4; Prov. 23:24)
- B. Our heavenly Father **Provides** for His Children (Matt. 6:26).
- C. Our heavenly Father Gives Good **Gifts** (Matt. 7:11)

IV. THE FATHER'S **CHASTENING** (Heb. 12:6-13)

- Our heavenly Father chastises his children (Heb. 12:6-13).
- A. God Does not **Tolerate** Sin in the Life of His Child (Heb. 12:6-8)
- B. God **Chastens** Us for Spiritual Growth and Fruitfulness (Heb. 12:10-11)
- C. We Must Recognize and **Respond** to the Chastening of Our Heavenly Father (Heb. 12:5, 12-13)

V. THE FATHER'S **CLEANSING** (FORGIVENESS) (Mt. 6:12, 14-15)

- When we confess our sin, God forgives.
- He does so in a manner that is instant, complete and permanent.
- We too must be willing to forgive.

CONCLUSION (Jn. 14:6)

- May God help us to honor Him as our Heavenly Father.
- The greatest way that we can do that is to accept Christ as Savior.

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

- And having made our relationship with our Heavenly Father secure, let us ask Him to help us be the father that we ought to be and to honor our earthly father.

ILLUS: Christ will help you be a good father. (David O. Dinkins)

- A. An official whose **son** was ill came to Jesus in his distress (John 4:46-54).
- B. A ruler of the synagogue came to Jesus on behalf of his **daughter** who was at the point of death (Mark 5:21-24; 5:35-43).
- C. Matthew records the plight of a father whose child was helpless **epileptic** (Matt. 17:14-20).

CHILDREN SHOULD HEAR FROM DAD (DAVID R. GRANT)

1. Children should hear their father **pray**.
2. Children should hear their father read the **Bible**.
3. Children should hear their father extol the **virtues** of others and hear him speak words of encouragement, commendation, and helpfulness.
4. Children should hear their father upholding the roles of **leadership** and authority, such as pastors, school teachers, publicly elected officers, and police officers.
5. Children should hear their father say "I **love** you."
6. Children should hear their father openly and unashamedly **condemning** evil, injustice, and wrong.

IF I HAD IT TO DO OVER AGAIN (John MacArthur, *The Family*)

One father summed it up practically in this way: “My family is all grown, the kids are all gone, but if I had to do it all over again, this is what I would do:

- I would love my **wife** more in front of my children.
- I would **laugh** with my children more—at our mistakes and our joys.
- I would listen more—even to the **youngest** child.
- I would be more **honest** about my own weaknesses and stop pretending perfection.
- I would **pray** differently for my family: instead of focusing on them I would focus more on me.
- I would **do** more things with my children.
- I would do more **encouraging** and bestow more praise.
- I would pay more attention to **little** things, deeds, and words of love and kindness.
- Finally, if I had to do it all over again, I would share **God** more intimately with my family. I would use every ordinary thing that happened in every ordinary day to point them to God.

God *wants* our families to reach their full potential and not be forced into the mold of the world. God desires that Christian families not fall apart. Wouldn't it be great if we had children who were happy, homes that were Christ-centered, where all these things were working out as God designed them? It is possible because it is promised by God! And when it really begins to happen, the world will take notice of us...and of our CHRIST.