

Cherished-Chosen-Challenged – June 20, 2010

Father Knows Best

“If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if *he asks* for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will *your* heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!” Luke 11:11-13

Today our country is celebrating Father’s Day. There will be family gatherings, barbecues, ball games and the like. The values of fatherhood will be heralded and children will dutifully pay homage to all the Dad has done for them. To recognize the value and service of fathers is a good thing. To encourage and instruct men to be godly fathers is a better thing. To call men to accountability in instructing their children in the faith is a blessed thing. Being a godly father is a difficult task. The responsibilities to be a good husband and accomplish all the things the Scriptures command fathers to be and to do are daunting tasks. Competency and success in what God commands of fathers is impossible to accomplish on the basis of our own wisdom and abilities because we are sinful. In and of ourselves, we are too weak and we lack the wisdom necessary to always make the right decisions in rearing our children. Only by the strength and power of God operating in our lives are fathers able to rise to the challenge that is set before them. Only by the Spirit of our God can fathers become examples of faith in the lives of their children and exert a God-pleasing influence upon them.

Jesus was involved in teaching His disciples about prayer when he used the illustration about fathers and sons. He wanted His disciples to understand that we believers have a personal relationship with God. He is, as Jesus teaches, “Our Father”. That makes us “His children”, who have the privilege of approaching Him as we would our earthly fathers.

Jesus recognizes that earthly fathers are sinners...in fact he identifies who were listening to Him as “being evil”. That is a harsh reality to be

certain, but accurate. However, even though we are sinners, Jesus recognizes that we still want to give good things to our children. How much greater than is God, who is good? Will He not pour out His Spirit upon us, if we only ask? Here we see the true and perfect Father. He is the One who always knows best! If we need discipline and testing, then He disciplines and tests us. When we need care and mercy we receive those things from Him also. For Christ's sake He always grants to us what is best, even if that means telling us no---when we ask for things that would harm us or others.

Today, as earthly fathers, we ask our heavenly Father to pour out His Spirit upon us, that we might be equipped to follow His lead and His commands to be good fathers to our children, for we know that they are entrusted to us for but a short time and in reality belong to Him. We ask our heavenly Father to guard our children well, to keep them in the faith, and to make us Christ-like examples. For the best things that we can give our children is to bring them to Jesus so that they might also join with all those who know the One True God and with them call Him "Our Father".

- Remember: Fathers need the help of others too! Encourage the fathers of our congregation to bring their children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord!
- Remember: We are all examples in the faith to our children. Let us help each other to put God first, that our children may be well trained in godly living.

How blessed we are to be the people of God. He has chosen us to be in this place. He has prepared us for this time. He has equipped us for service to Him. **Don't wait for someone else to do it. If you wait on someone else to do it...it will never get done!** God bless you in the growth of your faith and in service to Him and His people, for your labor in the Lord is never in vain.

Pastor Jacobs

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