

The Dad Adventure

Daystar Church – 6/19/2005 (Father's Day)

7 Beliefs that will Alter Your Future:

Week 1: I'm God's Child and He's My Father

Introduction:

A. Video Illustration: "The Dad Adventure"

1. Who's ready to sign up?
2. Who wants to be the world's greatest dad?

B. Looks/sounds easy enough doesn't it?

1. Lead adoring DNA replications of yourself to great heights.
2. Train them to hit homeruns, play dynamic piano concertos, become world-class dancers, athletes.
3. Surgeon, Supreme Court Justice, Pres. of US?

C. THEN reality hits:

1. 2 a.m. feedings, spit-up, messy diapers.
2. You may be one of those macho types who "leave all that to the women-folk."
3. The joke's on you! It's easier dealing with diapers & spit-up than an overworked, underappreciated, angry woman!!!

D. At some point reality hits you:

1. Diapers, food, school supplies, braces, cars, college...
2. Friends, dating, parties...
3. It's not as easy as the video looks.

E. Question: *“How do I know how to be a great dad?”*

1. Follow the example of your Father.
2. No. I don't mean the imperfect man who brought you into this world.
3. You have a perfect Heavenly who has never treated you wrong or unfairly.

1 John 3:1 NIV

How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!

I. Your Heavenly Father provides for His children.

Ps 31:19 NIV

How great is your goodness, which you have stored up for those who fear you, which you bestow in the sight of men on those who take refuge in you.

A. You see, God has good things “stored up” for His children.

1. We'll talk about that more in depth later.

B. A godly father also stores up for his children.

Boyce Mouton tells this story about his grandfather. "My grandfather, R.C. Myers, came from Kentucky. He married a Kansas girl and settled down in Indian territory, which later become Oklahoma.

"They had 16 children. It never occurred to my grandfather than the government should take care of his family. That was his responsibility. He was a law officer before statehood, but became a sharecropper in order to feed his family. Their poverty did not discourage him from the personal pride of caring for his own.

"He raised his children without the benefit of electricity or running water. He died without ever having a driver's license. His children, nevertheless, grew up to be hard-working, patriotic, and devout. I am confident, that in spite of his poverty, he did a better job of providing for his own than the government."¹

¹ Taken from a sermon on sermoncentral.com

1. I'm going to start right off by offending someone here.
2. It is NOT the job of the US govt. to provide for your children – It is their father's!
3. I know there are extenuating circumstances which come up from time to time, but we'll raise a better generation of children when we model for them what responsibility looks like through the fathers of this country!

C. My father has worked the same job for 40 years.

1. 8 – 12 hours a day on concrete floors despite severe scoliosis.
2. Often times mom has to dress him in the mornings b/c of the back pain.
3. He wouldn't dream of letting the federal govt. pay him to stay home...of letting the govt. pay for his children's food, clothing.

D. You may be in a predicament right now that makes it tough for you, but don't you build a nest there!

1. You were meant for more than poverty.
2. Set your sights higher!
3. With hard work, determination and God's help you can climb out of that hole you're in.

E. But physical provision is just the beginning.

[ILLUSTRATION]: Did you hear about the little boy who was playing on a Sunday morning while his Dad was in a lounge chair reading the paper. And the father said: "Son, get yourself ready for Sunday School". The little boy asked: "Are you coming with me today Dad?" The man replied: "No, I'm not coming. But I want you to hurry up and get ready". The little boy then said: "Did you used to go to Sunday School when you were a boy, Dad?" He said: "I most certainly did!" As he

walked away the boy mumbled: "Yeah, and I bet it won't do me any good either!"

²

1. Dad, your kids are a lot smarter than you think.
2. #1 rule of leadership: "Leaders must model the way."
3. You are the leader of that home!
4. *One more thing about father's providing...*

F. You need to realize that your heavenly Father has made provisions for you!

Ps 68:19 NKJV

Blessed be the Lord, Who daily loads us with benefits.

1. How many would like about a truck-load right now?
2. Well what keeps us from receiving???

Jer 3:19-20 NIV

19 "I myself said, "'How gladly would I treat you like sons and give you ...the most beautiful inheritance ...' I thought you would call me 'Father' and not turn away from following me. 20 But like a woman unfaithful to her husband, so you have been unfaithful to me... declares the LORD.

3. I'll let Jeremiah do most of the preaching there.
4. But know this: Your "truck loads" of blessing are directly tied to your faithfulness to God!

II. Your Heavenly Father Loves His Children.

Rom 5:8 NIV

8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

² Taken from a sermon on sermoncentral.com

- A. There is no greater demonstration of love than this.
 - 1. Dad's, how do you demonstrate your love to your children?
 - 2. You'll probably never be called upon to die for them.
- B. Sadly, many think they can show their love by giving things.
 - 1. Kids are smarter than that.
 - 2. The best way to show them love is to spend time with them.

James Dobson cited a Cornell University study showing that fathers of preschool children on the average spend 37.7 seconds per day in real contact with their youngsters. In contrast, the study indicated that children watch television approximately 54 hours per week. ³

- 3. Not just time, but quality time, modeling the way.

ILL.- Here is the sad confession of one father. "I took my children to school but not to church. I taught them to drink but not of the living water. I enrolled them in Little League but not Sunday School. I showed them how to fish but not to be fisher of men. I made the Lord's Day a holiday, rather than a holy day."

"I taught them the church was full of hypocrites and made the greater hypocrite of them and me.

"I gave them a color TV but provided no Bible. I handed them the keys to the car but did not give to them the keys of the kingdom of God. I taught them how to make a living but failed to bring them to Christ who alone can make a life."

- C. You cannot begin to show your children love if you do not introduce them to Jesus Christ.
 - 1. God IS Love. There is no love apart from Him.

John 3:16 NIV

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

³ *Christianity Today*, March 23, 1979

2. Your children need to know that you are one of those who “believes in Him & have eternal life.”

III. Your Heavenly Father Forgives & Believes in the 2nd Chance.

- A. Most dads are taskmasters.
 1. If there is a task to be done, it should be done right.
 2. Illustration: *Painting my uncle’s truck with sand.*
- B. A good dad HAS to believe in 2nd chances b/c everyone needs them.
 1. In fact, if you want to see an example of a 2nd chance, you needn’t look far.
 2. Just notice how God has treated you.
- C. You are the apple of His eye – centerpiece of His creation.
 1. He loves you with an unquenchable love.
 2. Think how often you’ve failed Him, yet He receives you as if it were the first time again and again!

Lam 3:22-23 NKJV

22 Through the LORD’s mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. 23 They are new every morning;

- D. Is anyone thankful that His mercies are new every morning?
 1. Maybe you’ve gotten to the place in your life that you no longer need His mercy.
 2. Not me! I need Him day after day after day...
- E. Your children need that same kind of love/acceptance.
 1. They need a 2nd chance some times.

2. Want to know how to treat your children?
3. Look how the Father treats you!

F. Another thing: Your marriage deserves a 2nd chance.

1. Don't you dare give up so quickly.
2. Whether you know it or not, your children are counting on that marriage to last:

Recent reports tell us:

Because of a lack of father figures in the Home-- in the past 30 years there have been:

550% increase in violent crime

400% increase in illegitimate births

200% increase in teen. pregnancies.

300% increase in teen suicide

More than 70% of all juveniles in state reform institutions come from fatherless homes.

- **The home doesn't need a man in the house, it needs a father!**

*Illus: More than a quarter of American children—nearly 17 million—do not live with their fathers. Girls without a father in their life are **two-and-a-half times as likely to get pregnant and 53 percent more likely to commit suicide**. Boys without a father in their life are **63 percent more likely to run away and 37 percent more likely to abuse drugs**. Both girls and boys without father involvement are **twice as likely to drop out of high school, twice as likely to end up in jail, and nearly four times as likely to need help for emotional or behavioral problems.**⁴*

G. Dads, I'm not trying to beat you over the head.

1. I want you to know that you are integrally important to the development of your family.
2. God has specifically empowered you to fulfill an invaluable role in the home.

⁴ Source: sermoncentral.com

H. Don't let the enemy steal away from you what God has divinely given you!

IV. Your Heavenly Father Always has Room for One More.

A. My dad was the most unusual dad in the neighborhood.

1. If we were to stay over at a friend's house at night, we had to be particularly quite.
2. Most dads wouldn't put up with a bunch of "rough-housing" and noise-making.

B. My dad didn't care if the whole neighborhood moved in.

1. He could sleep through a category 5 hurricane.
2. He always had room in his house for one more.

C. There's room in the Father's House for you today.

John 1:12-13 NIV

12 Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God- 13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

Rom 8:15 NIV

For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship (adoption).

D. You've been adopted into the family of God.

1. You say, "That's just not me preacher. I'm not the religious type."
2. "I've been too bad, too mean, too wrong..."
3. Wait just a minute. I have a word for you:

Rom 9:25-26 NIV

(God says): "I will call them 'my people' who are not my people; and I will call her 'my loved one' who is not my loved one," 26 and, "It will happen that in the very place where it was said to them, 'You are not my people,' they will be called 'sons of the living God.'"

Conclusion:

V. Your Heavenly Father Knows His Place.

Rev 21:7 NIV

I will be his God and he will be my son.

A. God has a one-track mind. Sound familiar?

1. The last book in the Bible says the same thing the first one says.
2. *"I will be your God, you will be my people."*

B. God knows His place. Do you know yours?

2 Cor 6:18 NIV

"I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."