

What I Have Learned About Family

Mark Beard 5/2019

Text: Ephesians 5:31

“For this reason, a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” NIV (In wedding ceremonies, “in the building of a home...” is often added.

Now days families come in all shapes and sizes made up of all kinds of combinations. But no matter how the family came to be, if it is a family that is healthy and loving it's a good thing! If Christ is Lord over the family, it's even better. When a family begins, even if it is only with two people, it has great potential. Note a few **observations** we can make about family.

- I. When We Create a Family, We Have Created Something Valuable.**
 - A. The family was God's idea.**
 - B. The family is God's way to help us feel supported and loved.**
 - C. The family is a place where God can abide and be glorified.**

- II. When We Create a Family, We Have Created Something That Must Be Nurtured.**
 - A. Like anything living and growing, a family must be nurtured.**
 - B. A family can't be left to itself or neglected.**
 - C. Great families exist because they have been cultivated in an atmosphere of love.**

- III. When We Create a Family, We Have Created Something That Must Be Completed.**
 - A. The ability to “follow through” is one of the greatest abilities to master in life.**
 - B. Healthy families require work and patience and acceptance.**

C. The joy never comes when the task is left unfinished.

The writer of Hebrews reminds us in Hebrews 12:1, “Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us...”

Conclusion

Derek Redmond was a great runner, but he was an even greater finisher. Derek will be forever remembered for his staggering performance in the 400-meter men’s semifinals during the summer Olympics of 1992 in Barcelona, Spain.

After years of training, persistence, and self-discipline, Derek was competing on the world stage. His dream had become a reality. Halfway through his 400-meter race, Derek pulled a hamstring muscle and collapsed on the track. Writhing in pain, he watched the other runners quickly pass him and his dream of winning die, but staying down wasn’t in Derek’s blood. Though winning was out of the question, finishing wasn’t.

As the medical crew arrived with a stretcher, Derek said, “There’s no way I’m getting on that stretcher. *I’m going to finish my race.*”

In a stadium packed with 65 thousand fans and with millions viewing around the world, Derek slowly struggled to his feet. In spite of the agonizing pain, he began hobbling towards the finish line in last place. Tears streamed down his face as his heart filled with disappointment. Yet, he was determined to finish the race.

At that point, a large man from the top row of the stands began to run towards the track. It was Tim Redmond, Derek’s father, disregarding security guards, running over people, determined that no one would stop him, he ran to his son’s side. At first Derek tried to push him away, not realizing it was his father. He thought someone was trying to get him to quit the race.

“Derek it’s me.”

Recognizing that familiar voice Derek said, “Dad, I have to finish the race.”

“If you’re gonna finish the race, then we’ll finish it together.” With those words, his father took his son in his arms, and together they began to hobble down the track. By this time, the other runners had completed the race, and the crowd realized that Derek wasn’t hobbling off the track, but rather he was hobbling towards the finish line on one leg with his father at his side. In total disbelief, 65,000 fans stood to their feet and began to cheer. The roar of the crowd increased with every painful step.

Approaching the finish line, Jim Redmond stepped aside to allow Derek to cross by himself. The crowd exploded into thunderous applause and emotional release. Derek collapsed in his father’s embrace, and both wept on each other’s shoulders, along with 65,000 fans and millions of viewers. Derek had finished a race the world would never forget.

Source: *Life Quest*, Cary Schmidt