

# FATHER'S DAY 2018

## I WANT TO BE JUST LIKE YOU

---

### OPEN:

- Because of Jesus, God can be our Father...the term “father” indicates relationship. Jesus can make us right with God so we can enjoy Him now and live with Him for all eternity.
- ✓ God as Father is a N.T. term and made popular by Jesus...in John’s Gospel alone, Jesus refers to God as His Father 156 times.
  - **John 5:18 (NLT)** – So the Jewish leaders tried all the harder to find a way to kill him. For he not only broke the Sabbath, he called God his Father.
  - Jesus invites His followers to call God their Father. The model prayer. **Matthew 6:9** begins “Our Father in heaven...”
  - The wonderful news of Christianity is that God can become our Father. **Galatians 4:4-7 (NLT)** - <sup>4</sup> But when the right time came, God sent His Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. <sup>5</sup> God sent Him to buy freedom for us (redeem) who were slaves to the law, so that He could adopt us as His very own children. <sup>6</sup> And because we are His children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, prompting us to call out, “Abba, Father.” (daddy) <sup>7</sup> Now you are no longer a slave but God’s own child. And since you are His child, God has made you His heir.
- ✓ To suggest that God could become our Father was a foreign concept (unpalatable) to the Jew of that day.
  - The middle eastern monarchs were powerful men, unapproachable...and to think that a Holy, Almighty God would welcome a sinful human being into His presence was unfathomable (unthinkable).
  - This is why the story of the prodigal son (told by Jesus) sent shock waves through his audience.

- ✓ Remember **Luke 15**...Jesus is speaking to both the sinner and self-righteous...two groups of people represented by the two sons.
- ✓ The action of the Father is reprehensible (it would have disgusted the pious Jew).
- ✓ In Jesus' time, Jewish communities had a way of punishing sons who lost the family inheritance...who wasted it among the Gentiles.
- ✓ Angry villagers would gather together to conduct what was known as "qetsatsah" (pronounced kit-sat-sah) ceremony...a ritual that consisted of filling a large pot with burned nuts and burned corn and breaking it in front of the guilty party.
- ✓ As the pot shattered, the villagers would shout... "name of person is cut off from his people." The errant son was to get out of town for good...no longer welcome in the village or home.
- ✓ Yet in Jesus' story the listener is surprised. Instead of waiting at home for the wayward son to come crawling back (as would any dignified Middle Eastern father) the father in Jesus' story keeps a lookout for him. (Illustration: rocking chair)
- ✓ As soon as he spots him coming down the road...he runs to him, throws his arms around his wayward son, and showers him with kisses.
- ✓ By acting so quickly and with such tenderness, the father prevents his neighbors from organizing a "qetsatsah" (kit-sat-sah) ceremony which would have cut his son off.
- ✓ Another interesting fact: Middle Eastern men wore long robes and did not run in public (this was undignified). The thought that the father is running would deflect attention away from the ragged son. The focus would be on the father who humiliated himself in public.
- ✓ The older son (representing the self-righteous crowd) was angered by his father's willingness to receive his foolish younger brother back.
- ✓ Even in this Jesus depicts the father in a way that would surprise his listeners. Instead of slapping his son and publicly rebuking him for

refusing to attend the celebration, the Father humbles himself by leaving the feast in order to reach out to his angry son.

- ✓ Both sons have publicly offended their father by their selfish behavior...both were offered what they needed not what they deserved – extra ordinary grace from the Father who loved them.

? Who are you more like...the older or the younger son?

? Aren't you glad you have a Heavenly Father who loves you even when you don't deserve it? Instead of a ceremony of rejection, we have a feast of reception?

- To someone here today...you need to hear me say it...the Father is pursuing you...you've run away, wasted some years and you may be unsure if you are welcome back home...the Father waits for you...the church community prays for your return.
- To another...you never left, still at the church house but you've become critical, judgmental, and you have lost focus on what brings the Father joy... "the lost" matter to God our Father...let's welcome them home...matter of act, let's go find them and help them find their way home.
- ❖ A couple of weeks back, Greg Boone (Look Up Lodge Director) spoke on the #1 job of a parent...do you remember?

**Ephesians 5:1 (NLT) – Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are His dear children.**

- Phillips Craig and Dean – “I want to be just like you”

He climbs in my lap for a goodnight hug,  
He calls me dad and I call him bub,  
With his faded old pillow, a bear named pooh  
He snuggles up close and says, “I want to be like you.”

I tuck him in bed and I kiss him goodnight.  
Tripping over the toys as I turn out the light.  
I whisper a prayer that someday he'll see.  
He's got a father in God, cause he's seen Jesus in me.

Lord, I want to be just like you.  
Cause he wants to be just like me.  
Want to be a holy example.  
For his innocent eyes to see.

Help me be a living Bible, Lord.  
That my little boy can read.  
I want to be just like you.  
Cause he wants to be like me.

Got to admit I've got so far to go.  
Make so many mistakes and I'm sure that you know.  
Sometimes it seems no matter how hard I try  
With all the pressures in life, I just can't get it all right.

But I'm trying to hard to learn from the best  
Being patient and kind, filled with your tenderness,  
Cause I know that he'll learn from the things that he sees  
And the Jesus he finds will be the Jesus in me.

Lord, I want to be just like you.  
Cause, he wants to be just like me.  
I want to be a holy example.  
For his innocent eyes to see.

Help me be a living bible, Lord.  
That my little boy can read.  
I want to be just like you.  
Cause he wants to be like me.

Right now, from where he stands, I may seem mighty tall.  
But it's only cause I'm learning from the best Father  
Of them all.

Lord, I want to be just like you.  
Cause he wants to be just like me.  
Want to be a holy example for his innocent eyes to see.

Help me be a living Bible, Lord.  
That my little boy can read.

I want to be just like you.  
Cause he wants to be like me.

I want to be just like you.  
Cause he wants to be like me.

❖ What is God the Father like?

## 1) GOD IS **HOLY**, YET **LOVING**. (PRO PRESENTER SLIDE BULLETIN OUTLINE)

- ✓ **1 John 1:5 (NLT)** - ...God is light and there is no darkness in Him at all.
- ✓ The holiness of God is a reoccurring theme throughout scripture.
- ✓ We see His holiness in the O.T.
  - **Leviticus 11:44-45 (NLT)** – <sup>44</sup>For I am the Lord your God. You must consecrate yourselves and be holy, because I am holy...<sup>45</sup>I am the Lord...the one who brought you from the land of Egypt, that I may be your God. Therefore, you must be holy because I am holy.
  - ✓ Isaiah, the prophet, got a glimpse of God’s holiness.
    - **Isaiah 6:3&5 (NLT)** - <sup>3</sup>...“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of Heaven’s Armies! The whole earth is filled with his glory!” <sup>5</sup>...I said, “It’s all over! I am doomed, for I am a sinful man. I have filthy lips, and I live among a people with filthy lips...”
  - ✓ God in whose character doesn’t change is seen as holy in the N.T. as well.
    - **1 Peter 1:15-16 (NLT)** – <sup>15</sup>But now you must be holy in everything you do, just as God who chose you is holy. <sup>16</sup>For the Scriptures say, “you must be holy because I am holy.”
- God doesn’t sin, take pleasure in wrong doing; He does that which is good and right for He is perfect.
- ✓ Of course, this puts Him in a category all of His own...this distinguishes Him from all of creation.
- Though God is holy, He still loves us. His love is unconditional...He loves us on our best days and our worst days.

**John 3:16 (NKJV)** – For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son...

**Romans 5:8 (NLT)** – But God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.

- Since we are still battling our sinful nature, we will need to confess our failures and ask for forgiveness.
- Let's strive with the Holy Spirit's help to do what is right...to reflect the holiness of God to our family.
- May we love our family and others even when they fall short of what they should be.

## 2) GOD IS PATIENT BUT NOT PERMISSIVE. *(PRO PRESENTER SLIDE BULLETIN OUTLINE)*

- **2 Peter 3:9 (NLT)** – The Lord isn't really being slow about His promise, as some people think. No, He is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed but wants everyone to repent.
- Remember how Jonah got upset with God for not destroying Nineveh (he pouted over a plant that died but didn't like that God would spare the lives of 120,000 who humbled themselves, turned from their sin and cried out to God in repentance...Jonah 4).
  - ✓ God forgives the sinner who repents.

**Psalm 51:17 (NLT)** – The sacrifice you desire is a broken spirit. You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God.

- Yet God will not tolerate defiance...He administers short-term pain to develop long-term character.

**Hebrews 12:7&10 (NLT)** - <sup>7</sup> As you endure this divine discipline, remember that God is treating you as His own children. Who ever heard of a child who is never disciplined by its father? <sup>10</sup> For our earthly fathers disciplined us for a few years, doing the best they knew how. But God's discipline is always good for us, so that we might share in His holiness.

- Don't be unrealistic in your expectations (blow a gasket; accidents can be overlooked but defiance and disrespect must be dealt with).

### 3) GOD GIVES US **GOOD** THINGS, BUT HE DOESN'T **SPOIL** US. (PRO PRESENTER SLIDE BULLETIN OUTLINE)

**Matthew 7:11 (NLT)** – So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good things to those who ask Him.

**James 1:17 (NKJV)** – Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

- God is a generous God, the giver of gifts and the provider of opportunities.
- Yet He allows troubles and trials for He knows this is how we grow.

**James 1:2-4 (NLT)** - <sup>2</sup> Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. <sup>3</sup> For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. <sup>4</sup> So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect (mature) and complete, needing nothing.

- Be generous to your child but be careful...your desire to give them the life you didn't have may leave them weak and unprepared for life on their own.
- Illustration: the story is told of the boy who brought a caterpillar home and placed it in a jar in his room.
  - ✓ One day the caterpillar climbed up the stick and began to create a cocoon.
  - ✓ The little boy waited patiently for a butterfly to emerge. One day it happened, a small hole appeared in the cocoon and the butterfly began the struggle to come out.
  - ✓ The boy was excited but soon he became concerned. The butterfly was struggling so hard to get out and it looked like he couldn't break free.

- ✓ The boy decided to help...he got some scissors and snipped the cocoon, making the hole bigger.
  - ✓ The butterfly was now free...it's body was swollen and wings were small. He continued to watch the butterfly expecting at any moment the wings would dry out and off the butterfly would go.
  - ✓ But it never happened...the butterfly spent the rest of its life crawling around on its swollen body and shriveled up wings.
  - ✓ What the boy didn't know was the butterfly needed to struggle...for it's in the struggle that as he pushed his way through the cocoon that fluid in its body travels to the wings.
  - ✓ Without the struggle the butterfly would never take flight. His good intentions actually crippled the butterfly.
- Struggling is an important part of growing. It's in the struggle that we develop the ability to fly.

**CLOSE:**

- Some of our dads are in the Lord's care today...
  - ✓ I'm glad to know: **Jesus said (John 14:2) in my Father's house are many mansions...**
- We have a heavenly Father who extends grace to the sinner and the self-righteous.
- Imitate God!
  1. He is holy, yet loving.
  2. He is patient but not permissive.
  3. He gives us good things but doesn't spoil us.

**Pastor Ralph Schneck**  
**First Baptist Church of Lexington**  
**Message Notes**  
**June 17, 2018**