

Made from Mud: The Lover- Father's Day

Nick - June 17, 2018

Series Big Idea: Men and women are created in the image of God. While we share this design blueprint, we represent different variations of his uniqueness. Instead of placing higher and lower values on our representations of God, we need to embrace how our uniqueness is lived out. This series explores four pillars of biblical manhood: the protector, the spiritual leader, the lover, and the connector. When we live out these four pillars, we step into intentional living and purposeful leadership of our families.

Message Big Idea: Men are typically known as being stoic. This isn't necessarily a bad thing, but when dealing with others (especially our family and friends), we cannot experience the fullness of relationship as God intended without learning to show love. This week, we'll look at one of the same scriptures as last week, but we'll focus on how God has called us to love as he has loved the church. We display leadership when love others more than ourselves. Biblical manhood requires us to love the way Jesus loves.

Main Idea: Acts of love show the heart of the Father.

Main Text: John 13:1-35

Supporting texts: John 15:12

Reflection/Discussion Questions:

1. What has been your experience with your own father/father figure? Do you look back fondly or with sadness?
2. Each of us are designed to reflect our spiritual Father. Jesus was the perfect representation of his love for us. No matter our personal experiences, God is unwavering in his love and grace for us. He never leaves or forsakes us. Do you see God as your spiritual father? How does that relationship look and function?
3. Jesus showed the disciples a powerful act of love when he washed their feet. Read John 13:4-17. How have you seen your leaders serve those around them? How do you serve those around you?
4. In John 13-34-35, Jesus gives us the command to love one another the way he loves us. Describe how you see God's love for you. Now, how are you showing that same love to everyone you come into contact with?
5. Acts of love show the heart of the Father. Talk about one way that each of you can show a powerful act of love this week.

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I love that video. So much of it is true. I'm sure some of us will even do some of those things today.

Well, Good morning & Happy Father's day, my name is Nick Farr and I'm one of the teaching pastors here at Pantano. We are in our third week of our four week teaching series called "Made from Mud-Unique not Better." The idea in this series is that God created both male and female intentionally to reflect different parts of his personality. Men and women are unique and the great news is that neither is better than the other.

Our whole purpose on this earth is to reflect God. As men and people we were created to reflect the father. What do we reflect? We reflect the love that God, our father, has for us. Today we want to celebrate the men and father figures that have stood up to embrace that call and are doing it well. At the same time, I know that not everyone had the best example of what a good father looked like. While what was reflected to you might not have been great, it doesn't change the fact that THE FATHER is here for you and I encourage you to lean into that truth and his love.

After service, I'd like to invite all the fathers and everyone else to join me in the cafe and outside for free Krispy Kreme Donuts and the car show!

A Father's job is varied and always full of surprises. It's also a job that gives a lot of joy because it really isn't a job, but a love of your life. Over the years, God has taught me a lot about being a dad. My girls have taught me a ton too. Here are some pictures of us. They've taught me to relax, have fun, and embrace joy.



Being relaxed, having fun and embracing joy sound like easy emotions, but as men, sometimes we get the idea that we've got to keep it all together and reserved. Now, there are surely times that we need to be reserved, but it doesn't have to be a way of life.

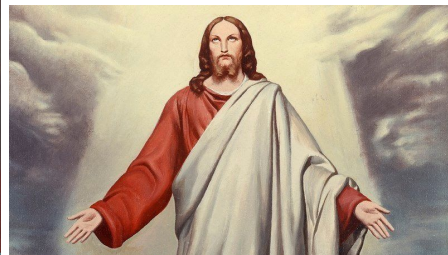
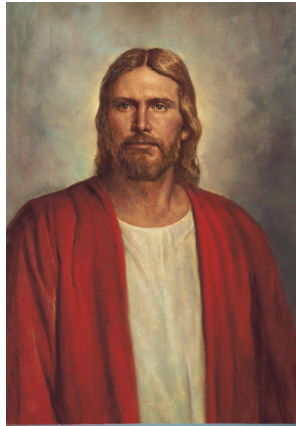
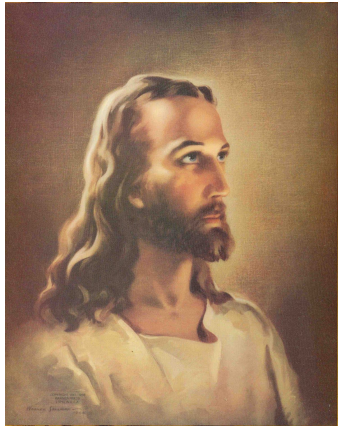
As we celebrate fathers & father figures today, I'd like to remind us all of the power of showing love in bold ways. Showing love doesn't always mean having the best dad jokes, creating fun adventures for your kids, or the like. But it does include knowing when to listen, hold, and comfort. It knows when to laugh, be silly, and undignified. It knows when to be a father figure to

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someone desperately in need of an example. The best example we see of bold, unconstrained love, is that of Jesus.

Sometimes when we think of Jesus, we have certain images that pop into our minds. I'd like to show you some pictures of what comes to my mind and how I'd explain them. This may not be what you think about and you may even like these pictures, but that's ok. So in my mind, I've got: 1. Pretty Jesus 2. Annoyed Jesus 3. I have to deal with these people Jesus 4. Buff Jesus.



In my opinion, I don't think that any of these are true representations of what Jesus looked like. These pictures didn't show emotion and for me, they just don't capture the heart of Jesus. We also have to recognize that Jesus wasn't a white, middle middle aged man. Jesus was middle eastern. He was definitely Jewish.

To get a true idea of what Jesus looked like, we have to go to scripture. First, we know he wasn't particularly a looker, Jesus didn't have the smolder, because Isaiah 53 says that nothing stood out about his appearance that would draw us to him. Beyond looks, we know that Jesus felt a wide range of emotions. We know from scripture that Jesus felt happiness, sorrow, and we have a couple examples from Matthew 5 in the sermon on the mount of Jesus cracking Jewish jokes. We also can draw from scripture that people loved being around him.

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If we could go back in time to the moments in scripture where Jesus is showing compassion on people around him, speaking life to those dead on the inside, touching the untouchable, accepting those rejected, we would see the powerful love that Jesus displayed. Mark 10 tells us that kids wanted Jesus to hold them. Kids don't want to spend time with people that are scary or stoic. They run to those that make them feel loved and safe.

We see Jesus' love displayed when he's with his disciples. These guys are like Jesus' interns learning the ropes to launch the global church. They didn't know it yet, but Jesus was setting the example for them on how to live as men.

In John chapter 13, we have Jesus preparing for his last supper with the disciples. What we're going to see is Jesus leading by example. He shows them a practical example of his love for them--he washes their feet.

For us today we either don't see this as a big deal or think of it as totally gross. But in Jesus' day, this was a huge sign to his disciples.

First, most people wore open toed shoes if they had shoes at all. Think flip flops. The roads were mostly dirt. People's feet got really nasty. So when you would come into someone's house, their servant or help would typically wash your feet to keep the place clean.

What's Jesus' role here? He's the teacher. He's the leader. They've seen him do all of these amazing things in the name of God and they know him as Lord. But here, He's doing the job of a servant. He's lowering himself. This is a perfect example of my main point from last week. Leaders don't demand submission, they lead in acts of service.

Let's read this together in John 13:4-8 page_____.

4 so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist.
5 After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. 6 He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"
7 Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."
8 "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."

Let's go down to verse 12:

12 When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. 13 "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. 14 Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. 15 I have set you an example that you

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should do as I have done for you. 16 Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. 17 Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them."

After Jesus finishes washing their feet, the night continues. He goes on to share something interesting. He says that someone sitting there with them would betray him. One of the guys in the inner circle, that has been with Jesus since the beginning and see Jesus do everything is going to betray him.

So Jesus washes their feet, giving them a great example, and then drops this bomb on them. Now, all of this is happening during the time leading to the cross and what we remember as Good Friday. We know from scripture that this guy is named Judas. Jesus makes eye contact with him and tells him to go do what he needs to do...betray him.

Now what am I including this part about Judas here in a story of Jesus washing feet and setting an example. It's because of this command that Jesus says right after Judas leaves.

Let's read it together: John 13:34-35 page ____.

34 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. **35** By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

Acts of love show the heart of the Father.

What act of love did Jesus do here? Actually two huge things.

1. Jesus takes the role of a servant and washes their dirty feet.
2. Jesus tells us that no matter what we do, he's still going to love us.
 - a. How do we know that? Well at the beginning, scripture says that Jesus washed the disciples feet. It doesn't say, "Jesus washed everyone's feet except for Judas because he knew he was a low life and was going to betray him." No, his act of love extended to Judas too.
 - b. However, Judas still got up and walked out. But it didn't change the fact that Jesus still loved him.

Why is this so important? Because-

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Every man at that table had sinned. No one at that table was worthy of Jesus' love or the love he showed us all on that cross. We're not good enough. But the Father still loves us. Regardless.

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Dads & Father Figures have that same great opportunity to show the power of love.

That's the legacy of love. We love regardless because he loves regardless. Without condition we're lavished with love.

And it's true that God loves every single person in this world and those that have ever lived. But, we can only truly know the SAVING love of the Father is we know and have accepted Jesus.

Knowing Jesus gives us everything we need to encourage, to be present with, and to speak life into those around us. If you don't have that yet, you can come forward after service today and talk to one of our prayer partners about accepting Jesus. You can also join a men's life group out in the courtyard next week after Pastor Joe's message.

But until then, I'd like to offer two ideas on how we can show love to our kids and those around us in the way that Jesus did:

This first is this: Don't hold back.

1. Don't hold back.

- a. Let your guard down. God designed you with the ability to show love.
- b. It's ok to be goofy, to show crazy joy, let them see sadness, and watch how you deal with all of it.
- c. This is going to look different for every man depending on your personality type, but I know you've got a little goofy down in there somewhere!
- d. For me, it's playing rough with my girls, singing songs that I've made up really loud as I'm putting them to bed.

2. Think about your legacy of faith.

- a. Others will worship the way that you worship. They'll talk to God the way you talk to God. Kids eat this stuff up. They model their relationship with God partly on how you live out your relationship with God.
- b. Let them see you sing, raise your hands if that's your thing, read your Bible on your own. Be that example.
- c. For me, it's praying with my oldest everyday on the way to school. (TALK ABOUT)
- d. Women, as men try to figure out how to leave their own legacy of faith, give them permission to do that in their own way.
- e. And if you haven't done a really good job of leaving a legacy of faith yet, God is giving you an opportunity today to move forward and be a better man. The good news is the good new of Jesus. Tomorrow is new day and he forgiveness is vast. You can always start fresh.

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None of us are perfect, but I know that we have some really great men in here. Men that have been taking a stand for a long time and men who are in the process of standing for the first time. It's so exciting to see how God has been moving. Last week we had 19 people come forward to be baptized and we had 12 more students from middle school camp. Several of the men from last Sunday were men who told me that they were responding because it was time to embrace our call to follow Jesus and be men modeled after God.

When I think of men who realize they are made for more and have a purpose, I think of my dad. **(SEND KENT)**. My dad was an elder for many years. He's served as a ministry leader, usher, communion server, and taught Bible classes and much more.

From my earliest memories, my dad has shown me the power of following Jesus. He's worked extremely hard my entire life to provide, being a rock during the unknowns of my health scares, and modeled what a relationship with Jesus looked like. I remember watching you read your Bible at the kitchen table and making a point to tell me that God is always with me. In particular, I remember a time when you showed me a powerful act of love. **(CARRYING HOME FROM THE HOSPITAL)**.

And now that you're retired, I get to see you and mom all the time as they just moved in with us.

As our ushers prepare, Dad, I want to say thank you for showing me what relationship with Jesus looks like. You know, you asked me this past week if the things I just said were true and if I believed them in my heart. I know we haven't always been perfect, we haven't always agreed about everything, and we've had some rough patches, but we've always tried to move forward. I thank you for that. So today, to answer your question, I can stand here and say yes, these things I'm saying about you are true. I am thankful for you and the impact you've had on my life.

Dad, would you help me talk about why we take communion and why it's important?

Dad would you pray for our communion? (KENT PRAYS)

Nick: OFFERING- (WAYS TO GIVE)

Song during offering

Acts of love show the heart of the Father.

OFFERING/CLOSING Prayer-Nick