

A Father's Love

Mark 12:35-40

June 18th, 2023

Happy Father's Day!

Five Principles of a Christ-centered loving Father:

- **Guides and directs**
 - his children with God's truth found in His word.
- **Asks**
 - his children questions that strategically train them to think Biblically and Logically.
- **Teaches**
 - his children how to develop Biblical Discernment and to recognize self-deception.
- **Lives sacrificially and models**
 - to his children God's sacrificial Care, Compassion, and Grace.
- **Gives**
 - his children Comfort and Hope alongside Biblical Correction and Discipline.

After answering questions, Jesus now asks questions.

Mark 12: ³⁵ And as Jesus taught in the temple, he said, "**How can the scribes say that the Christ is the Son of David?**" ³⁶ David himself, in the Holy Spirit, declared, "The Lord said to my Lord, sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet." ³⁷ David himself calls him Lord. **So how is he his Son?"**

Matthew 22: ⁴² saying, "**What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?"** They said to him, "The son of David."

As Fathers our primary goal is not raising our children and sending them off to college, the primary goal of a Christ-centered loving Father is teaching our children who _____ is.

Philippians 2:⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

All will bow down before Jesus someday, some willingly, some not willingly, but ____ will bow down. Everyone, no exception, will stand before Him eventually.

Christianity – says Jesus is God, the second person of the Trinity. As God the Son, he has always existed and was never created. He is fully God and fully man. Born of a virgin, died on a cross according to God's plan, as the full sacrifice and payment for our sins. He rose from the dead and ascended to heaven. Jesus will come again visibly and physically to establish God's kingdom and judge the world.

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As Christ-centered loving Fathers, we don't want to raise religious children. We want to raise children of _____ in Jesus Christ.

Jesus exposes the religious leaders:

- Jesus reveals that the religious leaders' behavior does not reflect Godly belief.
- Their motives were selfish and self-promoting.

Our actions reveal our character:

- Belief always produces behavior.
- What we believe is what we do.
- Your invisible-in-the-heart beliefs become visible to others through your actions.
- What we do reveals our true heart.

The life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ reveal God's _____.

God the Father reveals His heart by sending His Son to die in our place. That is love!

Jesus Christ visibly showed the world His love by the action of suffering and dying on the cross in obedience to the Father and for the redemption of all who _____.

1 Thessalonians 2:¹¹ You know that we treated each of you as a father treats his own children. ¹² We gave you hope and strength. We comforted you. We really wanted you to live in a way that is worthy of God. He chooses you to enter his glorious kingdom.

Discussion Questions:

1. What did you learn from Jesus in Mark 12:35-40? How can we apply His teachings today?
2. What stood out to you regarding the five principles of a Christ-centered loving father?
3. Many people gladly hear about Jesus as a Savior—his love, compassion, and grace but not all repent and make Him Lord. Share when you put your faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

4. Share a time when God showed His love to you personally or as a family.
5. Our actions reveal our character. God, our loving Father, sent His Son to die for our redemption. What does that tell you about the character of God? What is an area of character development you're working on to be more like Jesus?