

Spiritual Leadership

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It is a joy to stand before you to preach forth God's word in celebration of Father's Day today. If you have your Bibles with me, please go ahead and turn with me to Ephesians 6:4. I invite you to open there and we are going to explore a very crucial topic about fathers and what it takes to be a father according to scripture and the journey that looks according to God and what he has put in place for us instructions in the home, the God's blueprint in the home.

You see from the very beginning of creation God established the absolute necessity of leadership. Let's just start with the first marriage between Adam and Eve. God appointed man to lead, not the other way around. It was man to lead. And as he traced throughout redemptive history, according to scripture, you can flip throughout the scriptures and you will find God is constantly raising up men to lead. We look at the patriarchs such as Abraham. We look at the prophets such as Isaiah and Jeremiah. We look at priests all throughout Leviticus. We see judges in the book of Judges. We see kings in the book of Kings and all sorts of other leaders.

When our Lord Jesus Christ began his earthly ministry, he chose 12 men. Twelve men. And what did he do for the course of three years? He trained them deeply, grounding them in the word of God, depending upon him to raise up future leaders of his church.

But the most foundational form of leadership ultimately falls not in the halls of government nor in the corporate boardrooms of corporate America. The most critical and the most foundational form of leadership is the husband's and the father's leadership in the home because it says as fathers go so goes the future leaders of our homes and our churches.

Let me just say generally speaking too many men today are drifting in leading in their homes and our churches. Culture confuses us about fatherhood and that there are vast amount of ways to go about fatherhood. But God's word doesn't treat parenting as a mystery that one has to find out for himself. No, it is to go to the word of God. That is our primary source of instructions on fatherhood. And it is very straightforward. When it comes to the instructions of fatherhood, it is straightforward. It is direct. There are commands. You either obey or you disobey. There is no in between according to God. It is also deeply spiritual work. It is a spiritual work at the heart of it. There is a spiritual

enemy who wants to destroy husbands, who wants to destroy fathers in the home because if he can attack the home, he can do so out in society. So you cannot blame society for its problems. No, it is because of the home. And it goes back to the father and the husband.

Simply put, the only way to be a dad who leads well is to be a dad who lives well in Christ. In Christ. That's it. Amen. Today we are going to look at three standards that are non-negotiables in the home. Passages from the epistles that the Apostle Paul wrote and we are going to see what it looks like to be courageous not according to the world but according to scripture what it looks like to be a godly father that takes action not passive but is active in his faith. Let us go to the first one if you will go ahead and stand with me Ephesians chapter 6 verse 4 turn with me there.

God's word says this:

“And ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath, but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.”

May God bless the reading of his word. You may be seated.

The Apostle Paul lays down a dual command here that cuts straight to the heart of parenting which both must be done at the same time. Meaning you cannot just take discipline and put it as in itself or admonition in of itself. It must be discipline and admonition at the same time. First, let's look at the discipline. It starts off with the negative, the prohibition, saying provoke or don't rouse your children to wrath. That should not be your goal. Not to rouse wrath in your children. You know where it starts? It starts with you. Are you angry at your children? Guess what? That is going to rouse into your children. So it is very important that you yourself watch your own heart when it comes to discipline. It will be shared. It will be shared.

Paul is warning fathers against exhibiting harshness, a heavy hand, passive approach or a hypocritical style of parenting that will ultimately crush a child's spirit and breed deep-seated mistrust, unbelief, and resentment. This is why this is so important. Think about that. How did God approach Adam when he sinned? Do you remember? He asked a question. He did not go and just pour his wrath on Adam. He started off with a question. “Where are you?” Of course, the Lord knew where he was. But what happens is when you do something, when a child does something wrong, he does not know what he is doing. He is trying to hide. Sin at the heart of it is hiding. So the father knows where the child is doing is wrong. So he asks a question, “Where are you? What are you doing?” Another way of saying it, what are you doing? Because sin and the sinner needs to be exposed. Amen. Yes, it does need to be exposed. The sin and the sinner. That is what we see in Adam exposing his sin and him as a sinner. And then God proceeds to speak about the consequences of his disobedience. So it is not good enough just to ask the question,

what are you doing? But you must show the child here son, here daughter, this is the consequence of your disobedience.

Imagine your child as an adult because he or she is becoming one eventually. And those little things must be checked now when they are a child, when they are under your household. Because the difference between a passive rebuke, which is just being angry at the child without some kind of questions and answers will take them into a place of not being able to be corrected later. This is the problem and we must correct it now. We must have a corrective approach to parenting for the fathers. And it is explaining what they did wrong instead of just punishing them for punishing them sake which only leaves them to make the same mistake again because why? Why did they make the same mistake? Typically because they were not corrected. So now we go to the positive mandate. The second command says bring them up. Literally means to shepherd your child. That is what bring them up means. And then he says in the nurture that means discipline and admonition which is instructions in or of the Lord. This tells us that parenting is first and foremost a spiritual task. You are a shepherd in the family. And what are you leading them to? It is not merely about providing food. Yes, it is important. Clothing and a roof over their heads. But it requires showing them how to live rightly before God and with others, namely the father and the mother and other siblings.

And then we see here discipline. So we go from shepherding from the word of God to discipline which literally is self-control or another way of putting it you got to set the clear boundaries. Hey son, hey daughter, you passed the boundary and this is the consequence of it. They cannot have self-control if they do not know what are the lanes that they are supposed to stay within. And again the word of God clearly shows those boundaries of sin, do they not? So the instructions are there and then it also requires by doing so showing and explaining to them the consequences of their sin. If you go far this way son daughter this sin is going to require a consequence. See what happens with disobedient children is they do not think they would have a consequence. Go back to Adam. He did not think there would be a consequence to sinning. And that is what Satan's trick is. He does not show you the consequence. So do not be like the father of lies who hides the consequence, but be the father of truth who does show the consequence. There is death in sin. There is spiritual death first and then there will be physical death.

You see, we are trying to cultivate grace in our children to show them that it is not in of ourselves as fathers to do the help that they need. You see what we are doing here, men, is that we are pointing them to the Lord. You see that in the text? We are not pointing them ultimately to us because we are ultimately following the Lord Jesus Christ ourselves, right? As brothers and sisters in Christ. Amen. So we must first cultivate that in our heart so that we do not be hypocritical. Cultivating a home with shepherding your

children and the instructions of the Lord is by ultimately teaching of the word. So if you are not in the word of God, how can you teach the word of God to your children? That is putting the cart before the horse as an analogy. You cannot do it. It is impossible.

So what does that look like? It is your devotional time. Are you consistent in your devotional time? Are you spending quality time in the word of God and praying? And let them see that you are praying for them. Let them see with their own eyes that you are praying for them. And then that is how you bring them up as a shepherd of your home. And then ultimately that is what it looks like in the church context. I am to bring you up right in the context in the Lord. You have a small part in that in your own homes. It starts there. Even the Lord Jesus Christ, his earthly parents, Joseph and Mary found in Luke 2 took him to the temple. So another thing is yes build them up in the home but also bring them to the church family just like Mary and Joseph brought Jesus into the temple. That is very important.

Think about the nature of a home. The home is the ultimate testing ground of a man's character. It is where your true temperament is completely on display. You can put on a certain image here when you come and be with our church family. You can possibly greeting folks and have a smile, a warm handshake. But at the end of the day, the real character shows in the home and ultimately to your own children because they seem more at home than with the people in the church. They see with an acute clarity as they grow older and older and they start watching you more and more and see if there is consistency in your life. And then the phrase more is caught than taught. They are watching your character. And may God help us. We need God's help. We need to constantly be bound before the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, the Lord Jesus to be our model. We have no one else that we are modeling after as believers in Christ. Amen.

It is a father's public persona not to have a hypocritical mask that disappears the second you walk out through this door or that door. The kids are the very first to see it. If you just remind yourself the kids are going to see what I am doing, that can eliminate a lot of things that you are trying to hide from them. Nothing is more destructive to a child's moral and spiritual development than an indifferent or hypocritical dad. Because think of it. You might have a full-time job at work, but you know what your full-time job at home is? It is your character. You are a full-time role model. That is your calling. You can be a full-time positive role model and the only one is the Lord Jesus Christ or you can be a negative one yourself because at the heart of it of sin is selfishness. At the heart of being in Christ is selflessness. You see you want to pass down. What are you trying to pass down to your children? Are you trying to pass down a legacy of hypocrisy or are you trying to pass on a legacy of truth found in the Lord Jesus Christ? He is the truth. That your roles as a husband and a father is the most important and most sacred duty of your life. Take this calling seriously. It is a single best gauge of your overall success or failure

as a leader. Yes, that is how important it is to God. You cannot blame culture on this one because God intended the growth to happen in the home. Do not give them off to an institution. That is not what God says in his word. It must be you, father. The primary instructor, the primary one that is giving admonition of the Lord.

Although 1 Timothy 3:5, we see there is one of the qualifications towards pastors is asking a very penetrating question regarding him as a father at home. It says this, "If a man know not how to manage his own household, how shall he take care of the church of God?" Everything else we do, our jobs, our ministries, our duties, whatever they may be, is severely compromised if we fail to lead our own families properly. We multiply what comes out of the home. Let me repeat that. We multiply what comes out of the home. So take inventory of your home, of your home life. No one's going to do this for you. You have to take it upon yourself. Take inventory. Such as, would you like to see your leadership in your community with the church family with the kind of leadership you have at home? Again, it is going to be multiplied in your work, in your community, and at church. Ask yourself, is the fruit of the spirit, which is one of the cohesive clusters of character of Christ. Number one, we see the three pairs. Love, joy, and peace is the attitude. Attitude towards God. And then we see the attitudes towards others. Patience, kindness, goodness. And then the last three, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control is attitude towards self. So attitude towards God, attitude over others, and an attitude towards yourself. And they are all one cluster. The fruit, not plural, singular, fruit of the spirit. God gives this to us. He gave the right attitude towards God, the right attitude towards others, and the right attitude towards self. God is good. Amen. He gives us what you need. You cannot buy this. It is given. It is passed down. It is grace. It is all of grace. You see, we want this, the fruit of the spirit to be in abundance in our homes. And we want to constantly be growing and flourishing in the areas of our attitude towards God and other people and our self because what is done behind closed doors is what is on display everywhere else. It is just a matter of time. You have no control over it. It is in motion. Would not you want to display the fruit of the spirit yourself? Ask that question. So that is one of the best things you can give to God to others and to yourself cannot be manufactured by human willpower. It is the fruit of the spirit not the fruit of the man. It is the fruit of the spirit. The fruit is a byproduct of us abiding in Christ. You see that in John 15. The one that is abiding in Christ can have this fruit. He gives us growth because it is his character ultimately developing in us. Amen.

True leadership starts when we realize that bringing up our children in the Lord is not a duty. It is our greatest earthly privilege and one of the highest callings in life. Do not let the world, the flesh, and yourself think otherwise. Number two, turn with me to 1 Corinthians 16:13-14. These verses were the ones I shared with the men in the men's advance. We went over these specific commands one by one each day. 1 Corinthians

16:13 the word of God says, “Watch ye stand fast in the faith. Quit you like men. Be strong. Let all things or let all your things be done with charity.”

Paul fires off as it were like a rapid fire command to its commanding officers addressing his troops on the front line. This is frontline commands. You want to go forward, you better take these instructions. I want to zero in on the phrase quit you like men which is the very core. If you can think of a wheel, it is the core command at the center. That is quit you like men. In the original language, it simply means act like a man. Act like a man. And how does a man show himself or prove himself? We are going to see it with the other commands. The other commands are the how the how to's. So if you think of the core command, act like a man, there are these spokes. One of them is watch, be watchful, stand fast in the faith, be strong. Those are the spokes. And then what you see is love in everything in charity. Do it in charity. Or rather, it says here, let all your things be done with charity. So all those spokes must be circled around with love. With love, core command, three defense callings, and then one offense, love.

The basic virtue of biblical masculinity is a willingness to provide courage and stability in the home. Ask yourself, do you bring courage in the home? Do you bring stability in the home? Because if you are doing what Paul is commanding here, that is what is going to be poured into your home. Which the other commands again I share with you is the call to be defensive. When it says watch, he literally means be a watchman. A watchman was essentially given a command to spend three hours at his post. And what was he to do? Guard the enemy from coming in. That is simply his job. Do not let the enemy come in inside because once you knock out the defense, the people inside are defenseless. So he says that that is your first call of defense. Watch three hours. Well, in a nutshell, it is 24 hours. There are four watches in the day, four watches at night combined. That is their 24-hour watch. And so he says, “Watch in the home.” So what are you? The question is, what are you allowing inside of your home? Because you are the gatekeeper, Father. You are the primary one. What you allow into the home.

Next, the next defense. Stand fast in the faith. Literally means stand firm. Stay. Another way of putting it, fasten. It means like you look at a screw. It is one of the smallest unit, but yet it is something you cannot pull. That is the idea. You are fastening it. What are you fastening? So, another way of saying, what are you anchoring yourself in? For us believers, it is the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen. But what are you anchoring yourself in? Is it your career? Is it your hobby? Whatever. Think about what is your anchor? What is the anchor in your life?

The next be strong. The third defense calling. This is you might think stronger muscles, more guns, more willpower. No, that is not what strong is according to scripture. The one that is strong is the one that who lays down his life. Jesus in his strength, he could have

called 10,000 angels on the cross and yet he laid down his life. And he did not deserve it. He was not dying for his own sin. He was dying for all of our sins. There was no fault found in Christ. He was sinless son of God, the lamb of God which taketh away the sins of the world. So for us men then, how does that look? We bow down before the king first in prayer. We ask his strength to be upon us to stand. That is how it looks like. We only rise in his own strength, not in our strength. This is the kind of spiritual leadership and guidance that a family so desperately needs.

The courageous godly dad is called to take a stand on biblical truths even when it means paying a heavy cultural price. The culture will say, "Do not do that." But God says, "Do it. Stand firm. Be strong. Act like men." Yet notice how Apostle Paul balances this all in verse 14. He says, "Let all your things, let all those things that I just mentioned be done with charity." That is agape love that can only be given by the Lord. He can only give us this kind of love, which is laying down your life. Because sin at the heart of it says, "I can do whatever I want." But Christ calls us to lay down ourselves for those that we are accountable to, our wives and our children. True spiritual strength is never harsh or brutal. Again, look at the Lord Jesus. It is always wrapped up in Christlike love, laying down our lives for those whom he loves and as a result who we love.

We see this exact terminology used across the Old Testament when great responsibilities were passed down. As fathers we are passing down to our young children we see this in Moses after 120 years he prepared to hand over or pass down leadership of the nation of Israel all of the nation of Israel down to Joshua. Think of the amount of training that needed to be done amount of things that need to be passed down to Joshua he repeatedly commanded this he repeated it. It was not said once, "Be strong and courageous." Be strong and courageous. He would repeat this over and over and over again. Years later, we see the same development in King David who was lying at his deathbed, giving his absolute final charge to his young son Solomon. He did not give him a strategy for building up wealth or expanding the military that was passed on to him. What King David's most important final words were this. I go the way of all the earth. I am going to soon be passed. Be thou strong, therefore, and show thyself a man, and keep the charge of the Lord thy God, to walk in his ways, to keep his statutes and his commandments and his judgments and his testimonies.

So to act like a man in the biblical sense has always meant walking hand in hand with the commands of God. We have a gift, man. Such clear instructions on how to act like a man and therefore as a father. So let me ask you, where do you find the courage to stand strong against the cultural currents hitting us today? Yes, those currents are still hitting us just as it was back in David's day, just as it was in Moses day. Why did they say be strong, be courageous? Because the culture was against them. The world was against them. And it is the same application today. It is no different that the world still attacks biblical men,

biblical fathers. So you find it in three biblical assurances in scripture. The first assurance that you have of God to stay strong. The assurance of God's presence. We got to start with that. The assurance of God's presence, remembering his promise in Deuteronomy and Hebrews 13:5 "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." We just need his presence. What did Moses say? I just need your presence. If you are not with me, I am not going to go.

Next, clear instructions knowing that when you follow scripture, ultimately the God of the Bible, your steps are guided as what it says in Psalm 119:105, a lamp unto your feet and a light unto your path. Next assurance, the promise of God's sovereign power, his ultimate power, recognizing that as you meditate on his word day and night, as we see in Psalm 1:2, he will make your path prosperous. That word prosperous, let me define it biblically. It literally means spiritual success. It literally means stability and it literally means enduring fruitfulness. The fruit of the spirit Dad, remember compromising your character for short-term comfort never turns out as a good consequence. Stand fast and in the faith. Dive into the word of God and provide a clear unwavering spiritual direction for your children. As it says, do not be tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine. You already have what is set. Be stable in this. Let everything else pass away. Let the current just go in the background. There is nothing greater in life than to point your own children to the Lord. Amen. Nothing greater.

Next, I want us to look, you will turn with me, invite you to First Thessalonians chapter 2 verses 7-12. And this is where I will draw out my last point. Here we see a portrait of a spiritual father. 1 Thessalonians chapter 2 beginning in verse 7 through 12.

"But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children. So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because you were dear unto us. For you remember, brethren, our labor and travail for laboring night and day. Because we would not be chargeable unto any of you, we preached unto you the gospel of God. Your witnesses, and God also, how holy and justly and unblamely we behaved ourselves among you that believe. As you know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you as a father doth his children that you would walk worthy of God who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory."

This is a beautiful text where Paul defends the integrity of his ministry by comparing church leadership directly to parenting. He utilizes both maternal imagery which is as a nurse cherisheth which is the tender care of her children and paternal imagery to show what balanced spiritual leadership looks like. So if you can think of it it is maximum tenderness the maternal side and then maximum strength on the paternal side. And who was the one that had the maximum strength and maximum tenderness? It was the Lord Jesus Christ. You see how everything just keeps pointing to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Look at verse 10 with me. Paul highlights character here, holy, justly, and unblameably. All of these characters are emphasizing Paul's message and his daily behavior as it matches up with the gospel. See, he mentions it twice. The gospel of God. The gospel of God. The only reason why who I am because you do not know who I was before. Who was he? He was a vicious man. He was a persecutor of Christians. He was a terrorist. God transformed a terrorist to be this kind of a man. And only by the gospel of God. Amen. And why does it say gospel of God? Because it was from God. John 3:16. For God so loved the world that he gave there it is his only begotten son that whoever will believe in him should not perish but have everlasting life given first by God his own son to you, to us, to me. So we see here he wants to match what he is preaching with his character. That is all of us men. We do not want that gap. We do not want the devil to divide that in our lives because that is what the devil loves to do. He loves to divide our relationship with God and then he likes to divide us up in our relationship with each other. And only the mediator Jesus Christ brings us and reconciles to God. It is only by Jesus Christ that reconciles us to each other. It is a wonderful thing to be in Christ. It is a wonderful thing. May God help us fathers to be more consistent in this area. Amen.

Verse 11, Paul outlines the three actions of a father's leadership. His first action is exhorting. The Greek word here implies coming alongside someone to guide them toward a specific line of appropriate behavior. This is what Apostle Paul did day and night. He was literally side by side with them. He was literally with them day and night, side by side, showing them how Jesus transformed his life in his actions. And it was not just his words, but his actions. Do your children see not what you only say, but see what you do. How you behave in front of number one, your wife? He is going to watch how you respond to your wife, how you take care of your wife, because at the end of the day, that is how he is going to treat his future wife if he has one.

Next, the word comforting or encouraging. This literally means turning instructions into motivation. Hey son, hey daughter, I want you to know this instruction is what transformed my life and I want it to transform your life too. That is the greatest motivation. The transforming work of Christ in us. You appeal to the child or even an adult child. You go and reach his heart. You reach even his emotions. That is what this word literally means to help them make right choices. When the path gets difficult, that is where comfort is needed. Amen. And we know, man, as fathers, path gets more and more difficult as you continue fight on the good fight of faith. Continue on leading in your homes, leading your wife, leading your children. Satan wants to attack that more than anything else. So keep encouraging your child to follow after the Lord to hide himself in Christ because he is the only shelter that can protect us from the enemy.

Next, the charge imploring this comes from the word where it literally testifies of witnessing. It is a father looking at his child in the eye. This is men. Look at your child in

the eye when you say this. Let me tell you my testimony. If you deviate from God's course, there are serious consequences. Do not fall in the same holes I did. Do not fall into the traps of Satan. Do not fall into your own sinful desire because yes, we are not perfect. And let them see that. And let them see that it was Christ that brought you up. Proverbs 24:16 says, "The righteous man fall seven times." You know who is the one that raises up sustains us is the Lord Jesus Christ. It is the only reason why we can get back up.

So imagine a father and I can imagine this because I have done this now as my daughter has grown up, but I go on hikes. I love hiking. I love when it is really steep and my heart feels like it is coming out of my chest. I love it when it is scary, when I am literally hiking on the ridge and if I go to my left or to my right, I am going to fall. But you know what? It would be ridiculous for me to be at the top of the mountain, look down. Hey, daughter, come up. Come up. Come on. No, that would be ridiculous. But I want to draw this silly analogy to what the Apostle Paul is saying here in First Thessalonians. You got to stand side by side with your child and walk up the mountain together. You are to be their main guide. You are the one to lead them when it is dangerous to show them do not go this way. Do not go that way. That is going to make you fall. Nope. Keep straight. We are going to make it up there. Can you say that? Can you point them to the destination? Can you help them see the clear boundaries? You see, that is what it means to condescend. And just think about this. The Lord Jesus Christ condescended to us. He was not up in heaven saying, "Hey, come up to me. Hey, be like me. Be perfect." No. He came down to show us what it looks like to love God, what it looks like to love others. He came down to do that. He condescended for us. So we are also to condescend to our own children. Again, a poor leader is one that stands at the tops and looks down. A true leader is one that is side by side. True father behaves exactly like Paul describes. He condescends. He gets down on the trail as it were right next to him exhorting. So on the path of life you exhort. That is the first command. Next we see that when you get hurt along the way, he kneels down and he says keep going. That is what comforting is. Persevere. Next, the charge. The charge should not follow the dangerous path to stay close. Do not go off on your own. You are not there until the Lord Jesus Christ comes to that child and really knows what it means to be saved and washed and cleansed by his blood of all sin. There is no way to make it into life. And you cry out with that desperation, that charge, you got to come to the Lord Jesus Christ because the world is going to swallow you up. The flesh is not going to swallow up. Definitely the devil is going to win always. And you got to keep pointing them. The only reason why I can make it is because Jesus saved me from my sin, from my selfishness, saved me from my enemy the devil. Save me from the world, its lust, and its temptations. Because the Holy Spirit once he lives in you, he gives you the ability to overcome sin. And so, Apostle Paul continues to explain in that fashion. And we are to lead our children in that way. Not a perfect illustration of the hiking, I

assure you. But I just want you to remember those key words in scripture to exhort, to comfort, to charge.

So what is the ultimate objective of all this instructions? There is a lot of instructions I have given in the course of this message. But verse 12 tells us explicitly this is the goal that you would walk worthy of God. That your walk would be worthy of God. A godly father always has his eyes firmly fixed on the long-term growth of his children and most importantly that he will come to Christ and have a spiritual awakening and have spiritual growth. But until then, continue to be that example of what Christ has done in your life. Do not ever lose hope in your children at the very end if they are lost because ultimately God wants them to know the Lord Jesus Christ. God says that he is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance that all should turn to the Lord to live out an authentic faith long after they leave home.

Men, are you actively coming alongside your young ones, if you have young ones now, or are you distant? Are you sharing your very soul with them? Might not be day and night, but is there time with your children? Are you pouring your soul into them? Or are you simply handing them a tablet or a video game controller to keep them occupied? That is what most people do in the world. Do not fall into that trap. Instead, hand them the word of God and you instruct them from the word of God and show them your prayer life. See, when you pray, you are showing them how weak you are. How weak you are. And the only way you can have strength is because Christ gives you the strength. Show them repeatedly over and over again in your prayer life. The only reason I can stand is because he gives me the strength to do so.

So that is the call for all of us. If you have been a father for many years, decades possibly, my encouragement is to continue just walk worthy of God. He is the one that we are to gain our worthiness from. And he is the one that we are to place our heart as the worthy one. That is what worship is at the heart of it. We want to be fathers that are worshiping God in spirit and in truth as Jesus says. And as we cultivate that in our lives, people are going to watch and it is going to be for good intentions. Amen. It is going to be good. So I admonish you all men to continue on your walk. But if you are not in Christ, I also call you fathers, do not continue on walking according to your way because there is only two paths. You walk worthy of God or you walk unworthily towards God. And I ask you if God has spoken to you in this sermon, come to know the Lord Jesus Christ. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved. Whatever your past looks like, whatever it is currently, you will be saved from your sin. It will be all blotted out clean before God. It requires faith and that is itself a gift. So that is why it says just believe in him. Believe he can save you from your sin. He can take you however far you are on the path away from God. He can bring you right back to him just like that. You are either a Christian or you are not a Christian. You are either in the kingdom of darkness or in the kingdom of the

dear son Jesus Christ. There needs to be a transferring. And the only way it can be transferred is by the mediator Jesus Christ. Stop trying. Stop trying to be a father that is trying to do yourself. You can have Christ today for salvation. You can have Christ to help you to be the father that he has called you to be and also to be a husband you are called to be. Come and talk with me. If again God has spoken to you, I would love to introduce you to my savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who is truly worthy to live for. Amen. Let us pray.

Father, I have said a lot. But I just want simply for people to recognize the Lord Jesus Christ. I pray that Christ would have been exalted from this pulpit this morning that all of our eyes would be fixed upon him for us as Christian fathers that we would see. Yes, it is so worthy to walk with God in Christ. Help us to continue to persevere in that way until the Lord's coming or to be brought to the Lord. For those that again are walking unworthily of God, I pray, Father, that this message would have spoken to their hearts and would bring the conviction that the Holy Spirit can only do, which is point them to the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation. I pray that that would also be taking place right now. Help me to minister to them if they need to trust in him. If they sense that need, help me to point them to Christ. Please bless to this father in both ways. And we will thank you in Jesus precious name. Amen.