

Father's Day 2016

"A Father's Reward" - Matthew 10:38-42

Pastor Jason Dennett's Notes

What Is a Father?

- "Our dads are our first heroes (and, decades later, our last)." - **James Thorn, "Baseball: Our Game"**
 - "Fatherhood is at the very heart of masculinity. We are never stronger than when we grip the hands of those who look to us for strength." - **Stu Weber, "The Heart of a Tender Warrior"**
 - "Fatherhood may be the most frightening job in the world, but it is also the most important and most rewarding job a man can tackle. - **Josh McDowell, "The Father Connection"**
 - "Fathering is not a sprint; it is a marathon." - **Ken Canfield, "The Heart of a Father"**
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- **A father is a person that is forced to endure childbirth without anesthetic.** A father is a thing that growls when he feels good...and laughs very loud when he is scared half to death.
 - **A father never feels entirely worthy of the worship in a child's eyes.** He is never quite the hero his daughter thinks he is...never quite the man his son believes him to be...and this worries him, sometimes. So he works too hard to try to smooth the rough places in the road for those of his own who follow him.
 - **A father gets upset when the first grades in school** are not as good as he thinks they should be. He scolds his son...though he knows it is the teacher's fault.
 - **Fathers grow old faster than people.** Because they, in wartime, have to stand at the airports and wave good-bye to the uniformed son that flies away to face the unknown. And while mothers can cry where it shows, fathers have to be brave and beam outside...while quietly dying inside.
 - **Fathers have very stout hearts;** so they have to be broken sometimes or no one would know what's inside. Fathers are what give daughters away to other men who are not nearly good enough...so they can have grandchildren that are smarter than anybody's.
 - **Fathers fight dragons...almost daily.** They hurry away from the breakfast table...off to the arena which is sometimes called an office or a workshop. There, with callused, practiced hands, they tackle the dragon with three heads: weariness, work, and monotony. They never quite win the fight, but they never give up. Knights in shining armor—fathers in shiny trousers: there is little difference, as they march away to each new workday.

Matt 10: 38-42 NKJV - "And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it. He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me. He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's **reward**. And he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's **reward**. And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his **reward**."

1. The Father's **CROSS** (v.38)
2. The Father's **COST** (v.39)
3. The Father's **CROWN** (v.40-42)

1. The Father's **CROSS** (v.38) - "And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me."

- The Cross was the Mission of Jesus while upon the earth. He came here with the intention of giving His life upon the Cross.
 - **John 12:23-25,27 NKJV** - "But Jesus answered them, saying, "*The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified. Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ...*" Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save Me from this hour'? *But for this purpose I came to this hour.*"

- For FAITHFUL FATHERS, this is the intentional purposeful decision that is made to live out God's primary Mission and Calling for your life: **BEING A SERVANT OF YOUR KING, BY SERVING AND LEADING YOUR FAMILY!**
 - "When the family is destroyed, society eventually disintegrates..Many times it takes just one member of a family to initiate the action too bring a family back together again." - **Billy Graham**
 - "We need to place God at the center of our family...As a family we need to wake with God daily..The Bible says a great deal about entire families coming to Christ. Rehab the harlot..the Philippian jailer..and Cornelius, the Roman centurion. That could be true in your family too. You may be the one who could lead your family to Christ." - **Billy Graham**

- **Eph 2:10 NKJV** - "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."
 - "A father has enormous power. About this have has no choice. For good or for bad, by his presence or absence, action or inaction, whether abusive or nurturing, the fact remains: a father is one of the most powerful beings on the face of the earth." - **Ken Canfield**
 - "There are eyes upon you, and they're watching night and day; There are little ears that quickly take in every word you say; There are little hands all eager to do everything you do, and a little boy who's dreaming of the day he'll be like you. You are the little guy's idol, you're the wisest of the wise; In his little mind about you no suspicions ever rise; He believes in you devoutly, holds that all you say and do he will say and do in your way when he's grown up like you. There's a wide eyed child who believes you're always right, and their ears are always open an the watches day and night; You are setting and example every day in all you do, for the little child who's waiting to grow up to be just like you!" - **Croft Pentz**
 - "Men, the years go by quickly don't they? The little boy who sat on your lap and asked you to read a book to him - the child who imitated your every move - is now asking for the car keys. And one day, the little girl who called you Daddy and demanded a kiss every morning and a hug every night, will bring home a boy whom she calls honey. We can't miss the opportunity to enjoy these years. We should take advantage of this time to be close to our children - or grandchildren. We'll never regret time spent with our children. Not for a moment." - **Bill McCartney, Founder of Promise Keepers**

2. The Father's COST (v.39) - "He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it."

- **NLT** - "If you cling to your life, you will lose it; but if you give up your life for me, you will find it."

- For FAITHFUL DISCIPLES, this speaks of the sacrificial service that is given in fulfilling God's calling on your life as a **SERVANT OF CHRIST!**
 - **John 13:3-5,12-15 NKJV** - "Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, rose from supper and *laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself.* After that, He *poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet,* and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded. ... So when

He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you."

- "Are you ready and willing to be a hero? Obviously, it's not going to be easy; nothing worthwhile ever is. But if you long to become a hero by acting heroically, I personally know of no better way to accomplish that task than to be a hero at home. How? Work hard each day...at becoming a Servant Leader in your home. Honor your wife, Interact with your children at a deep level. And commit yourself to great character and integrity." - Paul Pettit, "Dynamic Dads"

- You are engaged in a vast array of services for your family, as you give them **PROTECTION** physically, **PROVISION** financially, **DIRECTION** spiritually, and **WISDOM** practically.

- You **LABOR** for them tirelessly, you **SHIELD** them faithfully, you **LOVE** them constantly...and you do it often **THANKLESSLY!**

- "If he's wealthy and prominent, and you stand in awe of him, call him 'father.' If he sits in short sleeves and suspenders at a ballgame and picnic, call him 'Pop.' If he wheels the baby carriage and carries bundles meekly, call him 'Papa' (with the accent on the first syllable). If he belongs to a literary circle and writes cultured papers, call him 'Papa' (with the accent on the last syllable). If however, he makes a pal of you when you're good, and is too wise to let you pull the wool over his loving eyes when you're not; if, moreover, you're quite sure no other fellow you know has quite so fine a father, you may call him 'Dad' ." - William Franklin, son of Benjamin Franklin

3. The Father's **CROWN** (v.40-42) - "He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me. He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward. And he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward. And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward."

- FOR **FAITHFUL FATHERS**, because of your bearing your **CROSS intentionally**, and because of the great **COST sacrificially**, you will be **CROWNED eternally and permanently**, by God Himself in Heaven!

- **NLT** - "If you receive a prophet as one who speaks for God, you will be given the same reward as a prophet. And if you receive righteous people because of their righteousness, you will be given a reward like theirs. And if you give even a cup of cold water to one of the least of my followers, you will surely be rewarded."

- "reward" is the Greek word **"μισθός"** or **"misthos"** meaning "a payment for work, a wage for labor, a reward for services rendered."

- - **Heb 11:6 NKJV** - "...he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."

- [Heb 6:10 NKJV](#) - "For [God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love](#) which you have shown toward His name, in that you [have ministered](#) to the saints, and [do minister](#)."
- [Rev 22:12 NLT](#) - "Look, I am coming soon, [bringing my reward with me to repay](#) all people [according to their deeds](#)."

The LORD keeps meticulous account of **EVERY** act of service you perform for Him as a faithful godly mother:

- [Matt 10:30 NLT](#) - "And the very [hairs on your head](#) are all numbered."
- [Psalm 56:8 NLT](#) - "You [keep track of all my sorrows](#). You have [collected all my tears](#) in your bottle. You [have recorded each one](#) in your book."
- [Matt 6:6 NLT](#) - "But [when you pray, go away by yourself](#), shut the door behind you, and [pray to your Father in private](#). Then your [Father, who sees everything, will reward you](#)."

FAITHFUL FATHERS will be rewarded and CROWNED at **the Judgment Seat of Christ**:

- [1 Cor 3:11-14 NLT](#) - "For no one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have--Jesus Christ. Anyone who [builds on that foundation may use a variety of materials](#)--gold, silver, jewels, wood, hay, or straw. But [on the judgment day, fire will reveal what kind of work](#) each builder has done. The fire will show if a person's work has any value. If the [work survives, that builder will receive a reward](#)."
- [Rev 4:4,10-11 NLT](#) - "Twenty-four thrones surrounded him, and twenty-four elders sat on them. [They were all clothed in white and had gold crowns on their heads](#)... 10 the twenty-four elders fall down and worship the one sitting on the throne (the one who lives forever and ever). And [they lay their crowns before the throne](#) and say, 11 "You are worthy, O Lord our God, to receive glory and honor and power. For you created all things, and they exist because you created what you pleased."

These CROWNS signify **the Ministry & Authority** FAITHFUL FATHERS will possess in the Kingdom of Heaven:

- [Luke 19:15-19 NLT](#) - "After [he was crowned king, he returned and called in the servants](#) to whom he had given the money. [He wanted to find out what their profits were](#). The first servant reported, 'Master, I invested your money and made ten times the original amount!' "'Well done!' the king exclaimed. ['You are a good servant. You have been faithful](#) with the little I entrusted to you, so [you will be governor of ten cities as your reward](#).'"The next servant reported, 'Master, I invested your money and made five times the original amount.' "'Well done!' the king said. ['You will be governor over five cities](#).'"
 - ****Teddy Roosevelt's return from an African safari hunt...**
 - [1 Cor 15:58 NLT](#) - "So, my dear brothers and sisters, [be strong and immovable. Always work enthusiastically for the Lord](#), for you know that [nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless](#)."
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Like Jesus' life, though a **FAITHFUL FATHER'S calling is challenging, he'll receive a **CROWN** that will never fade, and a **MINISTRY** that will never stop, an **AUTHORITY** that will be far-reaching, and an **INTIMACY** with his King which will last for eternity!**