

**“LEARNING TO BE SATISFIED WITH HAVING GOD THE FATHER AS YOUR FATHER”**  
(Genesis 15) (Psalm 68)

**INTRODUCTION:** Have you ever noticed the significant differences in how Mother’s Day is celebrated as opposed to Father’s Day? Restaurants are not as crowded on Father’s Day, fewer cards are sold, and church attendance is not as high. Since time began, only three people (Adam, Eve, and Jesus the Christ) did not have physical earthly fathers, so how do we explain the disparity in celebrations? Where are the fathers? Why are so many MIA? Is there a spiritual reason for their absence?

**BACKGROUND:** Abram had followed the call of God for over a thousand miles from an affluent society to uncharted territory in the Promised Land. He was hanging on to a promise from God about a family that had not come to life, and he seemed to be running out of years. He had accumulated great wealth and had just risked his life to rescue his selfish, carnal nephew Lot, who immediately went back to live in Sodom! More than anything else, Abram wanted to be a father and live up to the name he had been given.

**I. WHEN WE ARE LOOKING FOR FULFILLMENT APART FROM GOD’S TIMING, WE OFTEN MAKE POOR DECISIONS WITH PAINFUL CONSEQUENCES (Genesis 15)**

A. Satan will often attack after a victory, causing us to fear what he might do next. Trust the Lord to remind you of His protection and His provision.

1. The Lord Himself is our shield

2. The Lord Himself is our greatest reward, more satisfying than anything we imagine

B. Abram was so focused on his desire to be a father that he could not imagine being satisfied without that relationship. He doubted God’s ability to give him anything else that mattered.

C. Godly men want to be good fathers. Abram had lived for over 80 years with a name that means “high or exalted father” but he had not fathered anyone. He took a sinful path to help God fulfill his promise, (Genesis 16) and afterwards went 13 years without hearing from God! (Genesis 17:1) Eventually, he heard that he would become father of a multitude, and the Lord changed his name to reflect that promise. (Genesis 17:2-7)

D. We must never confuse God’s timing with His *ability* to keep a promise. Isaac would bring the laughter back into his life. (Genesis 21)

**II. WE LIVE IN A WORLD THAT IS TRYING TO REDEFINE THE FAMILY AND MAKE THE FATHER FIGURE OBSOLETE. OUR CHILDREN ARE SUFFERING THE CONSEQUENCES.**

A. Research consistently shows the correlation between absentee fathers and higher rates of teen pregnancies, poverty, incarceration, abusive households, substance abuse, drug and alcohol addiction, psychiatric illnesses, and suicides. Many fathers who are physically present but spiritually and emotionally absent cause similar damage.

B. We can never improve on God’s perfect plan for the family, which included a male and female both reflecting God’s image to their children. (Genesis 5:1) (1st Thessalonians 2: 4-12)

C. No human being can thrive without a family, which is why the Lord wants you to become part of His own, royal, eternal, hand-picked family. (Psalm 89) (John 14)

1. (Psalm 68:5-6) (Luke 18:1-8) (Isaiah 63:16-17) (Isaiah 64:8-9)

D. Fathers should emulate the things our Heavenly Father does for His children

1. He blesses them. (Genesis 5) (Genesis 9) (Genesis 37) (Genesis 48-49) (Numbers 6:22-27)

*“Family blessing includes Meaningful Touch, Spoken Message, Affirmation of High Value, Picturing a Special Future, and Active Commitment to Fulfill the Blessing” (Smalley/Trent)*

2. He protects and provides (Jehovah Rohi) (Elohim Shomri) (Jehovah Jireh)

3. He should lead the family in learning the Scriptures (Genesis 18:16-19)

### **III. IF YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT GOD THE FATHER IS REALLY LIKE, PAY ATTENTION TO WHAT JESUS SAID ABOUT HIM.**

A. Many have been deceived into thinking the God of the Old Testament was only a God of wrath. They also believe God the Father that Jesus spoke about was a different person, full of love, grace, and mercy. There is only one God and He cannot change! (Malachi 3:6)

1. God’s wrath is revealed against anyone who chooses to disobey Him (John 3:36) (Romans 1:18-32)

2. Jesus made it clear that He and the Father were equal (John 5:18) (John 10:30) (John 14:7-10)

**KNOWING THE LORD AS YOUR LOVING FATHER WILL DELIVER YOU FROM SPIRITUAL BONDAGE, EMOTIONAL BAGGAGE, IDENTITY CONFUSION, AND THEOLOGICAL ERRORS. COME INTO THE FAMILY AND ENJOY THE BLESSING.**

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