

Every Day Dad

June 21, 2020

Pastor Brian Coles

Elder's Announcement

Father's Day Video

Happy Father's Day! I want to take a moment to honor our fathers. We have some great men here at Petra. All fathers, if your title ends with father, grand, step, foster, spiritual, biological could you please stand? We want to honor you today.

Father's Day for me is a day that I really like to do things.

I reflect on the character of God and ask myself, "how am I doing?"

I think about what He is like. And then I ask myself, "Am I growing in the character of God in my own life and in my own parenting?" A really beneficial part of that is that actually what being a disciple of Jesus Christ is anyway. That really what all of us should be doing each day no matter who we are.

That's one of the really neat parts of Father's Day is that while my comments today will be directed to the fathers it really applies to all of us.

There are lots of go to Father's Day scriptures I could preach from.

Romans 8:15

¹⁵ The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father."

The word Abba means daddy. It's this picture of a child sitting on a father's lap.

I asked several men on staff and in the church how to describe this relationship. The words they gave me were personal, caring, healing, intimate, purposeful, unparalleled, trusting, and loving.

If I was going to preach this scripture today, which I'm not, I would probably boil the point down to:

You are invited into a meaningful and trusting relationship with Father God.

That would be a great sermon. I could see so many fathers everywhere connecting with that idea of developing a meaningful and trusting relationship with their heavenly father. Maybe they didn't have that with their earthly father so it's difficult to cultivate that with Father God.

Maybe growing up your relationship with your heavenly father wasn't meaningful or trusting. Maybe it was unmeaningful. Maybe there was only distrust. Or perhaps he wasn't there at all. If this was your experience you might find yourself struggling to connect with God in this way. It seems foreign and maybe even unnecessary. It's called a father wound. And the good news is that you can receive healing for this wound.

If you accept this invitation to have meaningful and trusting relationship with your heavenly father not only would you find healing and enjoy that relationship for yourselves but you can stop the pattern from being repeated in your relationship with your children. Also, you would be modeling for your children what is like to have a meaningful and trusting relationship with father God so as they grow in their faith, it can be replicated in their own faith journey as well. Isn't that one of the ultimate goals of parenting to raise children who have a meaningful and trusting relationship with Father God? That would be a great sermon. But I'm not going to preach that sermon.

Another great scripture that I'm not going to preach from today is the story of the Prodigal Son...

Luke 15:11-32

Parable of the Prodigal Son

(tell the story)

Man, that would be a good sermon. I'm not going to preach this but if I was, I would probably say something like.

You are invited to rest in the forgiveness of Father God.

That would be a great sermon. I could see so many fathers from everywhere connecting with that idea of resting in the forgiveness of their heavenly father. Maybe they didn't have that with their earthly father so it's difficult to cultivate that with Father God. Maybe there was no rest with dad. There was no forgiveness with dad.

Fathers walking around with so much guilt and so much shame is crippling. You feel trapped and you are so scared of God and so afraid of his disapproval. So terrified of his punishment

that you do with God what you did with your dad. Quietly co-exist, you want him there, but you hope he doesn't notice your mistakes. You hide a lot. But what if you knew that your heavenly father was looking for you, that not only does he want you back but he will cover your shame and bless you give you a new start?

If you accept this invitation to have a relationship not only would you find healing and enjoy that relationship for yourselves but you can stop the pattern from being repeated in your relationship with your children. You would model for your children what is like to rest in the forgiveness of Father God yourselves. Isn't that the ultimate goal of parenting to raise children who know how to rest in the forgiveness of Father God? That would be a great sermon. But I'm not going to preach that sermon.

Or maybe I would preach on God the Father affirming his Son. Jesus at his baptism or even the transfiguration.

Matthew 3:16-17 (ESV)

¹⁶And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; ¹⁷and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

Or during the transfiguration God actually interrupts Peter mid-sentence to affirm Jesus.

Matthew 17:5 (ESV)

⁵He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him."

If I was going to preach this scripture, I would probably say something like:

You are invited to receive the approval of Father God.

That would be a great sermon. I could see so many fathers from all over, connecting with that need of receiving the approval of the Father God. Maybe they didn't have that with their earthly father so it's difficult to cultivate that with Father God. For many of you there was no approval from your earthly father or if it did come it was rare. You developed a strategy of striving to be noticed to be liked to be loved. If I excel in sport or school or make money, 'll finally be good enough. Others simply give up realizing that no matter what they do they will never do enough.

If you accept this invitation to have this relationship not only would you find healing and enjoy that relationship for yourselves but you can stop the pattern from being repeated in your relationship with your children. You would model for your children what is like to receive the approval of the Father God yourselves. Isn't that the ultimate goal of parenting to raise children who know how to rest in the forgiveness of Father God? That would be a great sermon. But I'm not going to preach that sermon.

I'd like to speak today from just two short verses in John, but they are loaded with one of the most powerful truths from God's words to fathers or really anyone.

John 13:33-38

The stage for these verses is set in the book of John. Jesus is talking to his disciples and he predicts that he is going to die.

Judas

³³“My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come.

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

Peter skips over the command

(each of these verses on a separate slide)

³⁶Simon Peter asked him, “Lord, where are you going?”

Jesus replied, “Where I am going, you cannot follow now, but you will follow later.”

³⁷Peter asked, “Lord, why can't I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you.”

³⁸Then Jesus answered, “Will you really lay down your life for me? Very truly I tell you, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times!

You might be thinking, “Brian, this verse has nothing to do with Father’s Day. You should have stuck with the other verses. Let me explain.

Story about the father who had a son with autism.

This story brings to the surface on of the most important and foundational principles for every follower of Jesus Christ and Child of God. Surrender

You are invited to completely surrender your life to your heavenly father.

Oswald Chambers in his devotional book “My Utmost For His Highest”

“Jesus does not ask me to die for Him, but to lay down my life for Him. Peter said to the Lord, “I will lay down my life for Your sake,” and he meant it (John 13:37). He had a magnificent sense of the heroic. For us to be incapable of making this same statement Peter made would be a bad thing— our sense of duty is only fully realized through our sense of heroism. Has the Lord ever asked you, “Will you lay down your life for My sake?” (John 13:38). It is much easier to die than to lay down your life day in and day out with the sense of the high calling of God.”

As men we can offend depend on these sporadic heroic moments to maintain our social status, our marriages, our parenting. The big Christmas or birthday present. That extravagant vacation, when what they really need is regular family dinners and nightly bedtime prayers.

We would rather hit a homerun for the sake of the crowd, rather than run home for the sake of our legacy.

Get that one big commission. Drag home that one proverbial big kill to feed your family while all along they have been starving for the warmth and security of consistent provision.

Why do men do this, because we actually think it’s true, it really does feel good to have these big moments, movies and entertainment make it seem like that’s what life is all about. But it’s a lie. The truth is actor and athletes spend hours every day in detailed monotonous repetitive study and practice just so they can prop up the lie of culture that our everyday life should be fill with the extraordinary.

“If I am a friend of Jesus, I must deliberately and carefully lay down my life for Him.

God saves a person, fills him with the Holy Spirit, and then says, in effect, “Now you work it out in your life, and be faithful to Me, even though the nature of everything around you is to cause you to be unfaithful.” “

Why as men, do we make these mistakes in our lives? Chasing false idols and wasting valuable days, week, months, and years with our children. I think it’s because we have not accepted the invitation to completely surrender. The nature of everything around us is to cause us to be unfaithful.

The completely surrender life gets to do some pretty cool things, when you are completely surrendered to your heavenly father.

You are invited into a meaningful and trusting relationship with Father God.

You and God, you and your kid, your kids and God.

You are invited to rest in the forgiveness of Father God.

You and God, you and your kid, your kids and God.

You are invited to completely surrender your life to Father God

You and God, you and your kid, your kids and God.

Pastor Matt Kauffman, our Small Groups Pastor and leader of Men's ministry.

Closing

Run to the Father.