

## **“Good Father”**

Pastor Brian Coles

6.17.18

Good morning, Happy Father's Day! I'd like to take a moment to honor our fathers today. As I look around this room I see the faces of men that I have come to admire and respect. I know some of you are tuning in online this morning. We are very blessed at Petra to have many fathers that love God, love their families, they work hard, serve in the church, and are relentless in growing in Christlikeness. I have so much respect for the men of this church who have taken on the responsibility to recover from their past, their addictions, their worship of other gods, short coming, and failures. They have let the saving power of Jesus wash them clean and they are never going back. We have some good men at this church and we have some really Good Fathers.

Father's Day can be an emotional day for many of us. Our relationship with our earthly fathers can have such sever effects on our lives, both for the positive and the negative. Some of us have fathers who have passed on and we are morning their loss, others have fathers who have moved on, and their absence is deafening. Others have never known their father.

Some of us have been imprinted by our fathers with such blessing and stability. It's as if their strength has become our strength, their ways our ways, their faith our faith, their character our character. And still others have been imprinted by their fathers in different ways. Profoundly negative ways. Wounds that are very real, and in some cases hard to speak of.

Then into the picture comes another father. He is nothing like your earthly father. Even the greatest of earthly father's pales in comparison to him. He is kind, faithful, patient, available, he provides materially, emotionally and spiritually. He listens and understands, he sees you and knows you. He helps in our times of need and heals in our areas of brokenness. He is never far off. He is our heavenly Father.

Today I thought it would be most helpful for us to spend our time talking about this Father. The one and only Good Father. It's good for us to talk about him. Because we all need some rewiring in how we perceive him. If we don't allow his word to reveal to us what he is like we may fall into incorrect thinking of what he's like. We all have the tendency to relate what our earthly fathers or some other authority figure is like to what God is like and that is simply not the case. Our parents, teachers, leaders, can show us glimpses of his character, but there is nothing like meeting him for yourself.

### **Jeremiah 32:40-41**

**<sup>40</sup> I will make an everlasting covenant with them: I will never stop doing good to them, and I will inspire them to fear me, so that they will never turn away from me. <sup>41</sup> I will rejoice in doing them good and will assuredly plant them in this land with all my heart and soul.**

I'd like to take a look at an interaction that God has with one of his children. It's a young man so this is a father and son moment. I think that by reading through this interaction we will learn some things about God and how he talks to his children.

### **Jeremiah 1:1-19**

**1** The words of Jeremiah son of Hilkiah, one of the priests at Anathoth in the territory of Benjamin. **2** The word of the LORD came to him in the thirteenth year of the reign of Josiah son of Amon king of Judah, **3** and through the reign of Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Judah, down to the fifth month of the eleventh year of Zedekiah son of Josiah king of Judah, when the people of Jerusalem went into exile.

#### The Call of Jeremiah

**4** The word of the LORD came to me, saying,

**5** "Before I formed you in the womb I knew<sup>[a]</sup> you,  
before you were born I set you apart;  
I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."

**6** "Alas, Sovereign LORD," I said, "I do not know how to speak; I am too young."

**7** But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am too young.' You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. **8** Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you," declares the LORD.

**9** Then the LORD reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, "I have put my words in your mouth. **10** See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant."

**11** The word of the LORD came to me: "What do you see, Jeremiah?"

"I see the branch of an almond tree," I replied.

**12** The LORD said to me, "You have seen correctly, for I am watching<sup>[b]</sup> to see that my word is fulfilled."

**13** The word of the LORD came to me again: "What do you see?"

"I see a pot that is boiling," I answered. "It is tilting toward us from the north."

**14** The LORD said to me, "From the north disaster will be poured out on all who live in the land.

**15** I am about to summon all the peoples of the northern kingdoms," declares the LORD.

“Their kings will come and set up their thrones  
in the entrance of the gates of Jerusalem;  
they will come against all her surrounding walls  
and against all the towns of Judah.

<sup>16</sup> I will pronounce my judgments on my people  
because of their wickedness in forsaking me,  
in burning incense to other gods  
and in worshipping what their hands have made.

<sup>17</sup> “Get yourself ready! Stand up and say to them whatever I command you. Do not be terrified  
by them, or I will terrify you before them. <sup>18</sup> Today I have made you a fortified city, an iron pillar  
and a bronze wall to stand against the whole land—against the kings of Judah, its officials, its  
priests and the people of the land. <sup>19</sup> They will fight against you but will not overcome you, for I  
am with you and will rescue you,” declares the LORD.

### 1) The Good Father speaks Purpose and Destiny

#### Jeremiah 1:4-5

<sup>4</sup> The word of the LORD came to me, saying, <sup>5</sup> “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,  
before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.”

Purpose:

Abram

**Genesis 12** The LORD had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s  
household to the land I will show you. <sup>2</sup> “I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless  
you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless  
you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through  
you.”

Moses

**Exodus 3:6** Then he said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac  
and the God of Jacob.” At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God. <sup>7</sup> The  
LORD said, “I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. <sup>10</sup> So now, go. I am sending  
you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.” Do not be afraid for I will be  
with you.

Break off the word accident, mistake, you want to see poppa bear come out, call one of my kids  
a name that is not accurate. Ugly

Destiny: set apart you are this, not that.

## 2) The Good Father provides

This is a provision that includes money and material things, goes way beyond money or material things.

### Jeremiah 1:6-8

<sup>6</sup>“Alas, Sovereign LORD,” I said, “I do not know how to speak; I am too young.”

<sup>7</sup>But the LORD said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am too young.’ You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. <sup>8</sup>Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you,” declares the LORD.

Not only does God provide him with Purpose and destiny but with direction and instruction. He provides focus. Don’t worry about how you speak, worry about my directions. Don’t worry about your age, worry about my instructions.

<sup>9</sup>Then the LORD reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, “I have put my words in your mouth. <sup>10</sup>See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant.”

He provides him with the words he will need to say. He gives him the skills he needs to accomplish the task he has been given. He even provides him with a life vision statement

We can get so caught up in the one or two things we feel he has not provided for us that we forget the thousands of things he has.

He is a providing God.

## 3) The Good father is Attentive

### Jeremiah 1:11-12

<sup>11</sup>The word of the LORD came to me: “What do you see, Jeremiah?” “I see the branch of an almond tree,” I replied. <sup>12</sup>The LORD said to me, “You have seen correctly, for I am watching to see that my word is fulfilled.”

Jeremiah 1:12 The Hebrew for *watching* sounds like the Hebrew for *almond tree*.

He’s involved in Jeremiah’s life. he provides purpose and destiny, He gives Jeremiah a word picture to remind him that he is watching him, he is with him, he is attentive.

No biblical character understood this better than Joseph. Dream, Slavery, Potiphar's Wife, Prison, Supreme Leader.

This is actually a little training session.

In the next few verses he gives him another vision and it is the beginning of God showing him the actual future. And showing him what he is to say to the people of God.

### **Jeremiah 1:13**

**<sup>13</sup> The word of the LORD came to me again: "What do you see?"**

**"I see a pot that is boiling," I answered. "It is tilting toward us from the north."**

**<sup>14</sup> The LORD said to me, "From the north disaster will be poured out on all who live in the land.**

**<sup>15</sup> I am about to summon all the peoples of the northern kingdoms," declares the LORD.**

### **4) The Good Father is Present and Peruses**

You can't really have point number three without first having point number four but I think that God puts it at the end of this interaction with Jeremiah because he knows how important it is to his children. This isn't just a statement that I'm present with you now it's also a promise that I'm not going anywhere.

### **Jeremiah 1:19**

**<sup>19</sup> They will fight against you but will not overcome you, for I am with you and will rescue you," declares the LORD.**

It is hard to find an account in the bible that God speaks to someone where he doesn't promise that he will be with them. That he will be present, I'm not going anywhere I'm not leaving. You can count on me.

So what do you take home from this message today?

Purpose & Destiny, Provider, Attentive, Present & Pursuing

I would ask all of our fathers to pick one!

- Purpose & destiny
- Provider
- Attentive
- Present

**Jeremiah 32:40-41 New International Version (NIV)**

**<sup>40</sup> I will make an everlasting covenant with them: I will never stop doing good to them, and I will inspire them to fear me, so that they will never turn away from me. <sup>41</sup> I will rejoice in doing them good and will assuredly plant them in this land with all my heart and soul.**

Tell the story of Jeremiah, Josiah, buy a field

Have the worship team come forward.

Petracast

Episode 98: What Makes a Great Dad

A conversation with John & Alicia Beiler

Fathers & Mothers have one of the hardest jobs in the world. Find out what makes this Dad dynamic, the obstacles he's faced, the regrets he's had, and what his daughter says is her favorite memory!

Upcoming Men's Ministry events

- Guys' Night Out Friday August 24
- Conquer Series starts Thursday September 13 (10 weeks) (registration is open)
- Men's Fraternity- A Man & His Fatherhood starts Thursday September 13 (6 weeks)

Epic by (John Eldredge)

Free book for all men 18 years old and up.

Prayer Counselors