

FTHRING W/out WEDGES(F'S DY '14)

>>>>Folk singer Dan Fogelberg died of cancer at age 57

>>>>In his last live performance in 2003

*"*If I cld've written only one song in my life, it wld've been this one*"

*Song tlking ab: "LDR OF THE BAND"

*It's a song abt his dad—LISTEN

>>>>PLAY DAN FOGELBERG'S SONG

>>>>U knw--my dad was not a great dad

>He nvr coached any of my sports teams

>Nvr came to any of my school functions

>We never played golf together--or took walks-or rode bikes-or just sat & talked

>>>& maybe that's why Dan Fogelberg's song means so much to me

*Bec—in spite of his shortcomings...

*My dad was still the "Ldr of the Band"

*AND I LOVED HIM DEEPLY...

>& it hurt me to see him grow old&tired

>>& it hurts me evn now--tht I nvr told hm near enuf...how much I loved him

>>>>LISTEN TO ME FOLKS...

**If yur dad is still living...*

*I want to exhort U w/evrythng in me

*Call tht man today...

*Go see that man this week...

>>>& if thrc's a **WEDGE** of hurt or anger
betw U & yur dad...

*I exhort U to forgive him...

*Whthr he ever asks U to or not...

*To go to him..& make up fr lost x

*Not to let hm get outa this wrld w/out
telling him how much U love him

ILLUST: My dad died when I was 27

*I was too stupid/imature/proud to do

*& I regret it to this day

AP:So I beg U—don't mke mstake I made

>>Tht's pretty much all I hve to say tdy

>>>>**EXCEPT ONE MORE THING**

& tht is: Our goal as fthrs/ future fthrs=
not to **LET** a“**WEDGE**”dvelop btw u/ c'rn

>>**3 sugg's**—go a long way to preventing

>>>**FUTURE FATHERS TOO...WHY I'M..**

I- **#1-Be an approachable dad**

A.In 2 Sm 13--one of Dvd's sons(Amnon)
raped his half-sister Tamar

B. In response—Tamar's true brother
(Absalom) killed Amnon & then fled

C. Finally, after 3yrs, Dvd allowed Absa

to return to Jerusalem

[BUT THN DVD MADE A CRITICAL MISTAKE AS A FATHER—LOOK]

D. 2 Sam 14:28-“Abs lived 2yrs in Jeru without seeing the king’s face”

1.V.29-“So Abs sent to Joab (Dvd’s military cmmander) in order to send him to the king.”

2. GET POINT—RIGHT?

3. Abs trying to get in to see Dvd...to try & patch things up

4. V. 29-“But Joab refused to come to him (Dvd’s orders). So Abs sent to him a 2nd time, but he still refused to come.”

5. Finally Dvd agreed to see his son

6. But thn—after tht—it was 4 yrs

before B says they spoke again

E. Dvd’s lack of aproachability produced deep bitterness in his son...

2.Tht ended wth Abs(1)revolting agst his dad & (2)trying to kill him & take over the throne

F. Men—if we want to embitttr & alienate our c’ren—this’s a guaranteed way

1. Just keep them at arm's length
 2. Just mke it hard fr thm to talk to us
ab thngs we're doing tht bothr thm
 3. Just hang sign arnd neck says: "Not interested in wht U think/hve to say
- G. DO THIS--& I promise U—U'll drive a wedge rght dwn middle of yur rela'p

II- Be a humble dad

- A. If U're an "approachable dad"...
- .. 1 I can pretty much guarantee U...
 2. Tht sner/ later--a bunch of the stuff yur c'ren gonna "approach" U abt
 3. Will be things they feel U're doing wrong--done wrong
- B. & responding to this in a way tht preserves our rela w/our c'ren... demands humility on our part
1. A willingness not to get defensive
 2. But to validate whatevr part is true
 3. To "own our stuff" & humble slves before c'ren & seek their frgvness

ILLU: Whn I think of this—I think of the example of the great OT prophet Sam
*1 Sam 12:2(to Is's--as retiring)-"As fr me, I am old & gray. I hve been yur

ldr frm my youth to this day.”

*V. 3-“So here I stand. Please testify agst me in the presence of the Lrd. Whose ox hve I taken? Whm hve I cheated? Whm hve I oppressed? Frm whose hand hve I accepted a bribe?

*V. 3-“If I hve done any of these thngs, tell me--& I will make it right!”

AP: Gentlmn—*this* is the kind of attitude fathers need to hve twrds their c’re

*”Where hve I hurt/ wronged U?”

*”Tell me wht I’ve done & I’ll apologize

*”& to best of my abi’ty-I’ll mke it right

C. C’ren don’t expect their parents to be “perfect”—just to be “**honest**”

D. When we honestly humble selves

1.& accept respon for our behavior

2. & seek to make it right & to change our behavior going forward...

3. We earn our c’ren’s respect...

4. & we prevent (and/or) remove wedges betw us & our c’ren

SAY: “So Lon—did U go thru this with any of yur own c’ren?”

A: “Yep—esp with my youngest son Jon

- E. Right after he graduated frm college
1. Jon asked if he cld talk to me abt
some thngs tht were bothering him
 2. Thn he told me...tht he felt like I
had always tried to control his life
 3. **AND**—tht I was *still* trying to cntrl..
 4. Told me he felt--tht in order fr hm
to become his own man...
- *He needed to limit our contact
to a bare minimum for a while
- *So don't call hm--he'd call me!**
- F. "Now-I thot Jon was ovr-reacting little"
- *I felt like: "CONTROLLING--WHO ME?"
- *Until I told ***Brenda*** abt our conversa
- *& she said: "***Lon***—it's not just ***Jon***--U
try to control *everybody's* life!"
- G. & so—I went bck to Jon--& told him he
was right—tht I was sorry—asked him
to frgive me—TRY HARD TO DO BTTR
- H. Tht was 6 yrs ago--& I'd like to report
tht ***Jon & I are doing great***—**PTL!**
- J. **BUT**--had I stiffend my hrt & arrogantly
refused to humble self—*we wldn't be!*
- K. There'd be a *big ol wedge* in our rela'p
- L. Just like thre'll be in yur relat'p w/yur

c'ren—if U refuse to be a humble man
before them

III- Be an involved dad

A. Gen 49:1-“Thn Jacob called for his 12
sons...(V.28) & this is wht he said to
thm whn he blssd thm [WATCH]
giving to each one of thm the
blessing tht was appropriate for him”

C. Jacob *indiv'lly* tailored..an *indiv* blssng
for **each** of his sons

D. BEC-he'd been *involved enuf* in their
lives to *know thm indivually*

E. NOW—this takes *intentionality*

1. Going to plays/ ballgames/ recitals
2. U attending bck-to-school nite-mom
2. Taking thm fishing/ bike riding
3. Talking to thm ab their dreams/
hopes/ fears/ strgles

SAY: “My c'ren don't want to talk to me
abt this kinda stuff”

A: “Oh, yes they do!”

IL: “I was dying to tell my dad hw much I
loved baseball/how scared I was to go
to Jr Hi every day/ how petrified I was
to go off to college/ETC”

- *Problem is—he never *asked*
- *Whn I *tried* to tell hm—nvr *listened*
- *I took this to mn he *rlly didn't care*
- *So I just clammed up-& stopd trying
- *& tht drove **a huge wedge** betw us!

CONCLUSION

- >>>**DAD**—U're the "*Leader of the Band*"
- *Be an approachable "band leader"
- *Be a humble "band leader"
- *Be an involved "band leader"
- >& my frnd-if YUR 'BAND LDR" still alive
- *I urge U to *forgive hm* if U need to
- *& to love on him while U still can!

Leader of the Band by Dan Fogelberg

Verse 1

An only child alone and wild, a cabinetmaker's son
His hands were meant for different work, and his heart was known to none
He left his home and went his lone and solitary way and he gave to me a gift I know I never can repay

Guitar Instrumental break

Verse 2

A quiet man of music denied a simpler fate, he tried to be a soldier once, but his music wouldn't wait
He earned his love through discipline, a thundering velvet hand
His gentle means of sculpting souls took me years to understand

Chorus

The leader of the band is tired and his eyes are growing old
But his blood runs through my instrument and his song is in my soul
My life has been a poor attempt to imitate the man
I'm just a living legacy to the leader of the band

Guitar Instrumental break

Verse 4

I thank you for the music and your stories of the road
I thank you for the freedom when it came my time to go –
I thank you for the kindness and the times when you got tough
And, Papa, I don't think I said I love you near enough –

Chorus

The leader of the band is tired and his eyes are growing old
But his blood runs through my instrument and his song is in my soul
My life has been a poor attempt to imitate the man
I'm just a living legacy to the leader of the band
I am a living legacy to the leader of the band