

Mark 1:9-11

Big Idea: Every man, but especially dads, need identity, affection and affirmation.

There are jokes about the differences in how churches approach Mother's Day and Father's Day. We tend to applaud mothers. We tell them how great they are, how we love them, and how wonderful things are. On the other side of the fence, on Father's Day we tend to tell dads what slouches they are, how terrible they're doing and how much society needs men to step up. This IS NOT that service!

Certainly, there are gaps in society and the need for great fathers is very real. The trending failures of society and how those failures are linked to the ever-missing nuclear family is well-researched and documented. When a nuclear family is not in place, the norm seems to be a single mom. At the same time, for years, media has depicted fathers as inept buffoons or lazy and inattentive. Sad, isn't it?

One of the ways to make things better is to cheer for and applaud those who do it well. This message is all about how we go about that very task. Many men toil away while supporting their family, being present, providing both opportunity and experiences for those they love, and do so while carrying burdens that are never seen. Even those close to them don't recognize because dad rises with the alarm clock, says his prayers, puts on a steady face and sets out to accomplish what is needed yet again. Those men need us to pat them on the back every now and then. They will seldom ask for it, but they need it. And those who could do better as dads need to see the ones doing it right being treated like it. It may motivate them to get their act together as well.

To The Book:

Read Mark 1:9 – There is a great deal of identity captured in the setting of Jesus' baptism. John the Baptist's ministry was prophesied to be ahead of Jesus' and here we see the preparation stage of Jesus' three-year work on earth unfolding. He is about to embark on the greatest story ever told but He has yet to heal anyone. He has yet to preach or teach anything. Nonetheless, He is the long-awaited Messiah.

Read v. 10 – In the next two verses we see the Trinity at work. Jesus was already on the scene, and the Spirit shows up in this verse. The Father will become present in the next verse as an important element visible in the words. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are separate but equal. Each has distinct roles, but they share divinity. In other words, they exist in close relationship with one another. The level of force in which the Spirit arrives is noteworthy as heaven is described being torn open. We could learn about the importance and tenacity we should show to support the important men in our lives!

Read v. 11 – Here the Father weighs in on the situation. He identifies Jesus by calling Him, "my Son." Affection comes next as the Father expresses love and then the pride expressed which shows affirmation. There are several things here to remember. First, the interaction between a father and son matters. Sons need their dads to encourage them. Jesus needed it. All men need it! Second, it happened before Jesus began His ministry. None of it was based on accomplishment. Men are naturally accomplishment driven but need natural encouragement from those close to them.

This week, encourage your dads! They need it. All men need it, but the ones that carry the burdens of the world with steady assurance for their families really need it!

Family Night – Read Ephesians 6:2-3

- **Elementary School:** Ask, "How does obedience to your parents help them? Why do they want good for your life?"
- **Middle / High School:** Ask, "How would your relationship with your parents change if you prioritize honoring them?"

Prayer: "God, we know that You and our parents love us and want the best for us. Help us honor them and You! Amen"

Velocity (Middle and High School Students)

Velocity: No Velocity this week.

Gravity: No Gravity Today.

Today's Songs

I Believe.....Phil Wickham

Trust in God.....Elevation

Your Grace is Enough.....Chris Tomlin

GCC Building Fund

We are planning to build a small storage building. The estimate is \$50,000. Please consider giving to our building fund. You can give online, use a building fund envelope available at the welcome desk, or you can write a check and mark it "Building Fund."

Velocity Rafting Trip leaves tomorrow at 8am sharp!