



Father's Day

LEAD LIKE CHRIST

Forest Park Church

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By Jason Corder

Men are designed to fix things that's the way we are created
Often misunderstood or Misrepresented within our culture

- Some wish to redefine the role of a man
- While others portray a false image of what it means to be a man

This morning's message is really about the characteristics of a man that are unique and needed in our world today.

Even if you're not a father these traits are essential to fulfilling your God given opportunities.

Remember the greatest man ever to live was never a father,
but he left behind a legacy for all time!

I. CONTROLLED

(MOSES MEEKNESS)

Moses was the father of two sons, Gershom and Eliezer, yet he also served as a father figure to the entire Hebrew people as they escaped from slavery in Egypt. He loved them and helped discipline and provide for them on their 40-year journey to the Promised Land. At times Moses seemed to be a larger-than-life character, but he was only a man. He shows today's fathers that overwhelming tasks can be achieved when we stay close to God.

You won't get very far in understanding the meaning of meek by using a modern English dictionary.

- The word meek has changed a lot in last 350 years.
- The word does not mean weakness, cowardice or spiritlessness.
- “The term sometimes was used to describe a soothing medicine or a soft breeze. It was used of colts and other animals whose naturally wild spirits were broken by a trainer so that they could do useful work. As a human attitude it meant being gentle of spirit, meek, submissive, quiet, tenderhearted.”

In the synoptic gospels the word meek is only found three times (all in Matthew).

- The first use of the word is in the **Beatitudes (Matt 5:5)**
- The second time is in the tender invitation of Jesus, where we find that He is **“gentle and lowly in heart” (Matt 11:28–30).**
- Finally, as Jesus entered Jerusalem for the last time, He is described as **“lowly, and sitting on a donkey” (Matt 21:5)**

The New Testament often reminds us of the importance of meekness.

- James tells us to *“receive with meekness the implanted word” (Jas 1:21).*
- Peter tells us to always be ready to give a defense for our faith *“with meekness and fear” (1 Pet 3:15).*
- *Gentleness* is a part of the fruit of the Spirit **(Gal 5:22–23).**
- We are commanded to put on meekness **(Col 3:12)**

Example Of Moses (Num 12:1–10)

Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Cushite woman whom he had married, for he had married a Cushite woman. 2 And they said, “Has the LORD indeed spoken only through Moses? Has he not

spoken through us also?" And the LORD heard it. 3 Now the man Moses was very meek, more than all people who were on the face of the earth. 4 And suddenly the LORD said to Moses and to Aaron and Miriam, "Come out, you three, to the tent of meeting." And the three of them came out. 5 And the LORD came down in a pillar of cloud and stood at the entrance of the tent and called Aaron and Miriam, and they both came forward. 6 And he said, "Hear my words: If there is a prophet among you, I the LORD make myself known to him in a vision; I speak with him in a dream. 7 Not so with my servant Moses. He is faithful in all my house. 8 With him I speak mouth to mouth, clearly, and not in riddles, and he beholds the form of the LORD. Why then were you not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?" 9 And the anger of the LORD was kindled against them, and he departed.

How did Moses conduct himself while Miriam and Aaron "spoke against him"?

1. Did he fight back? No!
2. He submitted to God and waited for Divine vindication.
3. Very few people in history have been as rapidly, thoroughly and publicly vindicated as Moses!
4. His meekness had caused him to shed his shoes at the burning bush, yet he humbly obeyed God by approaching the most powerful monarch in the world and demanding freedom for his people

(Exodus 5:1).

Afterward, Moses and Aaron went and said to Pharaoh, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'Let my people go, that they may hold a feast to me in the wilderness.'"

II. RESILIENT

(NOAH RIGHTEOUSNESS)

In a world taken over by evil, violence and corruption, Noah was a righteous man.

However, Noah wasn't just a righteous man,

- He was the only follower of God left on the earth.
- The Bible says he was blameless among the people of his time.
- It also says he walked with God.

Living in a society saturated with sin and rebellion against God, Noah was the only man alive that pleased God. It's hard to imagine such unwavering faithfulness in the midst of such godlessness.

- Over and over again, in the account of Noah's life we read, "Noah did everything just as God commanded."
- His life of **950 years**, exemplified obedience.

The ark-building project took longer than the average lifespan today, yet Noah diligently accepted his calling and never wavered from it.

Appropriately mentioned in the book of Hebrews "Hall of Faith," Noah was truly a hero of the Christian faith.

Heb 11:7

By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that is in keeping with faith.

In his *New York Times* article "The Stories That Bind Us," Bruce Feiler gives an overview of studies regarding the deterioration of the family. In these studies, psychologists found that children who demonstrated the greatest resilience had been exposed to an empowering family narrative, which helped them feel that they belonged to something bigger. **"If you want a happier family," says Feiler, "create, refine and retell the story of your family's positive moments and your ability to bounce back from the difficult ones."** That act alone may increase the odds that your family will thrive for many generations to come."

- Earthly fathers empower their children by reminding them of their divine identity as spirit children of God.
- They help build a strong family through their good examples and ensure that their children take part in it.
- This gives their children a strong sense of purpose and the confidence to succeed.

What is your Family Purpose??

III. BUILDING

(ABRAHAM FAITHFULNESS)

" Originally called Abram, or "exalted father," the Lord changed his name to Abraham as a symbol of the covenant promise to multiply his descendants into a great nation that God would call his own.

The extraordinary thing about Abraham is the he didn't always get it on the first try.

Prior to this, God had already visited Abraham when he was 75, promising to bless him and make his offspring into an abundant nation of people. All Abraham had to do was obey God and do what God told him to do.

This marked the beginning of the covenant God established with Abraham.

- It was also Abraham's first test from God, since he and his wife Sarai (later changed to Sarah) were still without children.
- Abraham demonstrated remarkable faith and trust, immediately leaving his home and his clan the moment God called him to the unknown territory of Canaan.

Abraham was not perfect in manners of faith

When famine struck, rather than waiting on God for provision, he packed up and took his family to Egypt.

Once there, and fearing for his life, he lied about his beautiful wife's identity, claiming she was his unmarried sister. Pharaoh, finding Sarah desirable, took her from Abraham in exchange for generous gifts, to which Abraham raised no objections.

- You see, as a brother, Abraham would be honored by Pharaoh, but as a husband, his life would have been in danger.
- Once again, Abraham lost faith in God's protection and provision. Abraham's foolish deception backfired, and God kept his covenant promise intact.
- The Lord inflicted disease on Pharaoh and his family, revealing to him that Sarah must be returned to Abraham untouched.

More years passed during which Abraham and Sarah questioned God's promise. At one point, they decided to take matters into their own hands.

- At Sarah's encouragement, Abraham slept with Hagar, his wife's Egyptian maidservant.
- Hagar gave birth to Ishmael, but he was not the promised son.
- God returned to Abraham when he was 99 to remind him of the promise and reinforce his covenant with Abraham.
- A year later, Isaac was born.

God brought more tests to Abraham, including a second incident when Abraham lied about Sarah's identity, this time to King Abimelech.

Abraham underwent the biggest testing of his faith when God asked him to sacrifice Isaac, the promised heir.

Genesis 22: *"Take your son, your only son—yes, Isaac, whom you love so much—and go to the land of Moriah. Go and sacrifice him as a burnt offering on one of the mountains, which I will show you."*

This time Abraham obeyed, fully prepared to slay his son, while fully trusting God to either resurrect Isaac from the dead, or provide a substitutionary

sacrifice. At the last minute, God intervened and provided the necessary ram.

The death of Isaac would have contradicted every promise God had made to Abraham, so his willingness to perform the ultimate sacrifice of killing his son is probably the most strikingly dramatic example of faith and trust in God found in the entire Bible.

Abraham was willing to put God ahead of even his children!

IV. INVESTED

(KING DAVID MAN AFTER GOD HEART (personal relationship))

In Paul's sermon at Antioch, in which he briefly recounts the history of Israel, he refers to the statement made by God concerning David:

"I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will." - Ac 13:22

An often-confusing term concerning the Biblical character of David is the term "man after God's own heart". Have you ever wondered what that really means? What does that kind of heart even look like? I believe this verse best captures the meaning behind this phrase.

*I said to the Lord, "You are my Lord; apart from you I have no good thing."
Psalms 16:2*

David recognized that the only good in him was the God in him.

Great godly leaders are willing to step aside from their own need for ego building and self-confidence and humble themselves before an almighty God.

I have heard before that President Theodore Roosevelt often went outdoors at night, looked up into the vastness of the universe, simply to remind himself of his humanity compared to the vastness of the universe. **I think that is an**

important principle for all of us that claim a leadership title.

This compliment, "**a man after My own heart**", is one that should characterize every person who wears the name of Christ

- David was not only the ancestor of Christ according to the flesh...

He possessed many of the attitudes that:

- Were later perfected by Christ
- Should characterize all those who are disciples of Christ

Conclusion:

Something tugged at Ronald Reagan on that otherwise slow August weekend in 1982.

"Again at the W.H.," the president noted in his diary. "More of Saturdays work plus a long letter I have to write to Loyal. I'm afraid for him. His health is failing badly."

Loyal Davis, Reagan's father-in-law and a pioneering neurosurgeon, was just days away from death.

Something else worried Reagan: The dying man was, by most definitions of the word, an atheist.

"I have never been able to subscribe to the divinity of Jesus Christ nor his virgin birth. I don't believe in his resurrection, or a heaven or hell as places," Davis once wrote. "If we are remembered and discussed with pleasure and happiness after death, this is our heavenly reward."

Reagan, on the other hand, believed everyone would face a day of judgment, and that Davis's was near. So the most powerful man in the world put everything else aside, took pen in hand and set out on an urgent mission — to rescue one

soul.

Aug. 7 [1982]

Dear Loyal,

I hope you'll forgive me for this, but I've been wanting to write you ever since we talked on the phone. I am aware of the strain you are under and believe with all my heart there is help for that.

First I want to tell you of a personal experience I've kept to myself for a long time. During my first year as Governor you'll recall the situation I found in Calif. was almost as bad as the one in Wash. today. It seemed as if the problems were endless and insolvable.

Then I found myself with an ulcer. In all those years at Warner Bros., no one had been able to give me an ulcer and I felt ashamed as if it were a sign of weakness on my part. John Sharpe had me on Malox and I lived with a constant pain that ranged from discomfort to extremely sharp attacks.

This went on for months. I had a bottle of Maalox in my desk, my briefcase and of course at home. Then one morning I got up, went into the bathroom, reached for the bottle as always and some thing happened. I knew I didn't need it. I had gone to bed with the usual pain the night before but I knew that morning I was healed. The Malox went back on the shelf.

That morning when I arrived at the office Helene brought me my mail. The first letter I opened was from a lady — a stranger — in the Southern part of the state. She had written to tell me she was one of a group who met every day to pray for me. Believe it or not, the second letter was from a man, again a stranger, in the other end of the state telling me he was part of a group that met weekly to pray for me.

Within the hour a young fellow from the legal staff came into my office on some routine matter. On the way out he paused in the door and said: “Gov. I think maybe you’d like to know — some of us on the staff come in early every morning and get together to pray for you.”

Coincidence? I don’t think so. A couple of weeks later Nancy and I went down to L.A. and had our annual checkup. John Sharpe, a little puzzled, told me I no longer had an ulcer but added there was no indication I’d ever had one. Word of honor — I never told him about that particular day in Sacramento.

There is a line in the bible — “Where ever two or more are gathered in my name there will I be also.”

Loyal I know of your feeling — your doubt but could I just impose on you a little longer? Some seven hundred years before the birth of Christ the ancient Jewish prophets predicted the coming of a Messiah. They said he would be born in a lowly place, would proclaim himself the Son of God and would be put to death for saying that.

All in all there were a total of one hundred and twenty three specific prophesys about his life all of which came true. Crucifixion was unknown in those times, yet it was foretold that he would be nailed to a cross of wood. And one of the predictions was that he would be born of a Virgin.

Now I know that is probably the hardest for you as a Dr. to accept. The only answer that can be given is — a miracle. But Loyal I don’t find that as great a miracle as the actual history of his life. Either he was who he said he was or he was the greatest faker & charlatan who ever lived. But would a liar & faker suffer the death he did when all he had to do to save himself was admit he’d been lying?

The miracle is that a young man of 30 yrs. without credentials as a scholar or priest began preaching on street corners. He owned nothing but the clothes on his back & he didn’t travel beyond a circle less than one hundred miles across.

He did this for only 3 years and then was executed as a common criminal.

But for two thousand years he has ... had more impact on the world than all the teachers, scientists, emperors, generals and admirals who ever lived, all put together.

The apostle John said, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that who so ever believed in him would not perish but have everlasting life."

We have been promised that all we have to do is ask God in Jesus name to help when we have done all we can — when we've come to the end of our strength and abilities and we'll have that help. We only have to trust and have faith in his infinite goodness and mercy.

Loyal, you and Edith have known a great love — more than many have been permitted to know. That love will not end with the end of this life. We've been promised this is only a part of life and that a greater life, a greater glory awaits us. It awaits you together one day and all that is required is that you believe and tell God you put yourself in his hands.

Love

Ronnie