

Title: The Work of a Good Father

Scripture: Luke 2:49, Matthew 6:

Speaker: Vic Redding

Event: Sunday Morning Service

Date: June 21, 2015

Luke 2:49 *“And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?”*

Five things that are noted about the heavenly father throughout the Bible

1. “Father” is the supreme name of God “heavenly father”
2. Within the four gospels, the name “father” occurs over 150 times
3. “Father” in Luke 2:49 is the first time that Jesus revealed by his statement that he called God “father”
4. Luke 23:46 gives the last time that Jesus referred to God as “father”
5. What Jesus taught his disciples: he wanted them to respond to God as their father

With the heavenly father as the one setting the standard, what does God, the heavenly father want in earthly fathers?
What is a father to do in the eyes of God?

1. He is to love his children: I John 3:1 *“Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.”* How important is it for a father to say “I love you” to their child[ren]? Very. Our heavenly father tells us he loves us every day. John 3:16 *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”* Every one of us are God’s creation, but not all of us are God’s children. We make the choice whether to serve him or not. His love for us doesn’t change – Romans 5:8 *“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”* A commendable man in the eyes of the Lord is not afraid to show his love for his children.
2. He should be available at all times to his children: Matthew 6:6 *“But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.”* Our heavenly father is always available to listen and talk to us. We have a phrase that has sadly become common in our culture today, “absentee fathers”. Charles Stanley said that 43% of families do not have a father in the household. There’s not one time in our lives that God will not be present for us. He will never be absent or too busy. He’s always available for us. He has our best interest at heart.
3. He should provide for their children: Matthew 6 says that there should be a physical provision. In verses 26-30 it describes this provision. *“Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?”* The father should make sure his children don’t have to care for their general wellbeing. Food and clothing shouldn’t be left to the child to find. There’s also a spiritual provision that needs to be made. Our heavenly father provides for us physically and spiritually. It’s up to the father and the mother to make sure that their children grow up with spiritual and moral values.
4. He should be forgiving when needed: Matthew 6:9-14 *“After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.....For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you:”* Children should fear the consequences for misbehaving, but they should also know that a father will forgive them for whatever wrongdoings that they have done. Our heavenly father forgave us when there was nothing in our sinful bodies that was worth forgiving. We should all be destined for hell because of the sin nature in us but

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the Lord took on our sins to forgive us. John 14:6 *“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”*