



Sermon Notes

US N°. 62

Date: June 10, 2012

Title: The Father's Heart

1. The condition of fatherhood today
 - a. Definition of father
 - b. Sociological impact of fathers
 - i. Dr. Loren Moshen (Nat Inst of Mental Hlth) analyzed US census figures and found that the absence of a father to be a stronger factor than poverty in contributing to juvenile delinquency.
 - ii. Yale scientists studied delinquency in 48 cultures around the world and found that crime rates were higher among adults who as children had been raised solely by women.
 - iii. Dr. Martic Deutsh found that a father's presence and conversation, especially at dinner time, stimulates a child to perform better in school.
 - iv. Johns Hopkins found that "young, white teenage girls living in fatherless families... were 60% more likely to have premarital intercourse than those living in two-parent homes."
 - v. Dr. Armand Nicholi's research found that an emotionally or physically absent father contributes to a child's 1) low motivation for achievement; 2) inability to defer immediate gratification for later rewards; 3) low self-esteem; and 4) susceptibility to group influence and to juvenile delinquency.
 - c. Fathers are human too.
2. Role of Father, as opposed to a mother
 - a. 1 Thess. 2:11-12, "...as you know how we **exhorted**, and **comforted**, and charged every one of you, as a father does his own children, **that you would walk worthy of God** who calls you into His own kingdom and glory."
 - b. Acts 20:18-36, "And when they had come to him, he said to them: "You know, from the first day that I came to Asia, in what manner I always lived among you, serving the Lord with all **humility**, with many **tears and trials** which happened to me by the plotting of the Jews; I **kept back nothing that was helpful**, but **proclaimed** it to you, and **taught you publicly and from house to house**, testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, **not knowing** the things that will happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me. But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I **may finish my race with joy**, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. "And indeed, now I know that you all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, will see my face no more. Therefore I testify to you this day that I am **innocent of the blood of all men**. For I have **not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God**. Therefore **take heed** to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to **shepherd** the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. Therefore **watch**, and **remember** that for three years I **did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears**. "So now, brethren, I **commend you to God and to the word of His grace**, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I **have coveted no**

*one's silver or gold or apparel. Yes, you yourselves know that **these hands have provided for my necessities, and for those who were with me.** I have **shown you in every way**, by laboring like this, that you must **support the weak**. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, **'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'**" And when he had said these things, he **knelt down** and prayed with them all."*

3. Our Adoption

- a. Rom. 8:15-17, "For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs – heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together."
- b. Heb. 12:9, "Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live?"

4. Parable of the Prodigal Son (cf. Luke 15:11-32)

- a. Main actors in the story: the father, the older and the younger sons. Which are you?
- b. When the son said, "**Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me...**" he was essentially saying he wished his father was dead; a very shocking and painful thing to say. This is the saddest part of the story, not necessarily when the son is working with the pigs.
- c. Why did the son leave? There's no such thing as meaningless behavior, there's always a reason for what we do. There's always something that influences what we do. Many people's spirits are wounded through hurts, both self-inflicted and received. In today's world we have an epidemic of pain... abandonment, child abuse, divorce, etc. [book]
- d. The reminder of the "older brother" – we experience our own pain, we come to Jesus, then seemingly lose touch from where we've come from. We must always carry a tenderness of people's pain; words are cheap and easy. Don't lose your compassion, God cares for a world filled with pain.

5. Jesus is the way... to the Father. Don't confuse the path with the destination.

- a. Jn. 14:6, "Jesus said to him, **"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."** Eph. 2:18, "For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father." Understand scripturally that we are to have a relationship with the Father; so much is Jesus only, whereas Jesus is the mediator. Most of the Church is stuck on the "way" to the Father. We have to get rid of things stopping us from receiving the love that He is already pouring upon us.
- i. Jesus is submitted to the Father and under His authority. Jn. 12:49, "**For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak. And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak."** Jn. 14:28, "**You have heard Me say to you, 'I am going away and coming back to you.' If you loved Me, you would rejoice because I said, 'I am going to the Father,' for My Father is greater than I."** Ph. 2:11, "**...and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."** [cf. sermon notes on the theology of the Trinity; Feb. 19, 2012.]
- b. Jn. 1:18, "**The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him."** Jesus lived in the heart of the Father; things we do as opposed to where JC abides. Doing comes out of where we are; roots. Jesus wanted us to have the relationship with the Father that He has.
- c. The heart of God is essential to who he is. He sees the hurt & wounds, and he cares deeply. Have to understand His heart, to know God. Moved by compassion, by pain.

6. Our healing through Father

- a. We must acknowledge our hurt and our sin. Tired of the pain and prison, come to Him. We have to turn towards him. Before we can even get the words out he's thrown his arms around us, *"welcome home son, I've been waiting for you."* Knowing the heart of God is a healing place. 2 Cor. 1:3, *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort..."*
 - b. Blocks to knowing God as father:
 - i. Our past relationship with our own parents.
 - ii. Striving to please the Father, have I done enough?
 - iii. Feel unlovable, unbeautiful, etc.
 - c. Steps to knowing the heart of the Father
 - i. Forgive your natural father, his personality was damaged through sin, would you forgive them for that? They too were robbed of what they should have given you.
 - ii. Rest, there's nothing I can do to make Him love me anymore or less. Jn. 15:9, *"As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love."*
 - iii. Know how precious you are through knowing the price that was paid to redeem you. Jn. 16:27, *"...for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me, and have believed that I came forth from God."* 1 Pet. 1:18-19, *"...knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot."*
 - d. Allow God to love, to show us how much He cares. We lead out of a secure identity, who we are; not out of control, manipulators, anger, threats and bribes. Leadership is a response to His love, not to get His love.
7. The greatest thing I can do as a Father is to make certain that my children know the heart of the Father.