

Title: A Portrait of a Godly Father

Passage: Matthew 1:18-25

Draft Summary:

I. A GODLY FATHER IS A MAN WHO PURSUES PURITY

II. A GODLY FATHER IS A RIGHTEOUS MAN

III. A GODLY FATHER IS A MAN WHO DOESN'T WANT

IV. A GODLY FATHER IS A MAN WHO OBEYS GODS WORD IN OPPOSITION TO THE WORLD.

V. A GODLY FATHER IS A MAN WHO LEADS HIS WIFE SELFLESSLY.

VI. A GODLY FATHER IS A MAN WHO TEACHES HIS CHILDREN GOD'S WORD.

VII. A GODLY FATHER IS A MAN WHO TAKES HIS KIDS TO MEET WITH GOD REGULARLY

VIII. A GODLY FATHER IS A MAN WHO RECOGNIZES HIS NEED FOR A SAVIOR.

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What point(s) in the sermon did the Lord most impress upon you?
 - What next steps will you take in response to the sermon?
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EXPOSITION

Introduction

Fathers have great influence and impact.

- A scientific study seeking a causal factor among 5 diseases (heart disease, malignant tumors, etc.)
- Conclusion: one thing in common: lack of closeness of one's parents especially the father.
 - Why? Anyone with a disconnected relationship with a father is likely to have increased stress in their lives. Stress is underlying cause for all major diseases.
- Many major decisions are influenced by relationship (or lack thereof) with one's father.
- As a father goes, so goes the family.
- God used "father" as descriptive name for Himself. We are to reflect and role model God in our families.

Passage:

Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

I. A GODLY FATHER IS A MAN WHO PURSUES PURITY***Matthew 1:18***

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.

When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together

- Context of purity that Jesus came to earth.
- Both Joseph and Mary were sexually pure before Jesus arrived.

Purity

- God cares about this greatly.
- God chose to send Jesus through a godly couple.
- Implications: make clear to the next generation that it is not ok to watch or do things that is acceptable by our culture.
 - We must be protective of our minds.
 - Against pornography and other temptations.
 - We are in battle. Treat the threat and temptations seriously.

1 Thessalonians 4:3-4

For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor,

Romans 12:2

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

II. A GODLY FATHER IS A RIGHTEOUS MAN

Matthew 1:19a

And her husband Joseph, being a just man

Just (righteous)

- Meaning = approved by God.
 - This is different than meaning perfect in behavior or doing what is right in man's eyes.
 - Compare: religious leaders of Jesus' day:

Matthew 23:27-28

"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people's bones and all uncleanness. So you also outwardly appear righteous to others, but within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

Compare: We must be right according to God's standards by faith.

- Faith in what? Faith that one can only be saved by God and not by one's works.

Genesis 15:6

And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

Habakkuk 2:4

"Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright within him, but the righteous shall live by his faith.

Isaiah 32:17

And the effect of righteousness will be peace, and the result of righteousness, quietness and trust forever.

- The result of righteousness is peace.
 - Why? We rest in God's righteousness.

- Otherwise, we are caught up in our own self-righteousness (that we are right and always win the battle)

III. A GODLY FATHER IS A MAN WHO DOESN'T WANT TO PUT HIS WIFE TO SHAME.

Matthew 1:19b

unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly.

- Not wanting to put another to shame.
 - flows out of a heart of compassion

Philippians 2:3

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.

Romans 12:9-10

Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.

1 Peter 3:7

Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

- a man treats his wife as a special flower with humility and love.

IV. A GODLY FATHER IS A MAN WHO OBEYS GODS WORD IN OPPOSITION TO THE WORLD.

When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

- Joseph obeys God regardless of his own comfort or preferences.
 - He takes Mary to be his own wife.
 - After Jesus is born, he has a dream and obeys and takes his family to Egypt.
- Likewise, you will face opposition in the world.
 - They will ridicule you and try to cancel you.
- Are you ready to obey God's word at the cost of your reputation or even your life?
 - Are you ready to face the cost of discipleship?

Mark 8:34-36

And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul?"

V. A GODLY FATHER IS A MAN WHO LEADS HIS WIFE SELFLESSLY.

Luke 2:6-7

And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

- Joseph continually lead selflessly.
 - He led his wife to Jerusalem and on to Egypt and then on to Nazareth.

VI. A GODLY FATHER IS A MAN WHO TEACHES HIS CHILDREN GOD'S WORD.

Luke 2:39-40

And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

Luke 2:51-52

And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

- Joseph knew God's Word. Jesus grew in wisdom while under Joseph and Mary.

Deuteronomy 6:7-9

You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

VII. A GODLY FATHER IS A MAN WHO TAKES HIS KIDS TO MEET WITH GOD REGULARLY

Luke 2:41

Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover.

Hebrews 10:23-24

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works,

VIII. A GODLY FATHER IS A MAN WHO RECOGNIZES HIS NEED FOR A SAVIOR.

Matthew 1:25

but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

- Joseph recognized Jesus, who is His Savior.
- Implication: do you recognize that you are a sinner but whose only hope is in Jesus Christ?

Romans 10:9

if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

APPLICATION

1 Corinthians 16:13

Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.

1 Kings 2:2b-3

Be strong, and show yourself a man, and keep the charge of the LORD your God, walking in his ways and keeping his statutes, his commandments, his rules, and his testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn