

## Faithful Fathers Pt 2 (Deut. 6)

### *Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>*

Pr. 20:6,7 *"Most men will proclaim their own goodness, but a faithful Man who can find?"*

*7 The just man walketh in his integrity: his children are blessed (from 'āšar': guided straight) after him."*

The word Father is used 352 times in the New Testament. 266 times it is used to describe God. Last week we discussed the awesome responsibility God has given Fathers to represent Him to their families. The Bible often refers to the Father's Role as a type of "Partner" with God in the shaping and directing of his family. God is the Model Father and demonstrates the qualities of a loving Father to us. He challenges us to "Take my yoke upon you and learn of me" (Mt 11:28,29) so that we can cultivate those qualities in our own hearts and reflect them through our own lives. Deut. 6 gives us some important directions on how to accomplish this.

I began to summarize the principles of this chapter using an Acronym for Father.

### **F: Faithful to:**

Obediently *Listen to God* (vs 3), Sincerely *Love God* (vs 5), Intentionally *Learn about God* (vs 6), and then Diligently *Lead our Families* to a vibrant and intimate relationship with God! (Vs 7)

### **A: AVAILABLE**

*vs 7 thou... shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up."*

1) **Too many fathers are "unavailable" to their families.** According to Dr. James Dobson, The average amount of time middle-class fathers spent with children was thirty-seven seconds per day!

2) **Your Heavenly Father is available to you!** Heb. 13:5 *"I will never leave thee nor forsake thee..."*

*1 Thes. 2:11,12 "As ye know how we exhorted and comforted (paramythe'omai: to relate near) and charged every one of you, as a father doth his children, That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory."*

### **T: TEACHABLE**

*vs 6\_ "these words shall be in thine heart, and thou shalt teach..."*

1) **We Can Only Be Effective Teachers If We Remain Humble, growing STUDENTS.** 2 Peter 1:4-7  
2Pt 3:18 *grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."*

*Lord, who am I to teach the way, To my children, day by day, So prone myself to go astray.  
I teach them knowledge, but I know, How faint they flicker and how low The candles of my knowledge glow.  
I teach them power to will and do, But only now to learn anew, my own great weakness through and through.  
Lord if their guide I still must be, Oh, let my precious children see -Their Father leaning hard on thee.*

2) **We Can't Learn Unless We Can Listen. "Seek first to understand..."**

a) **Communication Is The Key To Cultivating and Conserving healthy Relationships.**

b) **Ways To Listen More Effectively:**

➤ **Remove the distractions that COMPETE.** Pr 17:7 *"Better is a dry morsel, and quietness therewith, than an house full of sacrifices with strife."*

This is true of our communication with God. Ps 46:10 *"Be still, and know that I am God:"*

➤ **Relinquish the desire to COMPARE or CONTROL.** (2 Cor 10:12)

➤ **Renew the decision to COMPREHEND.** *To counsel before comprehending is folly.*  
(Pr 18:13) *"He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him."*

➤ **Recognize the Responsibility to COUNSEL.** (Prov 4:1) *"Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, ..."*

3) **Being Teachable (and Teaching) requires Tenacity.** *"Thou shalt teach them diligently..."* Dt 6:7 (2 Tim 2:15)

## H: HUMBLE Vs 2, 10,11,12

*"beware lest thou forget the LORD, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage."*

- 1) True humility is related to genuine Honesty! Ps 15:2 *"speaketh truth in his heart..."*  
Pr 20:7 *"The just man walketh in his integrity: his children are blessed after him."*

- 2) It is too easy to forget who (and whose) we are, and where we've come from. Dt. 8

Jms 4:6,10 *"He giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up."* (see also 1Pt 5:5,6)

"Do you desire to construct a vast and lofty building? Think first about the foundations of humility. The higher your structure is to be, the deeper must be its foundation. Augustine of Hippo (354-430)

*He that is down needs fear no fall, He that is low, no pride;*

*He that is humble ever shall Have God to be his guide.* John Bunyan (1628-1688)

## E: EXPERIENCED vs 6

*"These words... shall be in thine heart..."*

- 1) You cannot teach what you do not know or lead where you've never been. Mt 15:14

*"Daddy had a little boy, His soul was white as snow. He never went to Sunday School Cause Daddy wouldn't go.*

*He never heard the Word of God. That thrills the childish mind, While other children went to class, This child was left behind.*

*As he grew from babe to youth, Dad saw to his dismay, A soul that once was snowy white, Became a dingy grey.*

*When he realized his son was lost, Dad tried to win him back, But now the soul that once was white, Had turned an ugly black,*

*Dad even started back to church, and Bible study too; He begged the preacher, "Isn't there a thing you can do?"*

*The preacher tried, failed, and said "We're just too far behind; I tried to tell you years ago, But you paid me no mind."*

*And so another soul was lost, That once was white as snow; Sunday School could have helped, But Daddy wouldn't go!"*

"I took a piece of plastic clay, And idly fashioned it one day. And as my fingers pressed it still,  
It moved and yielded to my will. I came again when the days were passed, And the bit of clay was hard at last.

The form I gave it still it bore, But I could change that form no more.

I took a piece of living clay, And gently formed it day by day; And molded with my power and art,

A young child's soft and yielding heart. I came again when the days were gone, It was a man I looked upon.

He still that early impress wore, But I could change that form no more." -- Dave Stone

## R: REVERENT Vs 13,14

*"Thou shalt fear the LORD thy God, and serve him, ...Ye shall not go after other gods, ..."*

Ps 15:4 *"he honoureth them that fear the LORD."*

- Pr 9:10 *"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding."*

**CONCLUSION:** Every map must have a reference point to be useable.

That point must be unmovable in order to give meaning to the rest of the map. See Psalm 15

Our relationship to the Lord should be the solid "Reference Point" in our lives and one from which our children can navigate their own lives. 1 Th 2:10-12

## APPLICATION:

What (who) is your "reference point" as a Father?

If your kids follow your life "map", will you be content with where it leads them?

Pr. 20:7 *"The just man walks in his integrity: his children are blessed (from 'āšār': guided) after him."*

*Walk a little slower Daddy, said a child so small I'm following in your footsteps, and I don't want to fall!*

*Sometimes your steps are very fast, sometimes they're hard to see. So walk a little slower daddy, for you are leading me.*

*Someday when I am all grown up, you're what I want to be. Then I will have a little child, Who'll want to follow me!*

*Someday when I am all grown up, you're what I want to be. Then I will have a little child, Who'll want to follow me!*