

“Fathering for a Legacy”
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New Horizons Outreach Ministry
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Introduction: This morning we celebrate **Fathers**. Let’s give God some praise for the Fathers that are here. My prayer is that you have a **Blessed Father’s Day**. But greater than **one day**, Father’s must **Father for a lifetime** and that is what we will deal with today -- **Fathering for a Legacy!**

Any male that is able-bodied can reproduce and create a child, but that does not mean that they are actively “Fathering.” Fathering is the act of being a father. It is more than just having the **title**; it **requires energy** and **effort** on the part of the Father.

Who here wants to leave an **inheritance** for their children? Who wants to leave them money? Who wants to leave them lots of money? What about for your **grandchildren**? Do you want to leave an inheritance that will bless two generations down?

Solomon said: **(Prov 13:22 AMP) “A good man leaves an inheritance [of moral stability and goodness] to his children's children, and the wealth of the sinner [finds its way eventually] into the hands of the righteous, for whom it was laid up.”**

Money is a good inheritance to leave behind, but the **greatest** inheritance you can leave for your children is an **inheritance of Righteousness**. When you look at God and what he did in the Old Testament you quickly find out that God is a **relational God** and that He connects with us to impact our entire FAMILY – from GENERATION to GENERATION!

The Promise to a Father passes down to His seed:

- ❖ God promised Abraham a nation, but he really only had one promised child.
- ❖ Isaac took what his father taught him and coupled it with what he learned Himself from God. Isaac had two boys (Esau and Jacob).
- ❖ They took what their father taught them and coupled it with what they learned from God. Jacob had 12 boys.
- ❖ These 12 boys took what they had learned from their father and coupled it with what they learned from God and they became the NATION promised to Abraham.
- ❖ **The promise was to Abraham, but it does not come to pass until THREE GENERATIONS later.**
- ❖ **God is not just concerned about you.**
- ❖ **When God looks at you he sees you and your seed! You and Your Legacy!**
- ❖ **He wants to impact you and all those that will come out of you!**
- ❖ That’s why we must Father for a Legacy!

The first disconnect:

- ❖ We know that that nation created by the 12 sons of Jacob eventually became **slaves in Egypt**.
- ❖ They were slaves for **400 years** and during that time the legacy of righteousness was **broken**.
- ❖ Because of their oppression the nation of Israel failed to rely on their God and they accepted this plight.
- ❖ **God called Moses to lead them out and when he did they did not know what to do.**

- ❖ (Ex 32:1 NIV) **When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said, "Come, make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don't know what has happened to him.**
 - They no longer knew about the God of their Fathers.
 - **They knew more about the gods of Egypt than Jehovah.**
 - Where did they get the image for the calf?
 - They were out of Egypt, but Egypt was not out of them!
 - **They were disconnected from their legacy!**

Another disconnect:

- ❖ We know that Moses re-established the proper relationship with Jehovah and he passed that legacy down to his spiritual son – Joshua!
- ❖ Joshua led the people well and he instructed them in righteousness.
- ❖ Joshua carried on what Moses started and everything seemed to be rolling again!
- ❖ Let's look at what happened after Joshua died:

(Judges 2:7-11 KJV) And the people served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders that outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great works of the LORD, that he did for Israel.

(v.8) And Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died, being an hundred and ten years old.

(v.9) And they buried him in the border of his inheritance in Timnathheres, in the mount of Ephraim, on the north side of the hill Gaash.

(v.10) And also all that generation were gathered unto their fathers: and there arose another generation after them, which knew not the LORD, nor yet the works which he had done for Israel.

(v.11) And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served Baalim:

- ❖ Moses rekindled the fire.
- ❖ The fire was burning hot in the hearts of his generation and Joshua did his part.
- ❖ **Joshua passed it on to the next generation.**
- ❖ **But somehow that generation failed to pass it on to the next Generation.**
- ❖ That generation failed to leave a legacy!
- ❖ Now, they left money!
- ❖ They left gold.
- ❖ They left silver.
- ❖ They left land.
- ❖ They left cattle.
- ❖ **They left material things, but the failed to leave the Greatest Inheritance that was their relationship with God!**

Where would I be?

I oftentimes wonder where I would be if my Father knew God. What if my Grandfather knew God?

- ❖ What if my Father and Grandfather had an inheritance of righteousness that they passed on to me?
- ❖ **Where would I be today in ministry?**
- ❖ I got saved at the age of 23 and I did not even know John 3:16 when I did.
- ❖ I did not have hands laid on me.
- ❖ I did not have an anointing passed on to me.
- ❖ **I was 23, I was saved, but I was Fatherless.**
- ❖ **I was a young man without a legacy.**
- ❖ I was starting from scratch!

My Children:

- ❖ **My children will not have to start where I started and I can say that, because I am Fathering them for a Legacy!**
- ❖ I am pouring into them the things that I have learned and received.
- ❖ **God blessed me with a Spiritual Father and now I have a covenant, an anointing, a heritage, and something to pass down to my children.**

It was never God's desire that the chain of His blessing be broken from Generation to Generation. It was supposed to pass down and get stronger and greater with every generation!

- ❖ **Fathers, Mothers, what are you going to do with your assignment?**
- ❖ What are you going to do with your children?
- ❖ What are you going to do with your heritage?
- ❖ **Will you leave a legacy or you will be the cause of a DISCONNECT in your family line?**

I will share **three key facets of Fathering** before I close:

1. Father for Purpose, not for Pleasure

(Gen 17:10,12) This [is] my covenant, which ye shall keep, between me and you and thy seed after thee; Every man child among you shall be circumcised. And he that is eight days old shall be circumcised among you, every man child in your generations...

- ❖ God chose something very significant when he established His covenant with Abraham.
- ❖ The covenant – on God's part – was sealed with the **blood of Animals** (Gen 15).
- ❖ But the covenant – on man's part – was sealed **with his own blood**.
- ❖ Now God could have chosen to make Abraham cut his **hand** or his **chest** or his **leg**, or etc.
- ❖ But God chose to have Abraham cut his **reproduction organ**.
- ❖ This was a sign of a Covenant that would pass on to other generations!
- ❖ **Every time a man (that was circumcised), came together with his wife, his seed passed through the blood (symbolically) of the covenant.**
- ❖ **This was covenant seed that would bring forth Covenant Children.**
- ❖ This also meant that part of the responsibility of the Father was to **CUT** his child on the 8th day.
- ❖ Was this **painful** – YES!
- ❖ Was this somewhat **brutal** back then (doing it with a stone) – YES!
- ❖ But was this **necessary** – YES!
- ❖ **A father that failed to CUT his son was a father that did not love him.**
- ❖ **Today as fathers we must have the Courage and the Determination to CUT our children when they need it.**
- ❖ If we don't CUT them, then they won't become the persons that God desires for them to be.
- ❖ **Dr. Mark Hanby said**, "A Father must do more than just have children. He raises his children to become mature adults. It is a painful, costly, time consuming, life draining, "stay up all hours of the night" type of relationship. It is not always a joyful experience for the Father or the Son. The cost is everything a Father has within him. The benefit is a son who will honor his Father."
- ❖ **And the son must trust their father to Father them, even when it is painful, in order to receive the inheritance of righteousness!**
- ❖ **If we just focus on giving them pleasure we will fail to prepare them for their PURPOSE!**
- ❖ **So Father for Purpose, not just for Pleasure!**

2. Father In Love, not as a Lord

(Eph 6:4 KJV) And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

- ❖ We should not treat our children so badly that they turn away from God.
- ❖ I know kids that say, “If my father is supposed to be a Christian, then I don’t want to be one.”
- ❖ We should not just focus in on the pleasure, but at the same time, we can’t be so hard on them that we turn them off to God altogether.
- ❖ And then we should remember that we are training them up in the nurture and admonition **of the Lord.**
- ❖ We are to point them to God as their Lord, not us.
- ❖ We are not to Lord over them to the point where they can’t even enjoy their childhood.
- ❖ **Love them just the way there are.**
- ❖ **And love them too much to leave them that way!**
- ❖ **Just remember that you are NOT their Lord, God is.**

3. Father for a Legacy, not a Monopoly

(Malachi 4:6) And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

- ❖ This is the very last scripture in the Old Testament and it is that last thing we read before the coming of the Messiah.
- ❖ What is it? **It is a promise that God will turn the hearts of fathers to the children and the hearts of children to their fathers.**
- ❖ This is a reminder for us – those of us who are New Testament believers – that our hearts should be towards our children.
- ❖ We should seek to BE a blessing to them.
- ❖ **Our life cannot be just about us anymore.**
- ❖ A person who owns a monopoly is only out for themselves.
 - Their focus is on hoarding and storing up for themselves.
 - They take, take, take, and never give.
 - As parents we must be givers, not just takers.
- ❖ **The Greatest mark of a Leader is Development, not Dictatorship!**
- ❖ **Leadership is a servant relationship that leads to human development.**
- ❖ Our focus must be to develop our children and to empower them to maximize their potential, in the earth, while they are living.
- ❖ My natural father never fathered me, but my Mother was (and continues to be) an awesome parent.
- ❖ **My mother sacrificed a great deal for me.**
- ❖ She often went without so that I could have.
- ❖ **She put my needs above her own.**
- ❖ She was never so focused on herself that she neglected her kids.
- ❖ **She was parenting for a LEGACY, not a MONOPOLY!**

Closing Confession: Father God, I declare, by faith, that I will parent for a legacy. I will take everything that You have poured into me and release that to my children. I lay hands on them and I transfer the anointing upon my life unto them. They will not have to start where I started and they will be greater than me. I want to see them do more and impact more in the Kingdom than I ever will. I want better for my children and I thank You for being a God that transfers Blessing to the second and third generation. My children and my children’s children shall be blessed because of the anointing upon my life! This message changes me today and I will be more cognizant of making the transfer that will make a difference in generations to come. In Jesus’ Name! Amen!