Like Father, Like Son

There is a biography I have read in which the protagonist faces trials in their life and much opposition. Throughout the story of their life, there is a common occurrence. Each time opposition, the need for guidance, or perhaps a temptation for fear set in, they turned to their father for exhortation and wisdom. They would regularly ask that they’d be shown how best to honor him in their actions towards their oppressors. In the midst of difficult situations, where most would falter and become anxious, bitter or selfish, they instead took from their father’s example and chose to mimic this preset expectation. Through the love and kindness of their father, they were able to find comfort and solace in the most trying of times. As I read and have re-read their story, I too, have become compelled to attempt to follow the pattern both father and child had shown.

In First Thessalonians 2:11-12, Paul speaks of exhorting and worthy walking. He wrote, “…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.” To exhort is to encourage and comfort, leading to lovingly invoke or charge someone to move forward in their faith. As we read this example, it brings two thoughts to mind. The first being, am I exhorting those around me? Secondly, am I being open and humble enough to be exhorted? Both of these principles will bring about a walk that is worthy of our calling and a deeper relationship with Christ. Romans 14:19 tell us this, “Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another.”

If you had not already guessed, the story I spoke of above is none other than the life of Jesus and His true dependence on the Father. As Christ was willing to pray continuously for guidance from God, we could see that He was humble and had a pure willingness to do as the Father asked. Will we be meek enough to listen, so that we can grow to walk worthy? As God was a source of wisdom, comfort, encouragement and love, are we able to say we are striving to emulate these godly attributes as well, exhorting others to walk worthy? Let us be faithful to be known as edifiers, listeners and learners alike, that we too may walk worthy of our Heavenly Father.

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