

JOB: A FAITHFUL FATHER

(Ephesians 6:4)

- Introduction:
1. Let's face it, a father begins his role as a father with a distinct disadvantage.
 - a. For nine months the child has time to be safe, warm, protected, and cozy with its mother.
 - b. Then somebody says, "You've got to leave".
 - c. The next thing you know someone grabs the baby by the ankles and spansks its bottom until it cries, and then someone says, "And by the way, this is your father."
 2. With that kind of an introduction, we have some work to do.
 3. Father's as well as mother's have been given responsibilities in regard to their children (Ephesians 6:4).
 4. I think that father's would do well to imitate the actions of a father we can read about in the Bible: Job.
 5. Let's examine several of the characteristics Job possessed that would help us to be better fathers.

I. JOB WAS THE SPIRITUAL LEADER IN HIS FAMILY

- A. (Job 1:5).
 1. This is an indication that Job is one of the oldest books of the Bible.
 2. Notice the Patriarchal worship, rather than the Mosaic worship.
- B. Job was concerned and devoted to the spiritual well being of his children.
- C. Many fathers are concerned about the physical well being of their children, but how many can say their actions demonstrate as great a concern about the spiritual well being of their children?
- D. (I Timothy 5:8).
- E. Father's need to assert their "*headship*" and their "*authority*" in the home.
 1. (Joshua 24:15).
 2. Sometimes, a father must "*see to it*" that something is done.
- F. Like in so many other things, the key is to see beyond the temporal and see the eternal.

II. JOB HAD A POSITIVE OUTLOOK ON LIFE

- A. (Job 1:21).
- B. We all have our moments of disgruntlement, but that should be the exception rather than the rule.
- C. This was the case with Job. For Job to have faced such a catastrophe in the manner he did, it says much about his nature.
- D. We all have good and bad in our lives, but what is our focus?
- E. (Philippians 4:11).
- F. Is it not the height of ingratitude for Christians, redeemed people, to complain?
- G. It is within a father's power to "*sour*" his children on life (Colossians 3:21).

III. JOB WAS A HUMBLE MAN

- A. (Job 42:1-6).
- B. Job was not afraid to say, "I was wrong, please forgive me."
- C. Father's, demonstrate humility before your children.
- D. (Matthew 5:3).
- E. Spiritual growth demands honesty and humility.

- Conclusion:
1. As a father, you have been given a gift; a gift that enables you to mold and shape an eternal soul.
 2. Rather than abusing this gift, please use it to God's glory.
 3. Take your role as a father seriously so that as the years pass you have no serious regrets.

THE INVITATION OF CHRIST

THE WORD *GOSPEL* LITERALLY MEANS GOOD NEWS. AND THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT JESUS OFFERS TO YOU AND INVITES YOU TO RECEIVE. THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS IS THAT HE HAS PAID THE PRICE FOR OUR SINS. ALL HE ASKS IN RETURN IS FOR US TO ACCEPT HIS GIFT OF SALVATION. TO DO THIS, ONE MUST:

BELIEVE THAT JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD AND DIED ON THE CROSS TO PAY THE PENALTY FOR YOUR SINS (HEBREWS 11:6; EPHESIANS 1:7).

REPENT OR TURN AWAY FROM THE SINS YOU HAVE COMMITTED IN YOUR PAST (LUKE 13:3; ACTS 17:30-31).

CONFESS WITH YOUR MOUTH THAT YOU BELIEVE JESUS TO BE LORD (MATTHEW 10:32; ROMANS 10:9-10).

BE BAPTIZED OR IMMERSSED IN WATER FOR THE REMISSION OF ALL YOUR PAST SINS IN OBEDIENCE TO THE LORDS COMMAND (MARK 16:16; ACTS 2:36-38).

RESOLVE FROM THAT POINT FORWARD TO OBEY AND OBSERVE ALL OF THE LORDS TEACHINGS (MATTHEW 28:19-20; HEBREWS 5:9).

IF YOU WANT TO RESPOND TO THE ABOVE INVITATION OF JESUS, THEN AS WE SING THE INVITATION SONG, PLEASE MAKE YOUR WAY TO THE FRONT OF THE BUILDING, AND WE WILL ASSIST YOU IN YOUR OBEDIENCE TO GOD.