Father's Day 2021

"My Father's God"

Exodus 15:2

I. A PERSON OF FAITH
a) His Family
b) His Failures
II. A PEDIGREE OF FAITH
a) A Treasured Heritage
b) A Tested Heritage
III. A PROFESSION OF FAITH
a) The Experiences of Faith
b) The Exuberance of Faith

Introduction:

1. There is something special to a boy about something that belonged to his father. Throughout the years, I have acquired my share of heirlooms.

2. I love my family, and the things that I am given that belong to the members of my family (particularly my father, and my grandfathers, etc.) are special to me.

3. However, of all the things that they have passed down, their faith has to be the most precious. Now, they did not pass that faith down genetically. Rather, through faithful and consistent witness, the men in my life gave me footsteps that led to Christ.

4. I have always been grateful for their voice and influence in my life. However, as I stand here to preach my last Father's Day sermon before I myself am a father, I feel the gravity of the role in a new way, and I am floored with appreciation to the fathers in my life and what they mean to me.

5. I want to be a godly father, and I know you do too, for the simple fact that I want my children to be godly individuals. I want to give them the world, but I recognize, I must give them my faith.

©2021

6. My prayer for my own children (yet to come) and yours, is that we as Dad's would learn to give them what it most important. May we, by the grace of God and a consistent life, give them a faith that can become their own.

7. In reality, the Church is always one generation away from dying. May we see to it that the seed is planted and cultivated in the generation to come.

8. As we come to our text this morning, we hear Moses as he sings about the God of his fathers. In his song, Moses reveals to us that that very same God had become his God as well.

9. I want us to consider what Moses's words "My Father's God" have to say to us about our own fathers and our own children. I want us to see together how the faith of Moses's father became his faith.

10. To do so, when need to jump back in time for a moment. For Moses, it all started with…

I. A PERSON OF FAITH

1. When Moses speaks of his father's God in v.2, who is he speaking about. Doubtless, he is speaking about the God of his father Abraham.

2. When God appeared to Moses in the burning bush, He introduced Himself in Exodus 3:6 as *"The God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob."*

3. Abraham was Moses's father, and the God of his father that he refers to in v.2 is Abraham's God.

4. For Moses, his godly heritage found roots in his ancestor Abraham. Now, Abraham was a person of faith. We read of him in Genesis 15:6, *"And he believed in the Lord; and He counted it to him for righteousness."*

5. However, we must remember that although Moses was the fountainhead of a godly heritage, he was by no means perfect.

6. Consider with me, first of all…

a) His Family

©2021

1. Although Abraham would be the father of the family of faith, he did not come from a family of faith himself.

2. Abraham's story begins in Genesis 12, but we are introduced to him first at the end of Genesis 11. In this introduction, we learn something about Abraham's father and his family.

3. In Genesis 11:27, we learn that Abraham was born to a man named Terah in a land known as Ur of the Chaldees.

4. Now, Terah did not know nor serve the Lord. In fact, Joshua tells us in Joshua 24:2, that Terah was a pagan. We read:

And Joshua said unto all the people, "Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Your fathers dwelt on the other side of the flood in old time, even Terah, the father of Abraham, and the father of Nachor: and they served other gods."

5. Don't you find it interesting that the father of all the faithful was born to a moon-worshipping pagan? The father of faith had a man of faithlessness for his father.

6. Abraham reminds us that you don't have to come from a godly family to have a godly family.

7. Just because your parents failed to leave you a godly legacy, doesn't exempt or disqualify you from leaving a legacy of faith to your children.

8. Your parents may have been faithless, but that doesn't mean that you can't be faithful. You can serve God in your life and your home and start a legacy that will last for years to come.

9. Abraham's family wasn't faithful, but he was. However, although he was faithful, Abraham wasn't perfect himself.

10. Consider with me not only *His Family* but also…

b) His Failures

1. Abraham had a besetting sin. He was a chronic liar.

2. In Genesis 12:10-20, we read the account of Abraham in Egypt. A great famine had driven him to the land of Pharoah in search of food.

©2021

3. As he approached the city, he said to Sarai his wife,

"Behold now, I know that thou art a fair woman to look upon: Therefore it shall come to pass, when the Egyptians shall see thee, that they shall say, This is his wife: and they will kill me, but they will save thee alive. Say, I pray thee, thou art my sister: that it may be well with me for thy sake; and my soul shall live because of thee." (Genesis 12:11-13).

4. To save his own skin, Abraham lied about his wife convinced her to lie herself.

5. Now, this story did not end well for Abraham. However, in just a few short chapters, in Genesis 20, he would do the very same thing again in the land of Gerar.

6. To have left such a wonderful legacy of faith, Abraham had far from a perfect testimony.

7. Abraham reminds us that you don't have to have a faithful family to leave a legacy of faith. However, you also don't have to be perfect to have a godly family either.

8. Now, this helps a man like me. I'm sure I am not the only man here this morning who is aware of his faults.

9. However, it would help us to remember that there are no perfect fathers; there's just faithful ones.

10. You see, as dads, you and I are going to miss the mark. We are going to fail from time to time. The reality is: it is more important for our children to find us faithful than to find us perfect.

11. By God's grace, we are to model repentance and faithfulness for those behind us, and in doing so, we can leave our family a legacy of faith in spite of our shortcomings.

12. For Moses in Exodus 15, it all started with **A Person of Faith.** However, that person of faith turned into…

II. A PEDIGREE OF FAITH

©2021

1. As we read the story of Abraham, we come to find out that Abraham's faith did not remain only with Abraham. His faith was passed down from one generation to the next.

2. There came a day when Isaac believed. Then, Jacob believed. Then the patriarchs believed. Generation after generation believed all the way down to Moses. What a pedigree of faith!

3. The question before us this morning is: how does that happen? After all is that not the question we are all asking as parents? How do we pass our faith on to our children?

4. Now, these are treacherous waters. Books upon books have been written on this subject, all in attempts to give practical advice on the matter.

5. There are lots of ways to teach the faith to your children. However, the thing I want us to remember this morning is that you will fail to do that perfectly. All of the fathers of Moses did. They were made of the same dust we are.

6. Well, how did the gospel pass down, if they failed to do so perfectly? Well, the power is not really in how you pass it down, it's in what you pass down.

7. Theses fathers each gave to their children, first of all…

a) A Treasured Heritage

1. The heritage of faith that they had been given was a treasured thing. The fathers in this pedigree did not take the person or works of God lightly.

2. Everywhere they went, there were constant reminders of how God had moved in the lives of their fathers.

3. Even in Egypt, the fathers told their children of the mighty works of the Lord in times past. They saw to it that their children understood that the Lord God was the God of their fathers and that He had worked marvelously in their lives.

4. Surely, this was in obedience to the command of Moses in Deuteronomy 11:18-21. Moses said:

©2021

"Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes.

And ye shall teach them your children, speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

And thou shalt write them upon the door posts of thine house, and upon thy gates:

That your days may be multiplied, and the days of your children, in the land which the LORD sware unto your fathers to give them, as the days of heaven upon the earth."

5. This passage reminds us that as fathers it is our duty to teach our children the Word of God.

6. It is our job, as the spiritual head of the home, to see to it that our children understand the heritage they have and how precious that heritage is.

7. What we are giving them is not some new thing on the scene. As Clarence Sexton put it, "Our faith is a treasured heritage, not a contemporary experiment."

8. It is this heritage, that if passed down, will keep them all their days.

9. However, secondly, these fathers not only gave to their children *A Treasured Heritage,* but also…

b) A Tested Heritage

1. If Abraham passed anything on to his descendants, he did not give them a weak faith. The heritage of faith that he passed down was strong, tested, proven, and true.

2. The pedigree of faith that belonged to the children of Israel withstood centuries of slavery and bondage under the cruel task masters of Egypt.

©2021

3. In other words, Abraham did not pass down a coloring book full of sunshine and roses. Rather, he gave to his children a faith that could weather the strongest storms of life.

4. I'm afraid, in our day, that we are afraid of a faith that is real and abiding. We are satisfied with giving our children a Sunday School lesson and a badge, and are terrified to speak to them concerning the pressing matters of the day.

5. Now, I understand that children are not ready to hear about certain things. However, when our children reach a certain age of understanding, it is our responsibility to teach to them the verity of our faith in a culture of deception.

6. The world isn't afraid to teach our kids about the pressing matters of life. We shouldn't be either.

7. As the church, we must teach our children that our faith is more than a fairy tale. It is the foundation upon which we stand. It is true, and it is trustworthy. We must teach them the undeniable truths of God's Word.

8. Over recent decades, statisticians have observed that our children are leaving the faith at a rapid rate after they graduate high school. Could it be that that is because we have failed to show them how faith intersects with their daily lives?

9. Fathers, don't be afraid to share your faith with your children. However, don't be satisfied with merely a set of facts. Show them the veracity of faith. Show them how true and crucial the gospel is.

10. Give them a heritage that is tested and true. Show them how faith in the gospel has carried multitudes to heaven and show them that it will carry them there as well, even in the face of the storms of life.

11. What began as **A Person of Faith** became **A Pedigree of Faith.** However, in Moses's life, it did not stop there. It reach its intended end. For Moses, it resulted in…

III. A PROFESSION OF FAITH

©2021

1. In v.2 of Exodus 15, we learn that there came a day when the God of his father became Moses's God as well.

2. Isn't that what were after this morning? Do not we wish to our children make their faith their own? Moses said in v.2, ***"The LORD is my strength and song, And he is become my salvation: He is my God, and I will prepare him an habitation; My father's God, and I will exalt him."***

3. Moses's words remind us of what a true profession of faith looks like. His profession sprung, first of all, out of…

a) The Experiences of Faith

1. Moses had heard of the faith of his fathers. He had heard of how God had delivered them and provided for them all the days of their life.

2. However, by the time we come to Exodus 15, Moses had experience the hand of God in his life for himself.

3. He said, ***"The LORD is <u>my</u> strength and song, And He is become <u>my</u> salvation…"***

4. Just a chapter earlier, Moses had witnessed the mighty hand of God deliver His people by drowning their enemies in the Red Sea. He had witnessed God's salvation for himself.

5. No longer would Moses rely on the experiences of his fathers to carry him through. He now had a salvation story of his own.

6. Fathers, we ought to take great courage here. The same God that saved Abraham saved Moses. The God of the fathers became the God of the children.

7. As parents, we cannot save our children, but God can. We can share the gospel with them. We can model the Christian Life before them. However, we cannot give eternal life to them.

8. You say, "Preacher, what can we do?" Well, we can pray. We can pray with all our might that the God of Heaven will see fit to save our children.

9. Salvation belongs to Him. He is the God who saves. As parents, the greatest thing we can do for our children is to beseech the throne of grace

©2021

that our children might experience God's saving grace in their own lives for themselves.

10. That's what happened in Moses's life. Through the experiences of faith, Moses was given the gift of faith himself.

11. However, *The Experiences of Faith* led to…

b) The Exuberance of Faith

1. Moses continues in v.2, ***"He is <u>my</u> God, and I will prepare Him an habitation; My father's God, and I will exalt Him."***

2. The faith that Moses now possessed was far from dead and dull. It was lively and exuberant.

3. Moses's experiences of God led naturally to the praise and worship of God.

4. As a parent, if your only goal is to see your children tip their intellectual hat to a set of facts, you have set your sights too low.

5. As parents, we ought to earnestly desire that our children would possess a lively and animate faith.

6. We should never discourage our children from service to the Lord and the worship of His name. In fact, we should encourage that.

7. It should thrill our hearts to see our children serving God and walking with Him. We should invest in that and nurture that with all of our might and resources.

8. Too many parents in the church would rather see their children grow up to be MLB stars and celebrities than faithful servants of God. You say, "Preacher, I would never say that!"

9. Well, let me ask you, what are you encouraging them to do? Does the ballfield have precedence over God's house? Are you investing more time and money into their extracurricular activities than you are their spiritual growth and development?

10. As godly parents, it ought to be our chief aim that our children know God, serve Him, and worship Him above all else in their lives.

©2021

Conclusion:

1. So, here we are on this Father's Day. We have heard of how the faith of a godly father became a pedigree of faith that has lasted for generations.

2. I wonder, is that what you desire for your family and your children?

3. If so, remember you aren't perfect. You will make mistakes. However, you can share your faith with your children. You can teach them God's Word and keep them in God's House.

4. You can raise them around the things of God and pray with all your might that the God of all grace will save them by His marvelous power.

5. You may be here, and your children are grown. They aren't serving the Lord. Let me remind you, it is not too late for them. Moses was a grown man before the faith of fathers took root in his heart.

6. Just keep praying. Keep sharing the gospel. Keep living it out in front of them.

7. Remind them that our faith is a treasured and trusted heritage and pray that God would make it a living reality in their own life.

8. Encourage them with all your might and resources to serve God with their life.

9. May God help us to see the day when our children refer to our Lord not only as their father's God but their God as well. Till then, may we be found faithful to the task.

10. Let's stand together.

©2021