

## 4 Fathers



- **Deuteronomy 1:31:** "There you saw how the Lord your God carried you, as a father carries his son, all the way you went until you reached this place."

### 1. Zecharias, Humble and Prayerful Father

1. Mindful of God's calling on his son, praying for him; He was humble and didn't interfere - "his name is John"
2. Raised him so that he grew strong in the Spirit - Luke 1:80
3. Released him to God's calling - John was in the deserts... Luke 1:80

## 2. Jethro, a wise Father

Exodus 2 and 18: Story of Jethro: father of 7 daughters in Midia, Moses's flight, meets Zipporah at well, etc.

Qualities of Jethro:

1. Perceptive of the need of his 7 daughters: provision for his daughters - at the well/Moses
  - a. Explain Exodus 2: Moses fled from Pharaoh and went to live in Midian, where he sat down by a well. **16** Now a priest of Midian had seven daughters, and they came to draw water and fill the troughs to water their father's flock. **17** Some shepherds came along and drove them away, but Moses got up and came to their rescue and watered their flock.
  - b. **18** When the girls returned to Reuel their father, he asked them, "Why have you returned so early today?"
  - c. **19** They answered, "An Egyptian rescued us from the shepherds. He even drew water for us and watered the flock."
  - d. **20** "And where is he?" Reuel asked his daughters. **"Why did you leave him? Invite him to have something to eat."!!!!!!**
2. Wise counsel in recognizing Moses' need: DELEGATE!
3. Confirmed by God's instruction in Numbers 11: 70 Elders appointed

## 3. Simon of Cyrene, Model of Servanthood Faith

Who is Simon of Cyrene?

**Mark 15:21**

Then they compelled a certain man, Simon a Cyrenian, the father of Alexander and Rufus, as he was coming out of the country and passing by, to bear His cross. **22** And they brought Him to the place Golgotha, which is translated, Place of a Skull.

Who is Rufus and Alexander?

### **Romans 16:13**

13 Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord, and his mother, who has been a mother to me, too.

What do we learn from Simon of Cyrene:

1. He modeled servanthood faith and it left a legacy in his family
2. He later took up his own cross

Luke 9:23

And He was saying to all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and let him take up his cross every day, and let him follow Me.

Explain circumstances for Simon: what must it have been like what was he thinking? Did he do this willingly? He certainly didn't volunteer, but he finished it.

## **4. Paul, Spiritual Father to Titus and Timothy**

What do we learn from the Apostle Paul?

1. He instructed his spiritual sons in spiritual truth: both in person, mentoring them and by letter when he wasn't physically present.
  - a. He took them under his wing and loved them
    - i. *(Story of Harry Poindexter)*

Many young men need spiritual mentors that are not necessarily their biological parents

Gerald Ford learns he was adopted at 12 years old: explain: He remembered, "Dad and I had the closest, most intimate relationship. We acted alike. We had the same interests. I thought we looked alike."