

Faith Walk! - Sermon Discussion

Date : 20 Jun 2021

Sermon Title : Father of Faith

Speaker : Rev Peter Koh

Text : Mark 5:21-24, 35-43

INTRODUCTION

We all view our fathers differently and how we view our father affects how we view God, our Heavenly Father. Hence, how our children view their fathers is really important.

Four types of fathers:

1. Failing father

A father who is either absent in the life of his children or not able to engage or connect with his children as depicted in the song 'Cat's in the Cradle' by Harry Chapin, which has the same message as the idiom which talks about a father not giving enough time for his children because of his busyness. Towards the end of the song, the table turned and his son does not have time for him too when he is old.

2. Forceful father

An authoritative father - much like a commander in the army. A father who is simply a provider and whatever he says needs to be obeyed by his children with no questions asked.

3. Faithful father

A good father, coach, mentor and can engage with his family. A faithful father is the all-time favourite for the wife and children because he will always be there for the family.

4. Father of faith

Father of faith is a faithful father and additionally he is what God wants all fathers to be. This is a father who brings Jesus into the family and draws his family closer to Jesus.

Common father's fears

Fear stops fathers from being a faithful father and the father of faith that God wants them to be. It is common amongst fathers to have fear of the following:

- Vulnerability – afraid to be viewed as being weak

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- Rejection – afraid to be rejected by family members
- Losing Control – afraid to lose control and so use force to show that he is in control all the time
- Failure – afraid to appear as a failure which can result in losing self-worth
- Insignificance – afraid to be insignificant and so puts up a front to shore up self-worth

God wants all fathers to be a father of faith (Mark 5:21-24, 35-43)

A father of faith is more than a faithful father. He is a father who disciples his children in Jesus. God wants us to seek Him all the time and not only when there is trouble. He wants us to have Him in our families.

a. A father of faith is more than a faithful father (v.22)

- A faithful father provides for his family but a father of faith brings Christ into his family.
- Jairus knew that Jesus was in town and went to seek Jesus out to heal his daughter.
- Even though Jairus' faith is being tested as Jesus took His time to heal the woman who was bleeding first, Jairus remained faithful.

b. He brings Jesus into his marriage and family (v.23-24)

- The first thing about a father of faith is that he acknowledges he has needs and shortcomings, and therefore comes to Jesus.
- God wants fathers to look up to Him.
- God wants fathers to bring Him into their marriages and families. Father of faith introduces faith into his household.

Fathers should not leave discipleship of their children to Sunjam or The Tackle Box but instead be the ones to disciple their children. They need to ensure their family is in the family of faith. Fathers need to mentor, coach and disciple their children.

c. He is called to an extreme faith with an extreme position (v.36)

- While Jairus was leading Jesus to his house, he was told his daughter was dead.
- He could have been flustered because Jesus was stopped by the woman who bled for many years. Perhaps, had Jesus not stopped to heal the woman, his daughter would not die. Jesus knew Jairus' struggle and assured him with the comforting words, "Do not be afraid; just believe." Jesus was building Jairus up to be a father of faith.

What would you do upon receiving such dreaded news? Would you give up _____ hope or keep trusting?

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When Noah was called to build the Ark, the people mocked at him, telling him that there was no rain. But Noah kept faith in God as a father of faith and his wife and children too obeyed God.

Jesus – our Faithful Father

Comparison between Jairus and the woman who bled for many years:

1. Jairus came publicly to Jesus; the woman came in secret
 2. Jairus was probably wealthy; the woman was poor
 3. Jairus thought Jesus had to do a lot to heal his daughter; the woman thought all she needed was to touch Jesus' garment
- Yet, Jesus responded to both as a Faithful Father

We need more fathers of faith. There are too many failing fathers and forceful fathers because the devil knows this and therefore tempts fathers to fail to be a father of faith.

CONCLUSION

Every father is called to be a father of faith; to be a mentor, protector, provider and to bring his family to Christ. He is to bring his children and the whole family into the saving relationship with Jesus. When a father carries himself in his personal walk with Christ, his family will be drawn near to Christ. Unfortunately, the reverse is true too, so fathers need to humble themselves if they had been a failing or forceful father, to seek forgiveness from their families. Every father needs to pray for God's anointing to be a "Father of Faith".

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As a group, spend some time to share your success and struggle in fulfilling what you/your group had committed to do at the previous meeting.

A. Review Sermon Content

Purpose: Reflect on one key takeaway.

Appoint someone to read Mark 5:21-24 and 35-43 twice, slowly.

1. At the end of the reading, the reader will say, ‘This is the Word of the Lord.’

All to respond, “Thanks be to God.” Our response reminds us that this is the Word of the Lord. Just as God had spoken to His people in the past, He is still speaking to us even today, right now.”

- a. As God's word was read, which verse speaks to you the most?

- b.
 - (i) What is the key takeaway for you from the sermon “Father of Faith”?
 - (ii) How will you align the way you live to your key takeaway?

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B. Relate Sermon Content

Purpose: Relate with the Truth and Resolve for Transformation.

- 2a. Why is it not enough for a Christian father to be a “faithful father” but he must also be a “father of faith”?
- 2b. Whether you are a biological father or ‘spiritual father’ to your family members, to people in your circle of influence or small group, reflect on which of the 4 types of “father” you are.
 - (i) What motivates you to be this type(s) of “father”?
 - (ii) Are you bringing Jesus into your “family” and drawing them closer to Jesus through your type of fathering?
- 3a. As a biological or spiritual father, which of the 3 characteristics of a “father of faith” do you find hardest to fulfill?
 - (i) being more than a faithful father
 - (ii) bringing Jesus into your marriage and family/“spiritual family”
 - (iii) being called to an extreme faith with an extreme position?
- 3b.
 - (i) What hindrances do you face in your effort to be a “father of faith” in the context that God has called you?
 - (ii) What is one practical step you can take to overcome the above hindrances and fulfill your calling to be a “father of faith”?
- 3c. How can your group members encourage or help you achieve 3b (ii) above, so you can bring Jesus into your “family” and draw them closer to Him for the following week(s) till your next meeting?

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C. Testimonies and Prayer

Purpose: Give glory to God and seek Him.

4. Share your testimony of a “father of faith” in your life who may be your biological or spiritual father. Include the qualities in this person and the type of fathering that had drawn you closer to Jesus.

OR

Give thanks for how God has been the good and perfect Father to you.

5. With a prayer partner, take time to pray for the concerns in 3 (a) and (b) above, asking for the Holy Spirit’s empowerment to help one another overcome the hindrances shared.

As a group, discuss what would be useful to help each other be a “father of faith” in the different context God has called you to. Pray especially that when you are called to an extreme faith with an extreme position, you may stand firm in faith for Jesus to build you up to be a “father of faith”.

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