

Valuing Fathers

Introduction

- A. Text – Mt.15:1-9
- B. Many of the teachings of God have been twisted or ignored
 - 1. Men thought they knew better – changed or ignored them
 - 2. Saw them of little value – felt others more important
 - 3. One such command in text – honor father & mother
 - a. OK to ignore this – better to give funds to God
 - b. Let parents fend for self
 - c. More spiritual way to use that money
 - 4. Jesus saw what behind this – wickedness of man's heart
 - a. Looking for ways to gratify himself
 - b. Ignore or pervert what God said was important
- C. Focus this morning – Valuing fathers
- D. Pray

I. God Places A Tremendous Value On Fathers

- A. **Look at the responsibilities placed upon him**
 - 1. Designated him head of the family
 - a. One responsible to lead, protect & provide for them
 - 1) Called upon the wife to submit – be suitable helper
 - 2) Calls upon the children to honor, respect, obey
 - b. Mal.4:6 – proper focus = destruction averted
 - 2. Calls upon him to be the family spiritual leader
 - a. Deut.6:4-9 – impress them on children (teach diligently)
 - b. Eph.6:4 – bring up in training of the Lord
- B. **Tremendous sin to dishonor them**
 - 1. Ex.21:15,17 – attack or curse (despise or make light of)
 - 2. Eph.6:1,2 – rewards for obeying, honoring them
- C. **Not all are deserving – are to be honored**
 - 1. Eli – failed to discipline sons (consequences on Israel)
 - 2. Jacob – showed favoritism & divided family
 - 3. Mt.23 – God still uses them to provide leadership

II. How We Are To Place Value Upon Them

- A. **Hold them in high regard**
 - 1. 1 Tim.5:1 – don't rebuke – chastise with words (strike them)
(speak encouragingly, appeal to them, not demand)
 - 2. Col.1:20 – obey them in everything
- B. **Take care of them when they age**
 - 1. Mt.15:3-9 – to be uncaring makes worship vain
 - 2. 1 Tim.5:8 – uncaring = worse than an infidel
- C. **Continuously encourage them in the Lord**
 - 1. Let them hear how valuable they are to us
 - 2. Express to others how much they mean to us

III. How Fathers Can Be More Valuable To Their Families

A. Always listen closely to God

1. James 1:19-22

- a. Quick to listen = attentive & alert for His message
- b. Be out front as an example

2. Share faithfully that message with your family

- a. 1 Thess.2:10-12 – as a father we shared
- b. Never keep to yourself the spiritual truths revealed to you

B. Be a man of commitment

1. To God

- a. Mt.6:33 – seek 1st God's kingdom & righteousness
- b. Allow nothing to deter your spiritual growth

2. To your marriage

- a. Eph.5:25 – Love wife as Jesus loves church
- b. Allow nothing to divide you – make marriage work

3. To your family

- a. Take seriously raising your children in the Lord
- b. Be active, not passive – get fully involved

C. Be Courageous enough to change

1. Many raise their children as they were raised – good enough for me

- a. Content to do as their fathers did
- b. Never looking for better ways

2. Be creative – each child is different

- a. Make sure not to break their spirit
- b. What doing will affect future of mankind

D. Be watchful for any enemy infiltration

1. 1 Pet.5:8 – be watchful, enemy seeks to devour

2. Satan is always on the prowl – always dangerous

3. Teach family to recognize & resist

E. Be committed to leadership & discipline

1. Don't leave this to chance (school, government, etc)

2. Become actively involved – in any & all instruction & discipline

3. Gen.49:3,4 – Reuben compared to turbulent waters

- a. No shape on its own – conforms to container
- b. Went along with brothers although greatly disturbed
- c. Lived a life of compromise – not be trusted take a stand

Conclusion

A. Being a father should never be taken lightly

1. Is a tremendous responsibility & opportunity
2. Always be honoring them
3. Always be seeking to be the best father you can be

B. Pray