

Father's Day

Title: The Wise Father - Builder of the Home

Text: Mathew 7:24-27

Our Scripture lesson tells us that a wise man builds his house upon a rock. But the foolish man build his house upon the sand. And when the trials and temptations of life come, the house that is build on a solid foundation stands firm while the house built on a weak foundation falls.

Today is Father's day and I would like to talk to Fathers about the necessity of building a strong foundation. In this day and age we need Christian men who are Wise Fathers. What is a Wise Father.

to He will take the lead in build - strong solid home foundation

1. A wise Father is a man who is strong --

I do not mean physical strength. I mean he is a man who is strong on the inside. ~~A man~~ A father who has had a ^{personal} real relationship with God. ~~He~~ ^{He} has a saving faith and has been born again ~~by~~ the spirit of God.

The home needs fathers who realize their need of Christ for this world and for the world to come, and they have come ^{humbly} humbly trusting Christ for it all. A father who is strong on the inside has had "an experience of grace." He is born again of the Spirit of God through faith in Jesus Christ/

Everybody today is seeking happiness and peace. But the majority of people are seeking their happiness in things of the world. One man says, "I am going ~~(to make money and)~~ succeed in business. That will give me happiness." But ~~money~~ ^{success} has no power to give real peace of heart. It promises much, but does so little. There are many rich ~~men~~ ^{successful people} today who are miserable. They try everything and buy everything to find happiness. But ~~they~~ ^{they} can't find it because their hearts are sinful. They don't know Christ, the true source of all joy.

A wise father will not build his house upon worldly success but upon christ as his dadad savior

I know men who are ~~now~~ saying, "I will make money. I will give my family everthing that money can buy. This will bring happiness to the life of my family and then I will be happy." But that happiness never seems to come because they never seem to have quite enough things. If you want to enjoy the money that God has permitted tyou to earn, use it to bless lives and glorify God. Turn it losse and let it do some good, then you will get the blessing from it. A wise Father will not build his house upon the security of money, but upon the solid rock of Christ.

Another man says, "I am going to win position and honor and fame. I am going out into the world and receive the notice of people. I will build my hourse upon my name (and my picture in the papers,) I will be a somebody." So Christ is relegated to the background or left out altogether. But the Bible tells us that happiness comes from those things that are founded upon Christ. A wise Father will build his house upon the solid rock of Christ.

Marilyn Monroe was the dazzling blond pinup of the Korean G.I. Her name and body flashed on movie screens across the nation. A child of the slums, she climbed the long road to success. She possessed fame, fortune, beauty, talent. Some ~~men~~ people think that if they had these gifts, life would be worth living. Lest we forget, Marily Monroe committed suicide. Fame doesn't ~~bring/happiness//~~ build a stong home and bring happiness.

Another man says, "I am going to seek pleasure. I am going to have a good time, I will not think about serious things." So God is left out and pleasure is given first place. ^{But if you talk with a poor man, the love of the world will be in his heart.} But God gives the best time to those who follow Him - those who spend their lives in the service of Christ. Those who build their home on the solid rock of Christ. For this happiness lasts forever.

So I come back to say that a wise Father will build his home upon a saving faith in Jesus Christ. You know men, you ~~can~~ leave your children wealth and many things of the world, but the greatest treasure that you can leave them is the memory of a life consecrated to Christ.

After one of the battles of the Civil War, a chaplain came to see a dying man. He took his hand and said to the man, "Son, what can I do for you?" He thought, as was so often the case, that the man wanted him to plead for his sin. But this was not the case.

"Chaplain," said the man, "I want you to kneel down and return thanks ~~for~~ to God for me."

"Thanks for ~~what~~?" asked the Chaplain. And the boy said, "Thank Him for giving me my Father. Thank Him that through his teachings and influence I am a Christian. And Thank him for a ~~home~~ christian home. ~~And~~ thank him for a home in glory. I will soon be there to wait for and welcome my Father."

Yes, a Wise Father will build his life and his home upon a personal saving faith in Jesus Christ as the only Lord and Savior of his life. *Men what are you building your house on - Christ or the things of your life*

2. Secondly, a wise Father will build his home upon a right attitude toward their ~~wife~~ *his wife*.

Ephesians 5:25 says, "Husbands love your wife even as Christ also loved the church and gave himself for it." Verse 28 says, "So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself." Verse 31, "For this cause will a man leave his Father and Mother and shall be joined unto his wife and they too shall be one flesh."

Men want to be the head of the house. But men, you have a right, a biblical right, to be the head of the house so long as, and only as long as, you love your wife as Christ loved the church.

Don't ever forget that God loved the church so much that he sent his son to die for it. Some husbands don't even love their wives enough to tell them so. They don't even love her enough to come home for dinner on time. They don't love her enough to meet her needs. They don't love her enough to spend time with her. They don't love her enough to plan some recreation together. They want to be the head of the house, but all they want is a female slave they can command and that's not the Biblical way.

Fathers, if you love your wife - and your children for that matter - they ought to know it. There ought to be no doubt in their minds.

A wise Father will build his house on the solid rock. A foundation of love. The kind of love which is self-giving.

Fathers - what kind of love is found in your home? "The fruit of the spirit is Love." (Gal. 5;23). Or as we read in I Cor 13: "So faith, hope, love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love."

3. Third, a wise father will build his home on the foundation of the Bible. The word of God must have a place in your life. You can't neglect the Bible and then on the other hand try to build a christian home. God's Word helps to meet the toils, stand the dangers and overcome the temptations of life. You can build your home on the ~~Bible~~/~~with~~/~~more~~ truth of God's Word with more assurance than if you build it on the pillars of heaven or the foundations of earth. We are told that they will tremble and fall, but that God's word will stand.

My one and only regular habit when I was in Vietnam was to be present for mail call. I was present for every mail call and I shall never forget the feeling of disappointment when a letter did not arrive from home. But God never disappoints. He has written a letter called the Bible. It is his love letter to his children. The Bible is sweeter than honey and it tells us of God's love for us and ~~as~~ it guides us along the pathways of life.

A man went to the doctor for a physical examination. He poured out a list of symptoms, but upon examination the doctor found nothing physical wrong. So he told this man to go home and read the Bible an hour a day and to return in one month. The man was angry at first, but finally decided that his would not hurt him. ~~So/ He/ went/ home~~ He began to read the Bible every day and at the end of the month he went back to the doctor. His face was glowing with health. And he said, "I have tried your prescription and I am feeling fine." The doctor pointed to a Bible on his desk and said, "If I neglected my daily Bible reading, I would ^{lose} love my greatest source of strength."

The neglect of God's word is the greatest heresy withing the Christian home today. We pattern our lives and homes after the teachings of psychology, philosophy, science rather than the teachings of God's Word. God's word says that the Bible was "written they you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name." (John 20:31). A wise Father will build the foundation of his home upon the rock - that is the Word of God as the source and strength for his life as well as the life of his family.

5. Finally, a wise Father will ^{use} ~~use~~ spirit led prayer as ^{his} ~~his~~ guide for his life and the life of his family.

~~/Why/ is/ it/ that/ men/ seem/ to/ have/ a/ harder/ time/ praying/ than/ women?~~

To have physical life you must breathe the air that God has given you. To have spiritual life, you must pray, for prayer is the Christian's vital breath. Dads you will never have a strong Christian character nor ~~spirit~~ spiritual force unless you spend time alone with God. The problem is that to many Fathers delicate the leadership of prayer to the wife. The Bible says that men should be the head of the house. This means in the area of prayer as well as other things.

Look at Daniel. He could defy the decrees of the pagan rulers because he was a man of prayer. A little girl was reading the story of Daniel and she got a bit mixed up. Where it said, "Daniel had a spirit in him," she read, "Daniel had a spine in him." But she didn't miss it far. Daniel did have a backbone, and he got it from prayer. This is what we need in our homes today - Fathers who will stand and be leaders in their families in the arean of prayer.

Look at David - he was also a great man of God. I think the secret of his greatness lay in his prayer life. Listen to Psalm 55:17 "Evening, morning, and at noon will I pray and cry aloud; and he shall hear my ~~cry~~ voice." *David was a man of prayer*

Look at Jesus. He prayed ~~after he was~~ often. He prayed when he fed the five thousand and when he called Lazarus from the grave. He prayed in Gethsemane with the threat of death hanging over him. He prayed upon the cross until his head dropped upon his breast and he cried out, "It is finished." If ~~he~~ Jesus, God's only begotten Son, needed to pray, how much more do we who are sinful need to pray.

So let me encourage you to be the head of the home in the area of prayer. Be the leader. Lead your family and yourself in prayer. A wise father will build his house upon the spritual power of prayer.

Who is really to do the will of God

CONCLUSION:

Let me close with a parable. *(I do not know who is its author:) out*

A **yongg** father set his feet on the pathway of life. "Is the way long?" **he** asked.

And his guide said, "Yes, and the way is hard and you will be old before you reach the end of it, but the end will be better than the beginning." But the young father was happy and would not believe that anything could be better than these years. So he played with his children and enjoyed the happiness of his family. The sun shone on them and life

was good and the young father cried, "Nothing will be better than this."

Then the night came and the storms and the path was dark and his children shock with fear and cold. And the father drew them close and covered them with his strong protective arms, and the children said, "Father, we are not afraid, for you are near and we know that no harm can come to us." And the Father said, "This is better than the brightness of the day, for I have taught my children courage."

And the morning came and there was a hill ahead, and the children climbed and grew weary, and the father was tired also, but at all times he said to the children, "A little patience and we are there." So the children climbed and climbed and when they reached the top, they said, "Father, we could not have doe it without you." And when the father lay down to sleep that night, he ~~said~~ looked up at the stars and said, "This is a better day than the last, for my children have learned fortitude in the face of hardness. Yesterday I gave them courage - today I gave them strength."

And the next day the strange clouds came, clouds of war and hate and evil. And the children stumbled and fell, but the father said, "look up. Lift up your eyes to the Light." And the children looked up and saw above the clouds the everlasting glory ^{Jesus Christ} and it guided them and brought them beyond the darkness. And that night the father said, "This is the best day of all, for I have shown my children God."

And the days went on and the years and father grew old, and he was bent with age. But his children were tall and strong and walked with courage. And when the way was hard, they helped their father and when the way was rough, they lifted him, for he was light as a feather. And at last they came to a hill and beyond the hill they could see a shining road and gates flung wide and the father said, "I have reached the end of my journey and I know that the end is better than the beginning, for my children can walk alone, (and their children after them.)" And the children said, "You will always walk with us, father, even when you have gone through the gates."

And they stood and watched him as he went on alone and the gates closed after him and they said, "We cannot see him but he is with us still. A father like ours is more than a Memory - he is a living presence."

"Every one then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house upon the rock; and the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat upon that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock." The ~~rock~~ rock of Jesus Christ who said "I am the way the truth and the life - no man cometh unto the Father except by me."

//////Fathers,////////////////////////////////////

How is it with you, Dad? Are you the spiritual leader of your home? Is your home built on the solid foundation of God? If not, it can be. Today, can be the day of decision for you. Today God can be real to you if you will let him. If you will open the door of your life and receive Jesus as Lord and Savior.

Is there any good reason why you wouldn't like to receive Christ right now?

