

2017: Week 25

Sunday, June 18<sup>th</sup> 2017

"Gifts from Fathers"

### Matthew 7:11

Jesus: "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him!" (NASB)<sup>1</sup>

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This past Sunday was Father's Day, and John pointed us to various passages within Scripture that convey the many blessings a father can provide within his family. There are many of us who have had wonderful fathers, and there are just as many—sadly, even in the church— who have had poor or absent fathers. God designed the family to function ideally with a father and a mother, and He reminds us in His Word how important a father can be within the family. Whether your own father demonstrated an excellent example, a poor example, or an absent example of what it means to be a father, the Bible passages we'll look at this week remind us how important fathers can be to their children. Our study will hopefully encourage us in two specific ways. First, I hope that we will encourage our current fathers and our young men (maybe who will become fathers someday) to execute the role of fatherhood with goodness, kindness, accessibility, and love. Second, I hope our study in God's Word this week will remind us that each of us— as a believer in the Lord Jesus— has access to God as our Heavenly Father. He is absolutely good, absolutely kind, always accessible, and has clearly demonstrated unselfish love towards us with Jesus and the cross. No matter where you find yourself today, may you be encouraged in the Lord, knowing that His fatherly arms are open wide to all who look upon Him in faith.

### 1. "THE TEXT"

#### READ Matthew 7:7-11

- What is the primary point of this passage?
- Why might the Lord be comparing the concept of prayer like a child asking his or her father for something?
- The implication within this passage is that earthly fathers desire good for their children. How might this concept be amplified with God functioning as a father for those who trust in Him?

#### READ Proverbs 4:1-5

- How might listening to the instructions of a father benefit a child?
- Based upon this passage what particular role should fathers be filling in their children's lives?

#### READ Psalm 103:13

- What trait does this passage attribute to fathers in their relationship with their children?
- How does the text parallel the child-father relationship with a person and God? What does it look like to "fear" God?

### 2. "YOU"

- What are ways you have been blessed by your dad? What are ways in which you wished the relationship with your dad were better? Is there anything you can do today to improve that relationship?
- On Sunday John reminded us that a dad's responsibilities are significant: to **provide** for the needs of their children, to **instruct** them on various lessons of life, to be **accessible** to their children, to demonstrate **goodness** to them, to **instill confidence** within their children, and to demonstrate **grace** to them. How has God acted in these various ways to you throughout your life?

### 3. "REMEMBER"

- **Romans 8:14-15** <sup>14</sup> For all who are led by the Spirit of God are *children of God*. <sup>15</sup> So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you *as his own children*. Now we call him, 'Abba, Father.'" (NLT)

**FAMILY PRAYER:** Dear Lord, thank You for being my Heavenly Father, and thank You for always loving me. Through Jesus' work on the cross, I am not only saved, but I am now a part of Your family. Thank you! Amen

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<sup>1</sup> All Scripture notations taken from the **New American Standard Bible (NASB)** unless otherwise noted.