



# 2026 Weekly Devotions

Week of: June 22<sup>nd</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup>

Sermon: June 21<sup>st</sup>



SMYRNA BAPTIST CHURCH  
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June 22

**John 15:5**

Before we begin our journey through “Points to Ponder” related to Father’s Day, I wanted to remind you of a spiritual truth that must never be forgotten. Whether it is trying to be a good husband and father, or trying to lead your family well, or simply to be a genuine follower of Christ who impacts your community and advances God’s Kingdom, you must remember that apart from Christ you can do nothing.

John recorded the words of our Lord this way, “I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in Me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing” (John 15:5). We of course know that Jesus was talking about eternal and lasting accomplishments. Surely you can change the oil in the car or fix breakfast without submitting your life to Christ because of His undeserved common grace that He gives to all of mankind, but you cannot move the heart of God, receive the blessings of being His child, or accomplish feats that will last for all of eternity.

In my opinion, attempting to be a godly man who images the glory of the Father in my efforts to be a father is an assignment that is out of my reach in my own strength. I desperately need His power and presence as well as His wisdom and His Word in my life to fulfill that calling in any way. Then there is the responsibility of bearing the image of our heavenly husband as a husband to our wives. Remember that He loved His bride so much that He was willing to die for her and to sanctify her with a good application of His Word over her life on a consistent basis (Eph. 5:25-27).

The problem is that, as men, we are foolish, weak, and sinful. The only way we can even come close to fulfilling all that God calls us to as men is to abide in Christ and the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit. Yes men, we have the duty and delight of leading our homes, but we must see it as an act of stewardship. If you are married, the wife that you have is, or should be, a gift from God (Prov. 18:22). If you are a parent, the children you have are gifts from God (Ps. 127:3). They belong to Him before they were given to you. They have purpose and value beyond simply being your wife or child. The reason I say this is because God has placed them, for a while, in your life and under your care. As a good steward, it is your duty to see to it that as much as is possible within you, you help them to become what He has ordained them to be.

Your part in that mission is to serve in their lives as a “prophet” who speaks God’s truths into their lives in an appropriate and biblically truthful way. It is your job to serve as a “priest” who is willing to serve and sacrifice on their behalf as you stand in and intercede on their behalf the way the Lord does for us. Now, we don’t stand in as a mediator as if our wives and children must go through us to get to God. We pray for them and offer sacrifices of praise and good works of which they see and benefit. Love them brothers with a Christlike love.

June 23

**2 Timothy 3:10-11; Titus 2:7**

I always know when a man has no clue about the Bible when he talks as if leading his family is a position of unchecked power and authority. A declaration that, "I wear the pants in this family" typically reveals a level of ignorance and arrogance that is not befitting a true man of God. Remember that yesterday I wrote about the fact that we desperately need to have a good relationship with Jesus if we are going to be able to be the man He has created and called us to be.

Believing with all of my heart that it is possible to lead and love your family in a godly manner that pleases our Lord, I submit to you today this challenge to rise up and be the example for your family that leads them to love our Lord. Paul wrote to his young protegee Timothy these words, "You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at...But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it" (2 Tim. 3:10-14). Friend, this is all about living as an example in front of the people in your home.

It is true that your wife and your children are always reading the book of your life. It is imperative that your examples in all the areas that Paul wrote about in verse 10 are exemplary and godly. My prayer for all of us is that when those in our lives look at us, they see models of what it looks like to keep Christ and His glory the aim of our lives and to do so as we exercise faithfulness, patience, and love even in the hard places in our lives. I will never forget telling young Joseph, our son, when he was about 7 years old, to keep his eyes on me when the going got tough. I told him, "If I'm not worried, you don't need to be."

You can bet there were a few times when I was "concerned" about our circumstances, but I learned to rest in the Lord Jesus and be calm so that Joseph could learn to rest in me and remain calm. You see dear ones, I was modeling what it looks like to trust our heavenly father as I taught Joe how to trust his earthly father. As he has grown, he has transferred that trust in me to trust in His Savior. We want to learn to reveal God to our family not only in word but in life; let them see what walking with Jesus looks like in real space and time.

From the book, that is your life, they will see how important God is to you – or not. They will see if church and worship hold a priority in your life. They will see if sin is really a bad thing that should be avoided. They will see what it looks like to love, to lead, and to sacrifice for a woman. Your wife will know if you are the real deal or a hypocrite. We all have some inconsistencies in our lives, but the overall direction of our lives should be faithfulness to our Lord and Savior.

June 24

**Titus 2:7**

The Bible refers to Jesus as a prophet, priest, and king. These three offices are extremely important to us in regard to redemption and perseverance. These are roles that He fulfills in service to us. Today we will look briefly at a few of the tasks that He fulfills in each of these roles and later on we will describe how men, as husbands and fathers, carry out aspects of these three roles in the assignments given to us to lead our families in similar fashion.

As a prophet, Jesus was tasked with speaking God's Word to people and revealing His plans for the future. Jesus taught the people with authority the Word of God (Mk. 1:22). Jesus was the ultimate prophet and through Him the final word of God has been spoken (Heb. 1:1-2). The Bible also tells us that Jesus fulfilled the role of a priest.

We are told in 1 Tim. 2:5 that Jesus serves as our Mediator. He is the One who provided access to the Father and who intercedes for us in the throne room of heaven as our Advocate (Heb. 7:25; 1 John 2:1). We learn from the book of Hebrews that He is our Great High Priest who empathizes with us in our weaknesses (Heb. 4:14-16). With Jesus as our High Priest, we can boldly enter the presence of God with confidence (Heb. 10:22).

The Bible also teaches us that Jesus is our King. In a word spoken to King David, God promised him that His throne would endure forever as He sits One on the throne who will rule as King forever (2 Sam. 7:16). The angel Gabriel told Mary, the mother of Jesus, the same thing. She was told the Jesus would reign as King forever and that His kingdom would have no end (Luke 1:32-33). Jesus has all authority on earth and in heaven (Matt. 28:18); His name is above every name (Phil. 2:9-11); He is the King of kings and the Lord of lords (Rev. 19:16). He is the One who holds all three offices.

Normally, the three offices were distinct from each other, and no man held all three. You were one or the other but not all three. A priest was not a king, and a king was not a priest. A prophet simply did a prophet's job without trying to be priest or king. Jesus covered all three roles for our blessing and benefit. He is our Prophet to teach us; our Priest to sacrifice for us, to intercede for us, and to bless us. He is our King to rule and guide us.

Tomorrow I will begin to talk about how a husband and father are to function in these three roles in a limited sense but a vital way, nonetheless. As God ordained representatives to our wives and children, we should serve in these three roles. We are to serve our family as a prophet, priest, and "king." Paul told Titus to show himself to be a model of good works in all respects, and to show integrity and dignity in his teaching. Men, may we aspire to such lofty and Christlike goals in our own homes.

June 25

## **2 Kings 4:1-7**

How do we as mere men serve as a prophet to our families? We will consider the role of the prophet over the next two points to ponder. Let's turn our attention to the passage that I utilized on May 10<sup>th</sup> for Mother's Day – 2 Kings 4:1-7. The emphasis that day was on how the woman in this passage knew to turn to the "man of God" even though she had suffered the very real tragedy of losing her husband. She stood before us as a widow and a single mother and demonstrated that she knew in her time of need to turn to God's man. Today I want to delve further into that and ask the question how did she know?

We are told in 2 Kings 4:1 that she was the wife of one of the "sons of the prophets." She goes to Elisha, a prophet himself, and referred to her late husband as one of Elisha's servants who Elisha knew feared the Lord. The sons of the prophets were an association or members of a prophetic group who were known as men who dedicated themselves to the Lord and who spoke the words of God to the people. There seems to have been three or even more of what was referred to as schools of the prophets.

The deceased man mentioned in 2 Kings 4 was most likely a student of Elisha's. This helps us understand why in her time of distress, the widow woman knew to go to God's man. The point that I want you to ponder today deals with the leadership and influence of this man on his family. He was certainly part of the sons of the prophets, but more than that, he was a prophet to his own wife and child. He had obviously led his wife in such a godly way that she knew where to go and had the faith to trust what Elisha was telling her.

Can you imagine if this woman was not a believer or had no experience whatsoever with God's people and His ways? I would assume that many would laugh Elisha out of the room with his crazy plan to meet her financial need. This woman was led well by her husband who had clearly communicated God's Word to her. He had served well in his role as prophet under his own roof.

Gentlemen, my prayer for all of us is that we would lead and love our families so that they can live without us. Oh yes, I want them to want me around and I want them to even need me as we do life together. But I must remain cognizant of the fact that God could take me away and to heaven anytime He ordains it to be. I must lead them knowing that I want them to be able to maintain strong faith even if God takes me from them and I want them to know how to live in this world should we be apart.

There are things that Johanna will never be able to do on her own. She can't take the lug nuts off of a tire or change a capacitor on an outdoor HVAC unit. But I can lead her so that she knows who to call or where to go to find the help she will need. More importantly, I can make sure that I help her grow in the Lord and faith so that she knows to lean into our Lord and stay connected to His people should I have to go. The son of the prophet should be commended for the spiritual condition in which he left his wife. I hope, fellas, that we will lead them well too.

June 26

### **Ephesians 6:4**

Men, today I want to address the fact that you are to be God's spokesman for your family. In so doing, you will fulfill the role of prophet in your house. Recall that the role of the prophet, even with Christ, was to make known the word of God to the people. No, this does not mean that you will prophesy the future to them. The prophet of the Old Testament was able to foretell some events and even perform miracles. In our role as husbands and fathers in our day, we are called to speak His words to our wives and children to make known the ways and words of the Lord. We are to help them grow in knowledge of our Savior. We do this by confessing our own faith and speak forth the counsel of God from Scripture.

Paul wrote to the fathers in Ephesus, "Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord" (Eph. 6:4). God has commanded us to teach our children. It is fine to tell them that God has told you to do so. How are you influencing your wife and your children? Let your home be a little sanctuary or church where you remind them of Bible stories and help them find application for the truth of the Bible. Teach them the basics of His Word and all that Jesus did to redeem us. Help them grow to love the Lord and His Bride the church. How do you do this?

First of all, teach them with an appropriate measure of authority. God has given you as a father this command. Do not run from it, rather work hard at learning how to do it. Teach them by example. Again, I go back to Titus 2:7 where Paul told him to be an example to them. Be sure that you never "unteach" with your actions what you teach with your words. "Do as I say and not as I do," is a horrible way to parent or lead anybody. Teach them by sharing your life with them. Paul told the Corinthians that he had spoken freely with his heart wide open to them (2 Cor. 6:11). When I read that I think of vulnerability and transparency in appropriate measures.

It is often necessary to be humble before your wife and kids by admitting when you have erred in your ways and need to apologize to them. Let them see genuine life as you share yours with them. Jesus said that we were to make disciples of the nations, but that begins in your own home. The best discipleship takes place along the path of life shared together. Be a prophet in your own home men and make God's Word and ways clearly known to your family. Come before the Lord for help, confess your sins, inadequacies, ignorance, and failures. Look to Jesus as your model, your guide, and your strength.

June 27

**Job 1:1, 4-5**

Today we turn our attention to the role of the priest in our homes. Jesus was our Mediator so at the outset I want to be sure that you know you are not a priest in that sense. As men we are to imitate Christ in our role as the head of our homes as He is the head of the church. We will focus on the aspects of sacrifice and intercession as priests. We are described in 1 Peter 2:5,9 as a royal priesthood who offer sacrifices of praise and good works (Heb. 13:15-16) so this should not be a foreign concept.

Loving your wife and children as a priest means loving them the way Jesus loves the church. The Greek word translated in Ephesians 6:4 as “bring up” means to nourish which assumes both to protect and to provide for. A farmer will cultivate his seedlings and provide good soil, water, and fertilizer to facilitate growth and maturity. Fathers, we too are responsible for providing all that our children need to flourish, to remain protected, and to mature into adulthood where they bear much fruit for the King.

Notice back in Ephesians 6:4 that this means we are not simply talking about food on the table, clothes on their backs, and a roof over their heads. This is pointing us to the admonition for spiritual development too. To nurture them is to provide guidance for responsible living. Our fatherly guidance needs to include training, instruction, discipline, correction, and education. It should also include training in proper conduct which should include warning, consequences, and biblically wise advice. It is the Lord’s words in which they are to be trained.

Men, this requires costly resources of our time, money, and energy. It is not easy to consistently discipline and guide your children and your family. You will expend so much of your emotional resources and will need to time and time again. Consistency is so vital in parenting children. Never forget that godly discipline yields the fruit of righteousness and peace (Heb. 12:11). If you remain steadfast and faithful to God’s ways of leading your family and raising your children, you will find them to be a genuine blessing from the Lord (Ps. 127:3).

Friends, God has called us to a priestly ministry in our own homes. There we must serve, sacrifice, intercede and love them with a love like Christ’s love for His Bride. You cannot and should not try to be your wife’s or your children’s Savior. You should strive to be an image of Him! A major part of the role of the priest is intercession. Let’s close out this devotion focusing on that highly important role that God has given you.

We can share in Christ’s priestly work by praying for our wives and our children. Every time I am called to the hospital because someone has been in a terrible accident, I am reminded, in my face, of the frailty of human life. I always leave those moments just a little shaken. I feel such an urgency and need to pray for my family because I am reminded this world is dangerous and life is fleeting. Pray for your family in a manner like Job did (Job 1:1, 4-5). Pray with urgency and faith that He hears you and your prayers matter. Persevere brother in prayer and never give up. Be a priest for your family!

June 28

**2 Samuel 8:13-15; 2 Corinthians 10:4-5**

In this final point to ponder for the week, we will focus on the role of king. I suppose this devotion would not sit well in our culture of “No Kings” today. It probably goes without saying, but I will say it anyway: This part of the duty of the husband and father deals with exercising authority as head in the home. This authority presents itself in a way far different from the rulers and kings of this fallen world. We must be kings like Christ – humble servants who are willing to give their lives for others and who do not lord over the ones they are to lead.

In the passage chosen for today, we should strive to be a leader like David who of course pointed to our ultimate leader Christ. David defeated the enemies of Israel, setup means of continued protection even after battles and continued to be blessed by God (2 Sam. 8:13-14). In His kingship we are told, “David reigned over all of Israel. And David administered justice and equity to all his people” (v. 15). David protected those for whom he was responsible, sacrificed and put himself in harms way for them, provided ongoing safety, and treated them with respect and value as he dealt with them honorably.

Men, provide your wife and kids with biblical, tender, strong, servant leadership – not as a self-serving, egotistical dictator or authoritarian. You have no license to order your wife around or to be demeaning and exasperating to your children. We are to make decisions, in the fear of God, that we believe to be best for our family. A man must know how to lead his family well. We are to be willing to sacrifice for them, intercede for them, and teach them. You must embrace the role of authority figure when our kids are young. We are to be kings in the home whose rule is just, wise, and loving. What does that look like in our homes?

Guys, I want you to know that you are called to defend your family. There may be times when this means dealing with a physical enemy. David did it plenty of times and Jesus is referred to as a divine warrior (Rev. 19:11-16). I want to close today talking about the need to defend your family spiritually. For some of you, most of you, this means stopping the intruders who you have allowed to walk right in your home, down the hallway, and into your children’s bedrooms - unsupervised. Yes, YOU HAVE ALLOWED THIS. You have given them access to your children through the cell phones you allow them to have. Sorry but it is true! You must learn to fight spiritual battles with spiritual means (2 Cor. 10:4-5). You are a king, start acting like one in defense of your precious ones.

Defend them against ungodly friends, romantic relationships with lost people, and ungodly authorities like baseball coaches who don’t care about family time, the church, or morality. Come on men start doing battle on the right fronts and be the men God designed you to be. Discipline your children when you need to for their good and not because you are irritated and angry. Correct them so that they walk in a manner that pleases the Lord. This is your calling, it is your job, and you can do it with the help and strength of the Lord.