

June 21, 2015
Father's Day

THE MEN'S THESAURUS - (men don't always say what they mean) – as a lady, I will attempt to translate for you:

When a man says "IT WOULD TAKE TOO LONG TO EXPLAIN"
He means: "I have no idea how it works"

When a man says "TAKE A BREAK, HONEY. YOU ARE WORKING TOO HARD"
He means: "I can't hear the game over the vacuum cleaner"

When a man says: "IT'S A GUY THING"
He means: "There is no rational thought pattern connected with this, and you have no chance at all of making it logical"

When a man says "UH HUH, SURE HONEY," or "YES, DEAR"
He means: Absolutely nothing – It's a conditioned response.

When a man says "YOU KNOW HOW BAD MY MEMORY IS."
He means: " I can remember the theme song to 'Hogan's Heroes', the phone # of the machine shop and the junk yard & the vehicle identification numbers of every car I ever owned – but yes, I forgot your birthday"

When a man says 'OH, DON'T FUSS, I JUST CUT MYSELF. IT'S NO BIG DEAL"
He means: "I have probably severed a limb, but I will bleed to death before I admit I'm hurt."

When a man says "YOU LOOK TERRIFIC!"
He means: "Oh please don't try on one more outfit, we're late and I'm starving."

When a man says "I'M NOT LOST. I KNOW EXACTLY WHERE WE ARE."
He means: "No one will ever see us alive again."

When a man says "I don't think I can go today."
He means: Shopping is NOT a sport, and no, I am never going to think of it that way.

When a man says, "I don't remember saying that."
It's because he means: "Anything I may have said 6 months ago is inadmissible in an argument. In fact, all past comments become null and void after 7 days."

When a man says, "that's not what I meant."
He means: "If something I said can be interpreted two ways, and one of the ways makes you sad or angry, I meant the other one."

If your husband says, "honey, what color is this?"

He means: ALL men see in only 16 colors, like Windows default settings. Peach, for example, is a fruit, not a color. Pumpkin is also a fruit. I have no idea what “taupe” is.

There is a saying, “Anyone can be a father, but it takes someone special to be a dad. It takes a strong man to be a good role model. Think about your father, how you parent, or how your children parent. Do you see good fathers when you look at them? Do they strive to resemble our heavenly father? Do you?”

Just like we did for Mother’s Day, we are going to count down our best and worst fathers of the Bible! Of course no list of fathers would be complete without Adam, the first man and father. Or without Joseph, step-father of Jesus. But we are going to go outside the box a little.

Let’s begin with the best. We will begin with a respected father whose children obeyed him, Jehonadab.

Jehonadab was first mentioned in 2 Kings where he joined hands with Jehu in destroying the wicked family of Ahab. He did not stand idly by, but took part in destroying idolatry as was commanded in the Law of Moses. We need more fathers who will take a definite stand against the evils of this age. Also interesting to note on this Father’s Day, is that Jehonadab gave commands to his sons and they obeyed him, and his commands were handed down to the next generation who did likewise. Not many fathers command and obtain such respect today.

Next on our list is Jairus, a concerned father. Jairus is mentioned in the book of Mark. This story is found in 3 of the 4 Gospels. Having recently performed the astonishing exorcism of the legion of demons, Jesus’ renown was quickly spreading. As He is thronged by a multitude of curious and desperate people, a distraught father bows to Him, desperately asking Him to heal his dying daughter. Jesus responds by going immediately to the home of the father, Jairus. On his way there, a messenger arrived with the news that Jairus’ daughter had died, and he was advised not to trouble Jesus any further. However, Jesus responded: Be not afraid, only believe. Jesus continued to the house, where he informed all those present that the girl was not dead but asleep. He then went upstairs and restored the little girl to life.

Jairus laid aside the common prejudice and pride, as was manifested by his fellow rulers of synagogues, by taking Jesus to his daughter. He took bold and courageous action. We suggest a spiritual application: The best thing any father can do for his children is to bring Jesus to his children. The daughter of Jairus needed Christ to restore life to her again. She owed her life to the faith of a father who turned to Christ for help. Our children need Christ today.

Now let’s change to the other side of the coin. Who are the worst fathers of the Bible? Ohhh, there are many bad men, but who would qualify as bad fathers?

Believe it or not, I am going to start with David, the absentee father. David... you remember David. David was the youngest son of Jesse. Before he became a King, David was a shepherd. As a young boy, David was known as a great warrior who killed the giant Philistine Goliath. David was the second of the Israelite kings (after Saul). The romance of David and Bathsheba is one of the most famous love stories of the Bible. Almost half of the Psalms are headed “A Psalm of David”.

What is most incredible about David, is that he is likened unto God, the Father. David fulfilled many aspects of his role in symbol to God, but failed as a father. His sons- the firstborn was Amnon, who was a rapist. His second born, was Absalom, who usurped David's throne and slept with David's wives. His fourth born Adonijah overthrew his brother and cause revolts. David's seventh born Solomon, violated every law God made for a king.

I will end my list of good and bad fathers of the Bible with the worst father in the Bible. This award actually goes to two men. Ahaz and Manasseh. Both men worshiped idols and sacrificed their children to demons. Anyone who will sacrifice their children to demons, takes the top of the bad parent list!

So first we have Ahaz. His story is found in the book of 2 Kings. Ahaz was twenty years old when he became king, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem. He was the 15th king of Israel. The Bible says, "He did not do what was right in the sight of the Lord his God, as his father David had done."

Immediately upon his accession Ahaz was met with strong opposing forces in the bordering countries. Fearing losing his power he called out for help from the Assyrians, instead of God. Because of this, Ahaz, during his whole reign, was free from troubles. Israel at this time was two separate entities- the Northern Kingdom and the Southern Kingdom. Ahaz was king of the Southern Kingdom. Because of his deal with Assyria, the Northern Kingdom from time to time revolted against Assyria. Thus it was that, in 722, Samaria was taken and the Northern Kingdom was seized by the Assyrian empire

It is important to note, when we are talking about Ahaz and Manasseh to look at the family tree. Ahaz was Manasseh's grandfather. So you have a horrible king and father in Ahaz, followed by a wonderful king Hezekiah, followed by another horrible king and father Manasseh.

Manasseh. His story is found in also found in 2 Kings. Manasseh was twelve years old when he became king, and he reigned fifty-five years in Jerusalem. Everything that his father Hezekiah built up for God, Manasseh destroyed. The Bible says, "He did evil in the sight of the Lord." Hezekiah lessened the relationship between the Judah and Assyria, Manasseh strengthened it. On one occasion, Manasseh was brought in chains to the Assyrian king, presumably for suspected disloyalty. So he increased payments to Assyria, built more structures for them, and sponsored the Assyrian astral cult throughout Judah. Thus, he was later treated well and restored power to his throne.

So what did we learn here today? That perhaps we don't know our Old Testament kings... perhaps. How about that to be a good father it takes courage to stand up against the evils of this world, the mind of an advocate to fight on behalf of your children, strong ethics to not allow your children's ethics to grow lax, and to of course, not sacrifice your children to demons. (That's all).

Here, by an unknown author, are ten guide-lines for parents in dealing with their children.

1. Remember that faith is not inherited, but is developed.
2. Teach your children to be responsible. Remember David's failure. His son had been given everything, and he thought within himself: "I'll be king." He had no right to the throne because he had no sanction from God.
3. Try to make faith personal. Teach and encourage your children to study and pray on their own.
4. Stress love for others.

5. Cultivate practical Christianity; Show them by doing kindness.
6. Encourage them when they do right; discourage any wrongdoing.
7. Be as consistent as possible in your discipline.
8. Practice forgiveness. The father should be willing to say "I'm sorry" to his children when he has done them wrong.
9. Try to instill in them a spiritual interest; a desire to study and to do the Lord's work.
10. Be impartial with the use of money, time, and attention toward each child.

In the end... if it could be boiled down to one single entity, what does it take to be a good father? Listen to this story to find out...

"Daddy, how much do you make an hour?"

With a timid voice and idolizing eyes, the little boy greeted his father as he returned from work. Greatly surprised, but giving his boy a glaring look, the father said: "Look, sonny, not even your mother knows that. Don't bother me now, I'm tired."

"But Daddy, just tell me please! How much do you make an hour," the boy insisted. The father, finally giving up, replied: "Twenty dollars per hour."

"Okay, Daddy. Could you loan me ten dollars?" the boy asked.

Showing his restlessness and positively disturbed, the father yelled: "So that was the reason you asked how much I earn, right? Go to sleep and don't bother me anymore!"

It was already dark and the father was meditating on what he said and was feeling guilty. Maybe he thought, his son wanted to buy something. Finally, trying to ease his mind, the father went to his son's room.

"Are you asleep, son?" asked the father.

"No, Daddy. Why?" replied the boy, partially asleep.

"Here's the money asked for earlier," the father said.

"Thanks, Daddy!" rejoiced the son, while putting his hand under his pillow and removing some money.

"Now I have enough! Now I have twenty dollars!" the boy said to his father, who was gazing at his son, confused at what his son had just said. "Daddy, could I buy you for an hour?"

What does it take to be a good father? Time! As parents, guardians, grandparents, babysitters, a child wants to know that you are there. That you care. That you have time. So be a good parent. If you get lost, look toward your heavenly parent for instructions. May all of us who are parents try to do our very best in rearing our children. Amen.