

6-19-22 Sermon #24

FATHERS DAY

On one father's day "I gave my father \$100 and said, 'Buy yourself something that will make your life easier.' So he went out and bought a present for my mom."

Car Issue

A young boy had just gotten his driving permit. He asked his father, who was a minister, if they could discuss the use of the car. His father took him to his study and said to him, "I'll make a deal with you. You bring your grades up, study your bible a little and get your hair cut and we'll talk about it." After about a month, the boy came back and again asked his father, if they could discuss use of the car. They again went to the father's study where his father said, "Son, I've been real proud of you. You have brought your grades up, you've studied your bible diligently, but you didn't get your hair cut." The young man waited a moment and replied, "You know Dad, I've been thinking about that. You know, Samson had long hair, Moses had long hair, Noah had long hair, and even Jesus had long hair!", to which his father replied, "Yes, you're right, and they also WALKED everywhere they went!"

LET'S PRAY

If you think back to my mother's day message I shared how men and women like different scents. Women like all the pretty smells but not so much for men. Men like the smell of mud, deer urine, fish bait or anything else that can gross out our buddies. We also like to joke a lot with each other. As a gift for the men, Trish made all the men a snack. She made us mud with a worm in it and dirt sprinkled on top. After service today, make sure you enjoy one on your way out. There's even a little shovel attached to it.

Today is a celebration of Father's day and dads are known for telling dad jokes. Jokes like;

I hate my job—all I do is crush cans all day. It's soda pressing.

Where do pirates get their hooks? At second hand stores

Because I never really knew how Father's day came into existence, I did some research and this is what I found. On July 5, 1908, a West Virginia church sponsored the nation's first event explicitly in honor of fathers, a Sunday sermon in memory of the 362 men who had died in the previous December's explosions at the Fairmont Coal Company mine. It was only a one-time commemoration and not an annual holiday.

Credit for beginning Father's Day celebrations is given to Sonora Smart Dodd from Spokane, Washington. At the turn of the century, Mother's Day observances were growing across the United States. It was during a Mother's Day church service on June 20, 1909, that Sonora Smart Dodd was struck with the idea of creating a special holiday to honor fathers, too. When Sonora was 16, her mother died while giving birth to her sixth child, the last of five sons. By Sonora's account, because Mr. Smart had to be a single parent and did a wonderful job, Sonora Smart Dodd believed that her father deserved a special time of honor just like that given to mothers on Mother's Day. In 1909, Sonora Smart Dodd approached the Spokane YMCA and the Spokane Ministerial Alliance and suggested that her father's birthday — June 5 — become a celebration day for Father's Day. Because they wanted more time to prepare, the Ministerial Alliance chose June 19 instead. That's why the first Father's Day was observed in the State of Washington was on June 19, 1910. Then in 1924, President Calvin Coolidge recognized Father's Day as the third Sunday in June and encouraged states to do the same. In 1956, congress officially recognized Father's Day with the passage of a joint resolution. Ten years later, in 1966, President Lyndon Johnson issued a proclamation calling for the third Sunday in June to be recognized as Father's Day. Because of politics, It took until 1972, when President Nixon permanently established the observance of the third Sunday in June as Father's Day in the United

States. Sonora Smart Dodd lived to see her idea come to fruition. She died in 1978 at the ripe old age of 96. I also found this interesting, when world war 2 began, advertisers began to argue that celebrating Father's Day was a way to honor American troops and support the war effort and by the end of the war, Father's Day may not have been a federal holiday, but it was a national institution.

Then I went back to the book of Genesis. **In Genesis 1, God/Christ did this. 26** Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals,[a] and over all the creatures that move along the ground." In Genesis 2 God placed man in the garden to work it and that's when Eve was made from his rib. In Genesis 3, because Adam and Eve sinned, God said this; **16** To the woman he said, "I will make your pains in childbearing very severe; with painful labor you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you." **17** To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat from it,' "Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life. **18** It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. **19** By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return."

When I think of my dad, his work was grueling. I've also seen that for men, our work is what gives us our identity. When men talk to each other, usually one of the first things we ask is, what we do for a living.

This made me wonder if Father's day is only about how loving and giving of a dad we had?

Throughout the bible, men have been describe as workers and as warriors. Men have always had to work hard to provide for their families and God required much from them. Men learned how to hunt, fish, farm and when duty was called, they would go off to war and defend their families and their countries. Even if it meant death. When I think about the story of Sampson and Delilah.

The biblical account states that Samson was a Nazirite, and that he was given immense strength to aid him against his enemies and allow him to perform superhuman feats, including slaying a lion with his bare hands and massacring an entire army of Philistines using only the jawbone of a donkey. His power and his strength was incredible.

We all know that David was a man after God's own heart and he defeated Goliath. David established Armies. When I read Psalm 91, I feel David's heart; **1** Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. **2** I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." **3** Surely he will save you from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence. **4** He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart. **5** You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day, **6** nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday. **7** A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you. **8** You will only observe with your eyes and see the punishment of the wicked. **9** If you say, "The Lord is my refuge," and you make the Most High your dwelling, **10** no harm will overtake you, no disaster will come near your tent. **11** For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; **12** they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone. **13** You will tread on the lion and the cobra; you will trample the great lion and the serpent. **14** "Because he loves me," says the Lord, "I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name. **15** He will call on me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him. **16** With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation."

Only a man of God could know this. God is our true Father and God is the one true perfect DADDY.

In Psalm 144 Of David. **1 Praise be to the Lord my Rock, who trains my hands for war, my fingers for battle. 2 He is my loving God and my fortress, my stronghold and my deliverer, my shield, in whom I take refuge, who subdues peoples under me.**

Dads have to learn to be fearless and they must be ready to protect their family. Over time, men have had to become more involved in the lives of children and have become more attentive to our families but, men will always have to feel the toil of our labor. Thankfully our society has made provisions for dads to be more present in the family.

Staying with God's plan, labor and toil requires men to become strong and thick skinned. A dad's love is a different kind of love. A dad's love is more masculine and they teach us how to become a little tough. I remember my dad showing me how to shoot a rifle or how to defend myself against someone who threatens me with physical violence. I think about how my dad showed me to use tools and how he wanted to teach me how to fix things. Writing this sermon also made me think about when Trish and I were dating. She described her perfect man as a man who wouldn't be lazy. She needed to know that I was going to be a good provider. She also needed to know that I would always defend her and defend our family. We met while I was in the Navy and being a soldier probably gave her confidence that I was going to be able to defend her and that I was not lazy. After my discharge, we both found Christ and thankfully my children were raised in a Christian home. Just recently, we've been able to give honor to two dads who've gone home to be with God. Both of these men accepted Christ in their lives and it was great to hear their families share great memories. Hearing the families share their memories about the good times they had with their dad is awesome. Both of these men wanted their families to know that Christ was who they professed. Through Christ is why they are now present with the only perfect FATHER. The greatest gift any dad can give to his family is Christ. Father's day must include thanks to God. He is the only perfect Dad. Hopefully, we can see God as the ultimate Father and allow our Earthly dad's to be human and flawed.

In Genesis 1, God did this. 26 Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, [a] and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

Our Earthly dads have hurts and have tremendous responsibility. From one generation to the next, 99% of dads want better for their families. God is a God of provision and a God of forgiveness and mercy. It's hard on all of us when our dad fails us. Today is a day for us to give grace to our dad's. This week, on You tube, I watched Michael Jr deliver a message about Father's day that really made me think. It challenged me to look back and see what my dad's childhood was like. When I think about what my dad's life was like, I can see why he was the way he was. It showed me how important it was for him to give his children a better life.

My dad's died when he was only 8 years old and my grandmother never remarried or even dated. He never had any grandparents. He was bullied by other kids in school and pretty much became a loner. He dropped out of high school. When he turned 18, the Korean war was active and instead of being drafted into the Army, he chose to enlist in the Marine Corp.. After the military, he got a job in the steel mills and worked shift work for the rest of his life. I didn't get to see him much but, I can look back and see how valuable he was in my life. I really think he was why I found Christ. My dad is why I love God the way I do. Because I experienced a dad who couldn't be real active in my life, I made the choice to be involved in my children's lives. I rarely missed any opportunity to be supportive of whatever they did. I participated in our churches youth group activities. I do have a lot of good memories of my dad but, my best memory of my dad came when he was 80 years old. While in the middle of the desert of Arizona, my dad shared with me that he still couldn't understand why God took his dad from him when he was only 8 years old.

Because my dad got to watch my Faith grow, I was able to help him and I got to witness him re-claim his Faith. What a blessing from God. This is why we need to tell others that Christ is available to them. It's only through Christ that we can ever experience the perfect Father. If you're struggling with seeing

God as the “perfect Father” that’s ok and that is why we need to be people of prayer. God is available to anyone and God hurts when we hurt. If you’re a parent, you know how this feels. If any of your children hurt, it goes all the way down into our bones. We need to believe that Jesus is the Lord of our lives and that He died for our sin. Celebrate your Earthly dad today and say a special prayer for him. God is our ultimate Father and if we allow Him to be that, he will prove it to you over and over again. Heaven is our home and Heaven is for all who accept Christ as their Lord and Savior.
Let’s pray