

Father's Day Celebration

16th June, 2024

Topic: Fathers as Heroes

Text: Judges 6:10-14 - *Also I said to you, "I am the LORD your God; do not fear the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell." But you have not obeyed My voice."* [11] *Now the Angel of the LORD came and sat under the terebinth tree which was in Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon threshed wheat in the winepress, in order to hide it from the Midianites. [12] And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him, and said to him, "The LORD is with you, you mighty man of valor!" [13] Gideon said to Him, "O my lord, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all His miracles which our fathers told us about, saying, "Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?" But now the LORD has forsaken us and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites." [14] Then the LORD turned to him and said, "Go in this might of yours, and you shall save Israel from the hand of the Midianites. Have I not sent you?" (NKJV)*

INTRODUCTION

Most of the time, when we celebrate Father's Day, we usually view fatherhood from an incomplete point of view instead of looking at it from a holistic point of view. Hence, I have found out that if we would put justice to the life and celebration of fathers, we must review fatherhood holistically by analyzing the etymology of the word "Father". This is because you may not understand who you are as a male gender if you do not understand the root word, the meaning, and the origin of this word, "Father"

What does the word Father mean? Let's look at the original Hebrew word of the father, "Abba." This word starts with the letters א (Aleph) and ב (Bet), which indicates a serious implication as we study together and become a father, either potentially or one who is already living in the reality of fatherhood. You must understand that the "Aleph" dimension is talking about a source. Hence, the progression of life is not the primary requirement to be called a father. Just because a man has procreated doesn't make him a father. It is given that progress is part of the gift of God for your life, but that is not what authenticates you as a father.

- ***"The origin of the original language of "Father" has made us understand that fatherhood is a symbol of source, strength and power".***

A man who is married and does not have strength, power, or a source of peace or joy should not be called a father. It is not just enough to celebrate fathers; you must come to an understanding that there is an expectation of God for you to be a source of great things as a father. When you enter a disordered home just know that there is no father in that home. A home where the devil uses the hearts of the members of the family as a playing ground, shows that the father is either not fulfilling his role or is absent.

Many men out there are simply carrying a nomenclature. They don't understand the dimension of being a father and this is a great burden in my heart. Why would the devil be tormenting your family and you can't rise to rebuke him? As a father, you are an authority over your family.

You must understand that you carry an ability that any other person, far apart from your gender, doesn't carry. You have the ability to become, grow, get things done, progress and establish.

Forget the popular saying, *"What a man can do a woman can do it better"*. It is a facade. The truth that inherent is that is the 'doing' power is not in women. Any woman who is causing waves in society is because there is a man somewhere who is projecting her. My advice to every woman out there who is doing great is that don't compete and do well to always celebrate that man in your corner who is helping you become.

To men, I have also discovered that they do not have the ability and strength always to be the source of spheres. The word, Abba, places in your hands the jurisdiction of your home and community to be the source of peace, joy, financial freedom, and many other things.

- ***"The jurisdiction God has given every man to be a source, strength and power is either to your family, household or community because that is the totality of what the root meaning of word father indicates."***

There is nothing any family or house can become if there is no strength. Therefore, your availability and help as the man of the house brings strength to any vision of that family. Any family that is failing to pursue a goal or a vision lacks a man who will cast it

- ***"The supply of power and energy to supply a vision to be successful in a family lies with the father of the house."***

Fatherhood is so powerful that whatever you begin in a family will diffuse into the lives of members of the family, whether good or bad. Hence, stop every evil act you are engaging in to preserve the glory of your home.

Different Types of Fathers

1. Accidental Fathers

A typical example of this kind of father is seen in Genesis Chapter 19, the life of Lot. In Sodom and Gomorrah, when Lot couldn't bear the pressure of releasing the angels he accommodated to the men of the city, the only thing he could think of was to surrender his two daughters for rape. What a misuse of his ability as a source and authority.

- ***"Accidental fathers are men who are not ripe to be fathers, and by the progression of their actions and choices, they became one."***

If you remember the story of Lot well, you will know indeed that he was not ready to be a father when he became one because, in Genesis 13, he left his uncle Abraham for a greener pasture, which eventually became his ruin. My prayer for you is that you never make a wrong move as a father.

Let me share this also: don't allow people to give you alternatives to God's prophecies about your life or else you will crash. It wasn't time for Lot to leave Abraham, but because of the quick alternative given, he abandoned the discipleship he was receiving from Abraham. In the long run, Lot who was supposed to be a protector, instead, he gave his two daughters to danger.

Genesis 19:8

See now, I have two daughters who have not known a man; please, let me bring them out to you, and you may do to them as you wish; only do nothing to these men, since this is the reason they have come under the shadow of my roof." (NKJV)

What an unwise response from a father. As if that was not enough for Lot. After they escaped from the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, he became drunk and his two daughters slept with him. You know the rest of the story, the outcome of their intercourse gave birth to the greatest enemies of the Israelites, Ammonites and Moabites

Young men, don't be in haste; if you are not ready, don't jump into marriage and fatherhood. Accidental fathers are those who are unprepared, very irresponsible and immature.

2. Ordinary Fathers

These sets of fathers are a bit better than accidental fathers. However, they are always unavailable when they are supposed to fulfil their position. Moses' father was like that too because despite all the hurdles of Moses he was only recorded in only a couple of verses in the scriptures. He was not there to give directions instead, and it was Moses' mother who arose with the understanding of what should be done for Moses to live and fulfil the destiny of God upon his life.

I tell you, just because you are away from your family due to whatever reasons best known to you does not make you an ordinary father. Distance is not a qualification to be one.

- ***"What makes you an ordinary father is the inability to take your responsibility as the head of the house. This is because I have seen people near their family yet they are ordinary (missing) fathers."***

When there is a desperate need for your presence in the home, are you available? Is your presence felt in the house? Yes, you provide all the essentials of life as a father, but when it comes to emotional stability and support, you are not available.

3. Extraordinary Fathers

They are fathers who have topped up the ordinariness of their fatherhood; they add extra to the ordinary. These are likes of Samson's Father. He was not available during the angel's visit to Samson's mother, but upon the recount of the encounter to him, his response and request added an extra to his qualities as a father. Manoah never felt inferior or competed with his wife because she had the encounter with the divine first. An extraordinary man doesn't compete.

Judges 13:8-9

Then Manoah prayed to the LORD, and said, "O my Lord, please let the Man of God whom You sent come to us again and teach us what we shall do for the child who will be born." [9] And God listened to the voice of Manoah, and the Angel of God came to the woman again as she was sitting in the field; but Manoah her husband was not with her. (NKJV)

- ***"Extraordinary fathers may not be available, but they make extra efforts to be present in the life of every member of the family."***

4. Superhero Fathers

Our main text today gave us three things that makes a superhero father. Let's quickly delve into it:

a. An encounter with revelation

Judges 6:10

Also I said to you, "I am the LORD your God; do not fear the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell." But you have not obeyed My voice." (NKJV)

You can't be a superhero father without encounters because what makes you one is an identifiable and solid encounter with God. Your assets and financial resources is not a qualification but the wealth of your encounter and spiritual insight. This is what makes you a superhero father such that before every attack of the devil in your family you are aware of it and fight against it

Paul on his way to Damascus and, upon this encounter with Jesus he bowed immediately. Encounter drags you into the place of humility, it takes away pride and brings you to a place of submission.

➤ ***"To be a superhero father, there must be a track record of encounters with the divine."***

Encounters stem from a place of total surrender to God. How can you raise your children right if you have not given your life to Christ? You are not a superhero father if you are subtracting God from your journey. Encounters with God help you defeat every work of flesh in you. If you have a genuine encounter with God you will find it hard to keep malice or remain unfaithful to your wife.

How is your walk with God? Are you building a consistent fellowship with Him? Do you acknowledge Him as your Lord? The unleashing of your authority as a father starts from your identity with Him. Great Fathers in scripture have encounters.

b. Superhero Fathers have the assurance of His presence

Judges 6:12

And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him, and said to him, "The LORD is with you, you mighty man of valor!" (NKJV)

What makes you as a superhero father is the presence of God in you granting you abundance of resources and eliminating any source of shame in your life. When His presence is removed, you become a living 'corpse'. Labour always to sustain presence and live the assurance of it.

"Every superhero father always carries on his consciousness God's presence because His presence is an assurance of success, elevation and new glory"

Overcome doubt today and live in the assurance that He is with you. It doesn't matter your circumstances, His presence is an assurance of victory. Do you believe it? Confess it loud, "The Lord is with me".

c. Superhero Fathers have an Identity

Judges 6:12

And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him, and said to him, "The LORD is with you, you mighty man of valor!" (NKJV)

Don't let your appearance be a judge of your identity. David went into battle with the Philistines in the presence of God and, when Saul wanted to give him another identity by arming him he refused because he knew what he carried. Gideon was hiding and was threshing wheat. But when God located him, the Bible said the Angel of the Lord appeared to him and said, "You are a mighty man of valor. Your background or past doesn't define you. You have a separate identity, discover it and use it.

I declare whatever has limited you and has prevented you from seeing the might of God in you, that will arise today and save you! In Jesus' name.

