



What the Bible Says to Men Pt 3: The Power of Prophetic Fatherhood 2023

Still the Need of the Hour!
Father's Day, June 18, 2023

Holy Text: Gen 18:1-21

Note: We originally preached this Text on Father's Day, 2016, and by God's grace, in many other places around the country since then. You can also find similar thoughts in chapter 9 in Biblically Healthy Household.¹ So today is review...but a needed one!

What we have learned so far:

1. Man was built for dominion.
2. Therefore, a man needs a mission. "A man without a mission will suffer emotionally, spiritually, and even physically. He'll either shrivel up and become a shell of who he is supposed to be or misuse and direct his strength toward his lusts, violence, or power."
3. Man's purpose is assigned and regulated by God.
4. Adam had a dominion purpose before Eve was created.
5. Adam's purpose was the context wherein his need for a helper was identified.
6. Man's headship is exercised in a dominion context.
7. Manhood is designed for advancing and battle: "Holy aggression!"
8. Adam is Mankind's federal head.
9. Adam is held responsible for man's sin. Thank God for the Second Adam!
10. Headship is about responsibility and dominion.

Men have particular sins with which they struggle:

1. Passivity/Not Paying Attention
2. Pride
3. Lust
4. Fear
5. Lack of Discipline/Self-Control

To overcome these things, a man must

1. Repent and believe in Christ
2. Embrace the call to steward all things for Christ's glory (dominion)
3. Accept the call to lead
4. Realize that many depend upon him
5. Humbly and daily trust the LORD

Now, dream with me:

1. What would happen if there was a revival in "Biblical Fatherhood?"
2. Every sociological statistic that attempts to measure the impact of fatherhood tells us that **when a faithful father is present, everything changes!** →

The Father Absence Crisis in America

18.4 Million Children, 1 in 4, Without a Biological, Step, or Adoptive Father at Home¹

Research shows² when a child is raised in a father-absent home, they are affected in the following ways...

- ⊖ 4x Greater Risk of Poverty
- ⊖ More Likely to Have Behavioral Problems
- ⊖ 2x Greater Risk of Infant Mortality
- ⊖ More Likely to Go to Prison
- ⊖ More Likely to Commit Crime
- ⊖ 7x More Likely to Become Pregnant as a Teen
- ⊖ More Likely to Face Abuse and Neglect
- ⊖ More Likely to Abuse Drugs and Alcohol
- ⊖ 2x More Likely to Suffer Obesity
- ⊖ 2x more Likely to Drop Out of School

National Fatherhood Initiative
www.fatherhood.org

¹U.S. Census Bureau. (2022). Living arrangements of children under 18 years old: 1960 to present. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Census Bureau.
²National Fatherhood Initiative® 2019. *Father Facts: Eighth Edition*. Germantown, MD: National Fatherhood Initiative®.

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¹ <https://www.ccmcleod.com/the-biblically-healthy-household>

3. So given the power of creation order, that even the secular world has to acknowledge, what would happen if there was a revival or a culture-wide **restoration in biblical fatherhood**?
 - “According to a report published by The Baptist Press, if a child is the first person in the household to become a Christian, there is a 3.5% probability everyone in the household will follow. If the mother is first, there is a 17% chance everyone else in the household will submit to Christ. Here’s the clincher: If the father professes Christ first, there is a 93% probability that everyone else in the house will heed the Gospel call.”
4. Here is another:
 - “In short, if a father does not go to church, no matter how faithful his wife’s devotions, only one child in 50 will become a regular worshipper. If a father does go regularly, regardless of the practice of the mother, between two-thirds and three-quarters of their children will become churchgoers (regular and irregular). If a father goes but irregularly to church, regardless of his wife’s devotion, between a half and two-thirds of their offspring will find themselves coming to church regularly or occasionally.
 - A non-practicing mother with a regular father will see a minimum of two-thirds of her children ending up at church. In contrast, a non-practicing father with a regular mother will see two-thirds of his children never darken the church door. If his wife is similarly negligent that figure rises to 80 percent!”²
5. This is one of the “creation order” blessings of biblical manhood and fatherhood: a man’s spiritual influence!
6. *“Imagine the widespread impact of a man or husband or father who loves God with all his heart, mind, soul and strength. Imagine him working hard, with a long-term vision of where he and his family might be by God’s grace. Imagine his priestly pursuit of holiness, refusing to hurt himself and his family through his own unrighteousness, and his willingness to repent quickly when he fails. Imagine how he lovingly, tenderly, but firmly declares God’s Word in his home and in the community. If married, imagine how he loves his wife with his whole heart, how he thinks and says she’s beautiful, how he covers her, provides for her, protects her, and is literally willing to die for her. Imagine how he counts it an honor to lead her, disciple her, and work so that she always feels safe and secure. If a father, imagine a man who teaches and discipled his children. Imagine how he protects them from ungodly influences, instructs them, and casts great vision for who they could be. Imagine how he prays with them and prepares them for adulthood, marriage, and family!”³*

Biblical Manhood and Fatherhood: The Need of the Hour

- **Friends, the need is great for God-fearing, Jesus-loving, Gospel-declaring, biblically masculine men! :)**
- We need men who will **command** their families to keep the way of the Lord!
- We need men who will declare like Joshua, “But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” (Josh 24:15)
- Where are the men who will lead “forth his trained men, born in his house...and” go in pursuit of relatives and friends taken captive by an enemy? (Gen 14:14-16)

² <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/justin-taylor/a-fathers-role-in-his-children-going-to-church-when-they-are-adults/>

³ *Imagine Tract*, Calvary Reformation Church, 2021.

- As the chaos and wickedness reigns all around us, we need men who will do what it takes to protect their wives and children as David did at Ziklag. (1 Sam 30)
- We need godly men who will humbly but boldly say, in no uncertain terms, “You have to come through me.”

Matthew 12:29 (KJV) Or else how can one enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man? and then he will spoil his house.

An important truth: We need to Embrace the Sufficiency of Scripture!

1. Juxtaposed against the BEAUTY of biblical womanhood, the Word of God unfolds the POWER of male **headship**.
2. Because of the rise of feminism (and sadly, some hurtful imbalances within the church as well), this truth has been infused with all sorts of baggage.
3. I believe however that God meant a man's leadership to be a blessing! From the Garden of Eden, God established men and fathers to lead (in love)...to be priests and prophets, providers and protectors.
4. A man's ministry is a critical part of God's plan to provide safety and security, and love and instruction, both to His gathered church and His people within their families.
5. The Bible calls Abraham, Issac, and Jacob “patriarchs.”

Hebrews 7:4 (KJV) Now consider how great this man was, unto whom even the patriarch Abraham gave the tenth of the spoils.

Acts 7:8 (KJV) And he gave him the covenant of circumcision: and so Abraham begat Isaac, and circumcised him the eighth day; and Isaac begat Jacob; and Jacob begat the twelve patriarchs.

6. Biblically speaking, *patriarchy* simply means “father-led.” God chose them to birth a positionally holy nation (Israel), through which would come His practically holy and preeminent Son, Jesus!
7. Indeed, from the great lineage lists in Scripture, through the Kings and Prophets, through the instructions on the leadership of the Church, the need for godly fathers is obvious. From who God is (Father), who Jesus is (a Son), who the Spirit is (“He” not an “it”), and based on the entire socio-economic and redemptive structure in Scripture, we declare that **fatherhood** is essential!
8. Our culture however, has other plans:

“Feminists must destroy patriarchy because it is rooted in God as Father - the ruler. They despise God the Father and His rule...and this is why we have the transgender madness. It's really not about that...it's about rejecting God as Father - a male who created male and female.” - Scott Brown

Some thoughts on our Text:

1. First, I think it is ironic (if not out and out PROPHETIC), that God speaks of his choice, Abraham, and what He has called Abraham to do IN THE MIDST of His anger at and pending **judgment** of Sodom and Gomorrah.
2. In other words, God calls Abraham to father a nation of holy, God-fearing people, WHILE the most evil, heinous, iniquity abounds!
3. This entire narrative is set in the context of the LORD and two angels on their way to Sodom!

4. So men,
 - You must lead...command your family! (The word “command” in Hebrew means to “give a charge, set in order, appoint.”)
 - You must accept the responsibility. Just as God called Adam, here, He calls Abraham.
 - You must do these things despite the cultural chaos. No excuses! Regardless of the sickness and sin around us, our job is clear:

***Eph 6:4** Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.*

- You must remember that you are made for this! God would not give you such instruction unless He would also give you the supernatural ability to bring these things to pass.
5. By saying “command,” no one should misconstrue God’s intentions. A man is never to be sinfully harsh or domineering. Nor should he be violent with this wife or administer an inappropriate level of discipline to his children. Indeed, the qualifications for elders gives **every man** a wonderful list of what God requires:

***1 Timothy 3:1-7 (KJV)** This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work. **2** A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; **3** Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; **4** One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; **5** (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?) **6** Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil. **7** Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.*

A Man’s “commanding” is done in great love, as Christ loves and leads:

***Ephesians 5:25-29 (KJV)** Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; **26** That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, **27** That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. **28** So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. **29** For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:*

6. But neither is a man to be passive, as we learned last week! He is not to be spiritually wimpy! Nor is he to allow his household to get out of control as Eli did (1 Sam 2).
7. Abraham was to “command” his children and household after him. Every godly man, by God’s grace, must do the same.

***Proverbs 6:20-22 (KJV)** My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother: **21** Bind them continually upon thine heart, and tie them about thy neck. **22** When thou goest, it shall lead thee; when thou sleepest, it shall keep thee; and when thou awakest, it shall talk with thee.*

More lessons from Gen 18:19

Abraham wasn't given this authority for just any reason: it was essential to God's Covenant... Abraham's part in the dominion mandate! (Gen 12:1-3) Abraham was to command his children and household:

1. **After him.** He was to set the example. The context shows Abraham was:
 - A man of hospitality, welcoming heaven's guests quickly (v1-8)
 - A man of humility and reverence, prostrating himself before the LORD (v2-3)
 - A man of faith (Gen 17:15-27), believing the LORD for the son of promise and a great nation, even though Sarah would be 90 and he would be 100 when Isaac was born. (Gen 17:17, 21:5)
 - A man of deep love and prayer. If you continue reading, Abraham cries out repeatedly for mercy upon Sodom. (v22-33)
2. **To keep the way of the Lord.** This would bring God's covenantal blessings, as obedience always does! And this applies across the board! Entertainment? Education? Dress/modesty? Biblical preparation for future roles and jobs?
3. **To do justice and judgment.** The Hebrew word for justice means "rightness...to actually be holy in practice." Judgment implies making right decisions on a matter, as God defines right. We'd call that making decisions from a biblical worldview. :)

All these things were for the purpose of fulfilling God's covenant, which was not just to bring Israel into the *Land Promises*, but was ultimately about the coming of a *LORD Pre eminent*: Jesus Christ.

In other words, there were covenantal, multi-generational, and Kingdom blessings that depended on Abraham being a good husband and father!

Friends, Biblical Fatherhood is the NEED of the HOUR!

- God designed the primary method of passing the Faith on to the next generation, inculcating a Biblical Worldview, and taking dominion to be the Family.
- God designated FATHERS to be a child's primary discipler.
- God designed MARRIAGE for critical CULTURAL purposes:
 1. Provide societal and individual stability
 2. Provide a training ground for children
 3. Provide a visual representation of Christ and His Church

We need MEN who will teach and disciple their families...who will lovingly lead their wives... who will speak and declare in their homes what is good and God-honoring! We need MEN who will adjust their lives to Scripture and remain teachable and accountable to the local church!

Men who believe that:

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (KJV) All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: **17** That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

Don't tell me that if, for example, 25 Million men stood UP and ON God's Word things wouldn't change.

Don't tell me that if these men took their families to church consistently and instructed them throughout the week things wouldn't change.

Don't tell me that if these men got a vision from God about their household discipleship, family worship, and prayer and productivity things wouldn't change.

Don't tell me that if 25 Million women and their children came under such loving governance things wouldn't change!

Practical Suggestions for Prophetic Manhood/Fatherhood:

1. Be a **Holy Man!** (Engage in the spiritual disciplines)
2. Be a **Church Man!** (Be an active, consistent, local church member. Build life around it!)
3. Be a **Discerning Man!** (Pray. Pay attention! Think deeply. Watch!)
4. Be a **Discipling Man!** (Wash your wife with the Word. Teach your children.)
5. Be a **Working Man!** (Take Dominion. Have a vision. Be disciplined!)
6. Be a **Debt-Free Man!** (Be a good steward. Limit risk and grow your family's wealth!)
7. Be a **Fit Man!** (Develop and maintain as much strength as you can!)

Why?

Because we live in Sodom! We live in Babylon! There is no neutrality when it comes to spiritual things! You must live and lead like you are "behind enemy lines."

Closing thoughts:

The first words of Genesis 18:19 in the KJV say, "For I know him." The ESV says, "For I have chosen him." The NLT says, "I have singled him out."

Abraham was known by God. Chosen. Singled out and set apart for a purpose. God knew what Abraham would do.

Men with families, you too, like every child of God (those who have repented of sin and believed in Christ), have a purpose related to family.

God knows you too. He knows your faults, failures, and foibles. He also knows your fitness for this assignment, your fortitude as you press on, and your future blessings in Him!

When you get discouraged brethren, remember that you too have been chosen:

John 15:16 (KJV)** **Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

1 Peter 2:9 (KJV)** **But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

Indeed, the truth that God has both saved you and granted you the privilege of being a husband/father speaks to His love and grace towards you.

He has given you much.

Make much of Him by stewarding well. You are “Still the Need of the Hour!”

In Jesus’ Name!