

FATHERS: THE PATERNAL FACTOR

Pastor David Joe May

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Soaring Higher Christian Center
287 Cincinnati Avenue
Xenia, OH

Harvest Club Edition

Luke 15:11-32

Father; Sire. Not only exclusive to natural children. i.e., 1Cor. 4:15; 10K instructors...

The job of parents is to train their children to be parents.

When they leave home they should be equipped as well as possible to lead successful adult lives.

The father is only half the equation. The paternal factor.

He is the spiritual head of the family and will be held responsible for their spiritual condition by God and man. More than likely, children will turn out much like their parents.

His Qualities; These qualities are the same as our Heavenly Father. (*Compare.*)

Are admirable qualities for anyone.

I. A Giving Man To His Family.

- A. Luke 15:12 *And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living.*

II. Understanding.

- A. Permitted his son to make his decision even though it was a bad one.
1. A tool of discipline.
 - a. Discipline is an essential parental quality.
Prov. 13:24 *He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.*
 - b. Produces accountability.

III. Generous To Everyone.

- A. Luke 15:17 *And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!*
1. Had *trained* the son properly.
Prov. 22:6 *Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.*

IV. Stable. vs. 17

- A. Had obviously been a man blessed of God. A man with property and employees.
Prov. 13:22 *A good man leaveth an inheritance to his children's children: and the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just.*
1. Had great blessings in his life.
 - a. Following the God will bring stability and blessing to your life.
Josh. 1:7-8 *Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest. :8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.*
Mal. 3:12 *And all nations shall call you blessed:...*
(Your enemies will both curse you and bless you without even realizing it. Mark 11:23)
- B. Had instilled a good work ethic in both sons. vs.15, 25,29
2Ths. 3:10 *... this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.*
1. A good work ethic is essential for social stability. The father's job is to impress that upon the children. Particularly the boys. The girls should then expect this quality when choosing a mate. A guy like dear old dad.
 - a. Responsible.
 - b. Dependable.
 - c. Conscientious.
 - d. Team player.
 2. Work hard and work smart.
 3. The younger son did not hesitate to take a job beneath his abilities. vs. 15
 - a. You don't start at the top.
 - b. He had enough sense to know that he could do better.

V. Accessible. vs. 17

Hebr. 4:16 *Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*

VI. Had The Confidence Of His Children.

- A. He knew the manner of man his father was, and was confident of his forgiveness.
Luke 15:18-19 *I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, :19 And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants.*
1John 5:14 *And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:*
1John 1:9 *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

VII. Compassion.

A. Showed love and affection.

Luke 15:20 *And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.*

1. Compassion, not sympathy moves God.

VIII. Forgiving. vs. 22-24.

A. Acted on compassion.

IX. Wisdom.

A. Wisely dealt with the jealousy of the other son. vs. 31-32

1. Fathers are not always fair but just.

a. A family is not a democracy.

B. Trains his children to deal with life.

X. Responsible.

A. Maintained the other's inheritance.

1. A responsible man understands accountability.

a. Teaches it to his children.

These qualities indicate the love of a father.

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