

**“Biblical Fatherhood”**  
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 Scripture: Matthew 8:5-13  
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**Scripture: Matthew 8:5-13 NIV The Faith of the Centurion**

<sup>5</sup>When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, asking for help. <sup>6</sup>“Lord,” he said, “my servant lies at home paralyzed, suffering terribly.” <sup>7</sup>Jesus said to him, “Shall I come and heal him?” <sup>8</sup>The centurion replied, “Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. <sup>9</sup>For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and that one, ‘Come,’ and he comes. I say to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.” <sup>10</sup>When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him, “Truly I tell you, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith. <sup>11</sup>I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>12</sup>But the subjects of the kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” <sup>13</sup>Then Jesus said to the centurion, “Go! Let it be done just as you believed it would.” And his servant was healed at that moment.

**Biblical Fatherhood**

- Subject: What is the Biblical expectation for fatherhood? (godly manhood → godly fatherhood → godly church)
- Complement: God calls every father to submit to his authority. (Discipleship)
- Complement: God calls every father to love his wife as Christ loves the church. (Marriage)
- Complement: God calls every father to be an example to his children in holiness. (Ministry)
- Complement: God calls every father to lead God’s people in the home and in church. (Eldership)

	Godly man	Godly father	Godly leader (Eldership)
Submits to God’s authority (Discipleship)	Follow Christ; be disciplined by godly men; disciple others	Disciple your children; help them find other godly disciplers	Submit one to another and to the Holy Spirit; shepherds the church - disciples leaders in the church; protects the church - able to teach/refute unsound doctrine
Loves wife (Marriage)	Submission to one another; spiritual leadership (cast vision)	Model marriage for your children	Manages household well; husband of one wife; protects the church - counsels married couples and provides discernment and wisdom
Hears God’s call to serve (Ministry)	Be right with God; hear God’s voice; follow God’s plan for service and ministry	Encourage children to find their own ministry	Above reproach; has a good reputation with those outside the church; equips the church for service; provides spiritual nourishment for the church

**Introduction:**

God reveals Himself to us as a heavenly Father.

- I. God calls every person to submit to his authority.
  - A. Show it:
    - 1. The centurion recognized Jesus’ authority and believed in Him. He placed Jesus as his superior.
      - 1. Matthew 8:5-13
  - A. Image it:

2. My father, as president of his grocery business, was a humble leader and demonstrated a good work ethic.
  3. My father, as a volunteer in youth ministry at church, encouraged many youth to follow God and obey God's commands.
  4. Role models today: everyone follows someone; who are you following?
  5. D.L. Moody: "The world has yet to see what God can do with a man fully consecrated to Him. By God's help, I aim to be that man."
- A. Address skeptics:
6. For those who are undecided about trusting God:
    - a. People come to faith for different reasons.
      1. The need to resolve sin and guilt
      2. The need for a perfect Father
      3. The fear of eternal judgment
      4. Understanding and acceptance of God's mercy and grace
      5. The desire to join a group of believers who are part of a community of care and compassion
    - a. If you haven't made a decision to follow Jesus yet, consider that God gives us the chance to choose Him freely. God doesn't force anyone to follow Him. It is a conscious choice. But don't wait, this offer expires soon! Once we die, it'll be too late to repent from our sin and receive eternal life.
- A. Restate: God calls us to follow Him (repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is near).
7. We have a choice: to see God do miraculous things through a generation of people submitted to his authority or to miss out on God's work because we're still on the fence.
- I. God calls every husband to love his wife as Christ loves the church.
- A. Show it:
8. Paul analogizes marriage as the relationship Christ has with his church.
    - a. Ephesians 5:25-30
- A. Image it:
9. Husbands are called to love their wives: listen and cast vision for the marriage.
  10. Husbands are called to love their wives: learn how to say "I'm sorry. Will you forgive me? I love you."
  11. Husbands are called to love their wives: protect, provide, encourage, love, strength, courage, honor.
- A. Address skeptics:
12. For those who have experienced broken relationships:
    - a. Good communication requires listening skills
    - a. Conflict is a part of every relationship: healthy conflict resolution takes a lot of hard work
    - a. When we experience negative emotions such as anger, resentment, disappointment, or apathy, we need to prioritize making right choices over feelings which are not always trustworthy.
    - a. We must engage third party support (aka counseling) before it's too late. E.g., regular physician checkups → regular relationship checkups
- A. Restate: God calls us to strengthen our marriages so that God's love will be seen by the world through our love for each other.
13. We have a choice: to be discouraged and feel trapped in a cycle of deflection and pride or to be free and released to love others as we have been loved at home.
- I. God calls every father to be an example to his children in holiness.
- A. Show it:
14. David learned to repent of his sin right away and encouraged his son to follow the Lord.
    - a. 2 Samuel 11-12
    - a. 2 Samuel 24:10
    - a. 1 Kings 2:1-5
  15. David failed to restrain his children from sin.

- a. 2 Samuel 13-18
- A. Image it:
  - 16. LA court: more leniency shown for people who take care of their civic penalties early
  - 17. Fathers need to be able to admit their mistakes and make things right as soon as possible. It takes strength of character to do so; it is a measure of what it means to be a man.
  - 18. Fathers need to take initiative: to be ready to do and say what is right when the opportunity arises.
- A. Address skeptics:
  - 19. For those who did not have the perfect (or present) father:
    - a. Look for other role models at work or in the church. Find mentors who can lead you closer to Christ.
    - a. 1 Corinthians 11:1 "Be imitators of me just as I also am of Christ."
- A. Restate: God calls us to take initiative to do and say what is right: repentance from sin or disciplining our children.
  - 20. We have a choice: immaturity (passively allowing things to happen to us) or maturity (taking the initiative to do what God wants).
- I. God calls every elder/pastor to care for his church.
  - A. Show it:
    - 21. Paul teaches Timothy what a biblical elder/pastor looks like: feed the sheep, protect the sheep, shepherd the sheep, equip the sheep.
      - a. 1 Timothy 3:1-7
    - 22. Paul teaches Titus what a biblical elder/pastor looks like: character first, spiritual gifts second, and talents/abilities third.
      - a. Titus 1:5-9
    - 23. Peter teaches the church what a biblical elder/pastor looks like: a humble shepherd with the right motives for ministry.
      - a. 1 Peter 5:1-5
  - A. Image it:
    - 24. Embracing Shared Ministry by Dr. Joseph Hellerman raises the importance of a plurality of elders/pastors: the church needs more biblically qualified leaders to step up and lead through an example of mutual submission.
    - 25. My father's example of continual advocacy for healthy ministry for the youth for the sake of his grandchildren and other children in the church.
  - A. Address skeptics:
    - 26. For those who have been hurt by leaders:
      - a. Turning inward is a natural part of dealing with hurt.
      - a. As we forgive and deal with fallible leaders, we can see beyond our hurts to help others experience reconciliation and spiritual freedom.
  - A. Restate: God calls us to lead our families and our spiritual family.
    - 27. We have a choice: self-absorption (a failure to see beyond ourselves) or self-denial (allowing God to work through us to help others).

**Conclusion:**

The celebration/remembrance of our fathers, physical and/or spiritual, should lead us to worship our heavenly Father who gives us all good things (James 1:17).