

MANAGES HIS FAMILY WELL

Hey gents....

(Introduction of who I am and what I do, 1 minute)

This is your last session of Blueprint: God's Design for Manhood. The trait we're looking at tonight/this morning is 'managing our household well' with a particular emphasis on being the kind of father who helps his children live a fruitful and Christ-like life.

My own story, my father/grandfathers story (5 minutes)

- *My father/grandfather: distant, absent, woundedness*

Address father wound

My father chose to be everything my grandfather wasn't...etc.

- *My own story: good, loving, shepherding father*

Before I begin tonight with what I hope are three attributes of biblical fatherhood, I want to address something important.

We have all been impacted with the relationship of our earthly father.

In blessing or in curse.

We don't escape the impact for good or bad that our fathers have had on us.

For some in this room, like my own father and grandfather, you, in all transparency, carry, to this day, a wound in which your earthly father has inflicted. Whether absent, critical, heavy handed or emotionally/physically abusive. You carry to this day, perhaps decades later, a father wound.

For some in this room, the opposite is true. Your relationship with your earthly father has been one of love, nurturing and servanthood. This blessing has followed you your whole life and many ways you owe a HUGE thank you of gratitude for the GIFT your earthly father has given you.

But before we begin, hear me. All our fathers are broken men. All have made mistakes that we are aware or even unaware of.

I remember the season when I was aware that my father was not in fact superman, but human. I remember recognizing sin in him and flaws in everything I thought he was.

AND...We must come to a full understanding of who our heavenly Father is, even when our earthly father could never fully reflect Him.

Our heavenly Father is ALWAYS. Good. Loving. Kind.

Teenager story: God is always in a good mood.

(A quick look at the Prodigal Son, Luke 15)

But the invitation is still the same in scripture. God has called us to father the generation underneath us. You don't have any children? You are still called to spiritual father to a fatherless generation. You newly married with no kids, you are still called to be a spiritual father. We have a generation of fatherless Christians who need strong biblical leadership and fatherhood.

So lets start, what is a father?

I. A FATHER IS A SHEPHERD

The passage I want to begin with is out of 1 Timothy.

1 Timothy 3.4: *He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him, and he must do so in a manner worthy of full respect.*

(1 Timothy context)

The word “manage” feels corporate, I know. As if we manage our family with a heavy hand.

However, the word “manage” in the Greek is **proistemi** which means “to lead”.

So Timothy is saying, “We must lead our family well” and that’s what I want to talk about tonight (or morning) as men.

How do we LEAD our families well?

The best imagery I find in scripture is one of a SHEPHERD.

We are called to be leaders or shepherds of our home.

Part of Pauls challenge to Timothy was to select men who gain “respect from their families” out of their leadership.

So the question is for us, “Have I gained enough trust at home that my family follows my leadership?”

A child's submission is not a forced heavy-handed obligation but rather it's the earned trust a father has sacrificed for.

Paul is saying, "if you have earned respect at home, you have shown you can earn respect anywhere."

Some of us lived in homes of forced submission, where a heavy-handed authority reigned. This is not what Paul is inviting us into. His image is more of a Shepherd.

What does a Shepherd do?

It feeds, it guides, it seeks, it protects, it restores, and it rewards.

(Go through each of those)

II. A FATHER IS A REFLECTION OF GOD

We are called to REFLECT the Father.

As a reminder, who was the Father found in the prodigal son story?

One of patience, grace and abounding love.

Some believe that if a child was found wandering the streets after a season of "REBELLION" that the those that lived in the village would stone the child as he returned home.

Can you see the image of the FATHER running out to the SON to wrap His arms around Him in protection from flying stones?

We are invited out of our own relationship with the Father, to reflect this type of love to our families.

Patience: You can trust your children when things look dark.

Grace: You can offer the same grace you have received

Love: You can display abounding love to the one whom God has entrusted you with.

STORY: Caleb/Lauren and I's relationship

III. A FATHER BLESSES

Throughout the Bible, we find fathers blessing their children. These blessings are usually words of encouragement, then details of inheritance and ending with a prophetic word of hope for the future of that child's life.

In Genesis 49, we find Jacob blessing his children.

A blessing is a word of affirmation over someone you have been given spiritual authority.

There is nothing quite like the blessing of a Father.

STORY: My father, law as career, when I decided to pursue ministry.

We have an opportunity to bless those in whom God has entrusted us with.

A blessing brings deep confidence to those in whom have been given this blessing.

Story: Gen Z generation: Fatherless generation

- Our role as men to give blessing.

CONCLUSION:

We as men are called to be a shepherd to our families, a reflection of the Heavenly Father and one who blesses those whom God has entrusted us with.

One of the reasons that I have experienced such joy in my life is the many spiritual fathers who have counseled me, shepherded me and blessed me.

My earthly father is a man after God's heart but the many men who have wrapped their arms around me in pain, anxiety and fear is overwhelming.

STORY: TRIP TO COLORADO: RUSTY