

“Meek Isn’t Weak” {outline}

Proverbs 3:1-12; Luke 9:23-27

June 20, 2021

Intro

- Father’s Day melancholy

As many of you already know, my father passed away this past year. Even though it’s already been 9 months, I confess to you the thought of his absence hasn’t quite settled in my mind. Grief is typically a rather long and surprising journey. Long, because as anyone who’s ever lost someone to death knows, the end won’t fully come until we’re reunited with our loved ones in the eternal Kingdom of God. Surprising because grief has the unfortunate ability to recede for a period of time only to come roaring back at a moment’s notice. A thought, a remembrance, seeing someplace that had been special to the two of you, these thoughts enter our mind suddenly. And, while the recollection is momentarily sweet, it also returns with a dram of the pain, the absence, the longing. So, it is a rather odd day for me. My family will gather. We will celebrate the fathers among us. But we will all, in our own way, be filled with a sense of longing.

- Good fathers can help us understand more about God.
 - o “I have TWO fathers” – the little one and the big one.
 - Not too often I get called “little” but she was right on the money

Fathers

- Provide
 - o Blessed to have a dad that was a “good provider”
 - Blessed to have a fortunate upbringing
 - Nice home, private school, gave us an appreciation for art and culture, taking us to NYC and other places
 - o But he, just like any dad, made mistakes while providing for us
 - Mixing Spaghetti O’s and Mac n’ Cheese
 - Burned it
 - o I’ve made myriad mistakes as a dad – once sending my wife and kids to a birthday party location in a completely different town than the actual event was being held in.
 - o Our Father in Heaven’s provision never leaves us, never abandons us
 - Creation
 - o **Genesis 9:3** (Noah gets off the Ark) – *“Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. And as I gave you the green plants, I give you everything.”*
 - o **2 Corinthians 9:8** – *“And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.”*
 - o Last week, we talked about the problem of scarcity. Knowing that God is a God of provision, as I said last week, scarcity may be a problem, but it isn’t for Christians.
- Protect
 - o My sister and I were home alone.
 - Power went off, our minds started swirling
 - An odd-looking stranger rang the doorbell
 - Then a thunderstorm rushed in (probably why power went)
 - Dad came home from the airport, suit-on and bag-in-hand.
 - He came into the house and it was like sweet relief.
 - His very nature was comforting to us,
 - o **Isaiah 54:17** – *“no weapon forged against you will prevail, and you will refute every tongue that accuses you. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and this is their vindication from me,” declares the Lord.*

- **Proverbs 18:10** – *“The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous man runs into it and is safe.”*
- **1 Peter 1:3-5** – *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, 5 who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”*
- Teaches and Disciplines
 - I learned so many things from my dad
 - From how to use a knife to how to shoot a basketball, to how to shave, the sheer volume of things my dad taught me is hard to assess. When you're around someone for so many years, learning often comes by osmosis.
 - **Proverbs 13:1** – *“A wise son hears his father's instruction, but a scoffer does not listen to rebuke.”*
 - **Hebrews 12:7:** *“Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father?”*
- Love (FORGIVENESS)
 - Baseball story about dad
 - Throwing baseballs.
 - How do you know when someone really loves you?
 - We think it's obvious, but there are some philosophers who think otherwise.
 - The problem of other minds
 - We recognize that others love us more clearly when they forgive us!
 - **John 3:16** – *“For God so loved the world, that He gave his only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.”*
 - Ernest Hemingway – “The Capitol of the World”
 - Story about second-tier bullfighters, each with talent, each not quite able to break into the major leagues, so to speak. The story reveals their backstories.
 - One of those young men ran away from home at a very early age. He wanted to be a bull fighter; his father wanted him to study law. Spanish father who wanted to be reconciled with his son who ran away from home to the city of Madrid. The father misses the son and puts an advertisement in the local newspaper El Liberal. The advertisement read, "Paco, meet me at the Hotel Montana at noon on Tuesday. All is forgiven! Love, Papa." Paco is such a common name in Spain that when the father went to the Hotel Montana the next day at noon there were 800 young men named Paco waiting for their fathers!