

Happy Father's Day – How Goes the Mission?

Michael Griego, June 21, 2020

Sermon Text: Matthew 14:22-33

Big Idea: On this day that honors our earthly Fathers and what they do (have done), the role they play, the *mission* they are on, let us all reassess our own role in response to our earthly Father and our Heavenly Father.

1. God Leads and Directs – Are You Following? (Matthew 14:22-23)

After the feeding of the 5,000, Jesus *made the disciples get into the boat*. Jesus did nothing without God, the Father, leading and directing Him. The disciples followed His instructions. Are you following? Is God leading you? Do you pray? Are you following God or listening to others or the loudest voices or your own instincts? (Exodus 24 – 4 types of groups: 1) Very Distant (Israelites), 2) Close but Still Distant (Elders), 3) Joshua (Seeking and Learning), and 4) Moses (Walking with God)

2. Man Fears – Do You Fear? (Matthew 14:23-26)

When Jesus approached the boat by walking on the lake, the disciples understandably *were terrified*. They speculated on what was going on or what it could be – *“It’s a ghost,” they said, and cried out in fear*. Are you afraid? Are you fearful of the virus, the rioting, your finances? Do you speculate on what’s going to happen or what’s going on or who’s doing what?

3. Jesus Calls – Are You Listening? (Matthew 14:27-31)

Jesus responds, *“Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.”* Peter says, *“Lord, if it’s you, tell me to come to you on the water.”* *“Come,” he said*. Peter responds with bold but wavering faith as he fears the wind and the waves. It’s alright though; he starts to sink, but Jesus saves him. Are you listening to God? Are you responding to His call or to the calls of others? Notice that Peter responded; the other disciples did not.

4. Jesus is God – Do You Believe? (Matthew 14:31-33)

Peter, the man of little faith believes. After Jesus asks *“Why do you doubt?”* Peter and the other disciples, upon witnessing the calming of the wind, acknowledge that *“Truly you are the Son of God.”* Do you believe? Do you need further evidence like the multiplying of the loaves and fish enough to feed 5,000 people or to see Jesus walk on a lake to finally acknowledge that Jesus is God and God wants you?

The Mission: 1) Follow God’s leading, 2) Surrender our fears to Him, 3) Respond to His calling, and 4) Truly believe Jesus is God. Now, on that Mission, here are 5 essentials for effective fathering:

5 Essentials for Fathers

1. **Love God, Then Man** – a great and effective father loves the God of the Bible and seeks His favor, not the favor of Man in this world. Per Christ, love your fellow man comes after loving God.
2. **Love Your Wife, More Than Your Work** – a great father loves and cherishes his wife, even more than his vocation, making choices and sacrificing reflecting balanced priorities and values.
3. **Love Your Children, More Than Yourself** – children need their father. Put your children first, loving/raising them in the ways of God. A great father is unselfish in his commitment to his children.
4. **Love Your Family, with a Vision** – a great father loves his family as a gift from God and a legacy for the world, projecting a vision of Godly impact for generations. His family reflects that vision.
5. **Pray for Your Family, Every Day** – a great father knows the source of his greatness and strength: God. He connects with God through deliberate prayer for his wife, children, and children’s children.

Reflection Questions

1. Which one of the 4 groups would you most identify with on Mount Sinai with Moses? (See Exodus 24:1-18)
 - a. Very Distant (Israelites)
 - b. Close but Still Distant (Elders)
 - c. Joshua (Seeking and Learning)
 - d. Moses (Walking with God)
2. Which part of the Matthew 14 passage of Jesus walking on the water struck you in a most impactful way when consider the 4 points highlighted in the sermon? Why?
 - a. God Leads and Directs – Are you following?
 - b. Man Fears – Do you fear?
 - c. Jesus Calls – Are you listening?
 - d. Jesus is God – Do you believe?
3. As a father, which one or more of the 5 Essentials for Fathers are you most comfortable? Which one(s) least comfortable?
4. How do the 5 Essentials for Fathers apply to your own father?