

Watchfull Eyes and Listening Ears
Father's Day 06-19-16 Pastor Peter Smith

“Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.” -Proverbs 22:6 NIV

Me

- Famous TV & Movie Dads...
Ward Cleaver, Archie Bunker, Cliff Huxtable, Darth Vader, Bryan Mills (Taken), and Rick Grimes (Walking Dead)
Who's yours?
- We learn by example, observation, imitation
- What happens when that's not there?
- My *physical* dad was not part of my life till I was an adult
- But God filled in with Gramps, Uncles, and my pastor
- No instructions parenting!

Four Dads from the Bible we can look to for examples of being a Great dad

Noah

1. His character: Faithful
2. His strength: Trusted God
3. He proves to us it's **never too late to do God's will**
 - 500 yrs old when he built the Ark, 600 start of flood, 601 to get off of it
 - Some make late-in-life decisions for Jesus
 - Seek God today: a fresh calling / walk with Him

Job

1. His character: prayed for his children regularly.
2. His strength: humbled himself before God.
3. He proves to us **the world never has the answers**.

David

1. His character: Godliness
2. His strength: repentance
3. He proves to us: **do-overs are gifts from God**.

- Dads, fess up to your kids when you fail...
- Find the teaching moment for your kids

Joseph

- His character: he was a mensch (integrity and honor) "mensch" is "someone to admire and emulate, someone of noble character. The key to being 'a real mensch' is nothing less than character, rectitude, dignity, a sense of what is right, responsible, decorous."
- His strength: believed God's word. Angels, God's plans unfolding....
- He proves to us that **God is always in control**.

3 life lessons Joseph gave to the *Watchful Eyes and Listening Ears* of his son Jesus

1. Commitment to his faith

Joseph pilgrimaged with his son and family (Luke 2:41-50)

- Observed God's commandments

"Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly."
-Matthew 1:19, NIV

- Observed the Jewish festivals

"Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom."
- Luke 2:41-42, NIV

So did Jesus

"But when the Jewish Festival of Tabernacles was near, Jesus' brothers said to him, "Leave Galilee and go to Judea, so that your disciples there may see the works you do...after his brothers had left for the festival, he went also, not publicly, but in secret...Not until halfway through the festival did Jesus go up to the temple courts and begin to teach."
-John 7:2-14, NIV

- In contrast, one of the early disciples didn't have this experience (Mark 13:1) he was amazed at the architecture, etc. Maybe first time there?

Principle: Joseph did not hide his faith from his son

2. Spiritual and physical development

Physical trade (job / work)

A Rabbinic proverb says, "He who does not teach his son a trade, teaches him to be a thief"

- Carpentry was Joseph's trade

Spiritual lessons

- As a Jew Jesus started to learn the Bible at age 5
- He started to hear the Law / Torah at age 10
- At age 12 he is talking with the teachers at the Temple, listening and asking questions
- Jesus probably memorized much of the OT since it was expensive to own scripture

3. The importance of ritual

Joseph presented / dedicated his son to God

- Mark of God (Circumcised on 8th day)
- Redeemed him (1st born son belongs to God, Joseph gave an offering to buy Jesus back)
- Presented at the Temple

"When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord"), and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: "a pair of doves or two young pigeons."

-Luke 2:22-24, NIV

- Parents, have you dedicated your kids in public worship? Have you followed Jesus in Baptism? Is Sunday Worship and Bible study part of your weekly example of *ritual*?

-

Final thoughts:

**God makes good fathers;
good fathers raise good children**