

Sunday - June 21, 2020

What is a Father?

Dr. Jim Cooley, First Baptist Birmingham

Today's Scripture: Mark 9:17-24

¹⁷ Then one of the crowd answered and said, "Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit. ¹⁸ And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not."

¹⁹ He answered him and said, "O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me." ²⁰ Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth.

²¹ So He asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?"

And he said, "From childhood. ²² And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us."

²³ Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes."

²⁴ Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!"

THIS FATHER WAS A MAN OF INTENSE LOVE

- A father's love should be both practical and intense
- You will never be able to love your children the way they need and deserve to be loved unless the love of Christ is flowing through you

THIS FATHER CAME TO JESUS WITH AN OVERWHELMING NEED

“I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit. And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth and becomes rigid...And often, he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him.” Mark 9:17-18, 22

- The job of being a father is a lot bigger than I am. It is bigger than you as well
- A father should pray for his children. Not out of a sense of duty, but from a real awareness of need

THIS FATHER REVEALED A TRUE HUMILITY

“If You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.” Mark 9:22

“If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes” Mark 9:23

“Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!” Mark 9:24

- A Godly father recognizes the constant need to bring his own life to the Lord
- It is in becoming humble that a man becomes great

THIS FATHER DID THE MOST IMPORTANT THING HE COULD DO

- He brought his child to Jesus