

Fil-Am Community Church

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15 June 2014

“HOW TO BE A GODLY FATHER”

Good morning! Happy Father's Day to all our good-looking fathers. Amen?

Actually, this is part 1 of our celebration because, our women have prepared a special presentation for our men next week in the school. If this is your first time here, you may want join us in the school.

This morning, I'll do something different. Never attempted before, at least in our church as far as I know. I'll give you a message that is pointless. I don't mean that this message doesn't have any meaning. What I mean is that this message doesn't have point 1, point 2, point 3, as you've been accustomed to. I'll just go through this continuously, won't break for points and, hopefully, still get my point across. And that's why you don't have an outline or a PowerPoint. It's pointless. And you'll be happy to know that since this is pointless, it'll be shorter than usual.

Let me start by reading to you a news article that appeared on the web site of WMC-TV a year ago:

This year's summer vacation has been anything but boring for a family driving through Memphis. A Texas dad thought his kids were kidnapped Monday morning when they left him behind at a gas station. The man, who did not want to give his name, said he was left behind after stopping on New Brunswick Road to eat and fill up the gas tank near the LaQuinta Inn.

According to the father, "Somebody had been sleeping all night in the back and they were going to drive and I was going to get in the back and sleep. I went

inside to get my change for the gas and they thought I was already loaded up and closed all the doors and took off."

The dad did try to call his own cell phone, which was still in the van, but nobody answered it.

And he said, "Six different cell phones and nobody answers and my phone is in there because it's on the charger and nobody answers it and then it starts going straight to voicemail. I mean, that's odd."

The father said since he thought his children were kidnapped, he called the police. But it was a social media site that helped him find his family. The guy used a computer from a local motel to contact somebody via Facebook, who helped him reach his family. The van was about 100 miles away by the time he made contact with his family. The dad feels confident the entire incident was simply a huge mistake.

Fathers, can you relate to this man? I know we don't like to say much about it, but the truth is many of us feel like we have been forgotten. We know that if Mom was gone for more than two minutes the whole house would fall apart, but some of us get the feeling that we dads could be gone for a week and no one would notice, unless something got broken and they needed us to fix it.

A little boy was asked what Father's Day is and he said, "It's just like Mother's Day,..... only you don't have to spend as much on the gift."

Today we want to discover how to be a Father that is remembered for more than just being available when something needs fixed. We want to know how to be remembered as a godly father.

Do you want to be remembered as a godly father? It's simple. Just "walk with God." One father who walked with God is Enoch. We find his story in Genesis 5:21-24, where it says, "*When Enoch had lived 65 years, he became the father of Methuselah. 22 After he became the father of Methuselah, Enoch walked*

faithfully with God 300 years and had other sons and daughters. 23 Altogether, Enoch lived a total of 365 years. 24 Enoch walked faithfully with God; then he was no more, because God took him away.”

What does it mean to walk with God? It means TO GO IN GOD’S DIRECTION.

Now you’ve got to realize, that God’s direction is up, and man’s is down. Rom.3:23, for example, says that “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”. In order to walk in God’s direction we’ve got to turn around, that is, repent. So it means a conversion experience. Enoch was born into sin as we all are. From all indications he had been living a sinful, wicked, ungodly life, running around with the ungodly crowd of his day. But something happened, that changed his life, that caused him to repent and go in God’s direction. Did you catch it as we read his story?

Note verse 22 *“After he became the father of Methuselah, Enoch walked faithfully with God”*. After the birth of his first son, he turned his life over to God and began to go in God’s direction. The Bible doesn’t say exactly what happened to cause him to change his ways. Perhaps, suddenly he began to realize the immense responsibilities of fatherhood. Perhaps, he was praying for a baby boy for a long time and he was overwhelmed by this miracle. Or perhaps, it was just a matter of fact narration that something happened after his first son was born. Whatever it is, he surely repented and went in God’s direction. Notice he walked faithfully. That tells me he did not veer to the left or the right, but walked alongside of God. For the next 300 years Enoch walked in God’s direction.

Fathers, are you walking with the ungodly crowd instead of walking with God? Are you focused on the material and now instead of the spiritual and eternal? I hope you are. Because nothing can be more rewarding than to walk with God. Can you walk with him for the next 20, 30, 40, 50 years of your life?

As you walk with God, there will be challenges. You will face troubles, temptations, crisis, and what have you. You see, Jesus did not promise a trouble-free life. What he did promise is his power to conquer as you walk with God.

He says in John 16:33, *“In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”*

Jesus overcomes your troubles, not you. He does it for you because he loves you. All you need to do is to walk with him by faith. In Heb.11:5, we read *“By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death... before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God”*. Because he had walked by faith, Enoch pleased God. The next verse says, *“And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.”*

Enoch lived at a time when people were so wicked. Enoch was the great-grandfather of Noah. And he might have preached against wicked people which became Noah’s job, too, until God sent the great flood. During Enoch’s time, people were going their own ways. People were doing what they wanted to do. Much like in our own time. They did not believe in God. They did not want God to control their lives. But in the midst of this ungodly environment, Enoch believed that God exists and he was in control.

So, what does walking by faith mean? Basically it is confidence that God is reliable. That he is good all the time. And walking by faith means you walk forward in God’s direction with total confidence in Him. You don’t have to see around the bends in the road, cause He does. Not by sight, even though the door may appear closed.

For example, my wife Anabel always walks by faith into Wal-Mart. She has confidence those doors will open. Enoch did. Fathers, do you? Christians, do you? How do you do that? Well, we have a guide – a compass – the Holy Spirit. Just as

the spirit of shopping leads Anabel towards those closed doors at Wal-Mart, the Holy Spirit leads us towards closed doors. They may be closed but as we obey the promptings of the Holy Spirit, those doors open wide. So, don't fret. Don't worry. There may be a big block ahead of you. You don't have to doubt the Holy Spirit. God will make a way when there's seems to be no way, to quote Don Moen.

So, walk in God's direction, and continue walking in His direction by faith and you will be a Godly dad.

But let me tell you, you cannot walk with God unless you enjoy his companionship. "Walk" is the Biblical expression for fellowship and obedience to the Lord. Walking with God means unbroken communion and fellowship with God. It means not only walking with him but talking with him. You do that by praying. Undoubtedly, Enoch was a walker and talker with God. You see, a Godly father is a man of prayer. A man on his knees. He always wants to communicate with God.

Men are not naturally good communicators. Sometimes, they do not always say what they mean. Ladies, please allow me to translate what men actually mean when they say these things:

When a man says "IT WOULD TAKE TOO LONG TO EXPLAIN" He generally means: "I have no idea how it works."

When a man says: "TAKE A BREAK HONEY. YOU ARE WORKING TOO HARD"..... He really means: "I can't hear the game over the vacuum cleaner".

When we say "I HEARD YOU."

It means: "I haven't the foggiest clue what you just said and I am hoping desperately that I can fake it well enough so that you will not spend the next 3 days telling me I never listen to you,"

And lastly, when a guy says, "That's not what I meant."

He means: "If something I saidcan be interpreted two ways,and one of the ways makes you sad or angry,I meant the other one.

Am I speaking the truth here ladies?

Fathers, when you talk to God, you can tell him everything in your heart. You don't have to be afraid or be ashamed or hold back anything. Just tell it as it is. Even your frustrations, disappointments, just give it to him. He will understand. I'm sure that's what Enoch did. That's why he can walk faithfully with God for 300 years. For 300 years, he did not cease praying.

We've already mentioned the Holy Spirit is our guiding compass. Well, the Bible is our guiding light. The Bible says in Psalm 119:105 *"Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path"*. As we read the Bible, God speaks to us. There were instances in my own life that when I prayed and asked God for direction, and then I opened his Word, he answered right there from his word. He shows me the way.

Fathers, do your children see you reading the Bible? Do they see you pray? Do you teach them to pray? Do you lead your family in prayer and in reading the Bible. Some say "Too busy." You're saying, "You're too busy for fellowship with God." Enoch was busy too. He had a family to take care of. A job to go to. He was a preacher too. Yet he was able to keep up his walk with God.

Now, as you walk with God in prayer and in reading the Bible, you become a strong witness for him. Because as you walk with God closely, he empowers you and makes you bold against godlessness. He changes you and transforms you. You would stay away from things that don't please God. You walk the talk. And that is the best example you can give your children. As you live your life in a godly way, they will want to copy you.

Are you walking with God? The best way to describe it is like the little girl who came home from Sunday School and told this story of Gen. 5. She says,

"It seems that every day God would come by Enoch's house and say 'Enoch would you like to walk with me?' And Enoch would come out of the house, go down to the gate, and down the road with God.

He got to the place in his life, he enjoyed it so much, he'd wait at the gate everyday. And he and God would go for a walk. Then one day, God came by and said, 'Enoch, lets take a long walk. I have much to tell you.' So they were walking and walking and finally Enoch said, 'My, it's getting late in the afternoon. I'd better get back home!' And God said, 'Enoch, you're closer to My home than you are to your home; so you come home with Me.' So Enoch went home with God."

I can't put it any better than that. Enoch never died physically. He was translated to heaven, as some Bible versions say. He did not taste death because he walked with God faithfully. He was a godly father in an ungodly world.

Fathers, are you walking with God? Christian, are you walking with God?

Let us pray...