

Qualities of a Godly Father

Mark 5:22-43

22 And, behold, there cometh one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name; and when he saw him, he fell at his feet, 23 And besought him greatly, saying, My little daughter lieth at the point of death: *I pray thee*, come and lay thy hands on her, that she may be healed; and she shall live. 24 And *Jesus* went with him; and much people followed him, and thronged him.

35 While he yet spake, there came from the ruler of the synagogue's *house certain* which said, Thy daughter is dead: why troublest thou the Master any further? 36 As soon as *Jesus* heard the word that was spoken, he saith unto the ruler of the synagogue, Be not afraid, only believe. 37 And he suffered no man to follow him, save Peter, and James, and John the brother of James. 38 And he cometh to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and seeth the tumult, and them that wept and wailed greatly. 39 And when he was come in, he saith unto them, Why make ye this ado, and weep? the damsel is not dead, but sleepeth. 40 And they laughed him to scorn. But when he had put them all out, he taketh the father and the mother of the damsel, and them that were with him, and entereth in where the damsel was lying. 41 And he took the damsel by the hand, and said unto her, Talitha cumi; which is, being interpreted, Damsel, I say unto thee, arise. 42 And straightway the damsel arose, and walked; for she was *of the age* of twelve years. And they were astonished with a great astonishment. 43 And he charged them straitly that no man should know it; and commanded that something should be given her to eat.

Introduction:

1. Today is a special day for many of the men here.

2. Today has been set aside to honor fathers.
3. The National Center for Fathering sponsors a yearly “Father of the Year Essay Contest.” Often over 100,000 school children submit short essays on the topic, “What My Father Means to Me.”
 - a. A first grader wrote, “My dad is the best dad ever. I would kiss a pig for him.”
 - b. A third grader wrote, “The dad in my life isn’t really my dad. He’s my grandpa. But he’s been like a dad to me since before I was born. I hope that when I get older grandpa will teach me all the stuff he knows about wood, and first-aid, and everything else he knows about. My grandpa isn’t my father but I wouldn’t trade him for all the dads in the world. “
 - c. A fourth grader wrote, “Sometimes as a joke I’ll put my stinky socks in his briefcase so at work the next day he will think of me! He’s always at the concerts and plays that I’m in even though he lives about an hour away.”
 - d. A fifth grade girl wrote, “You know what else my dad does? He braids my hair. I’m the only girl I know whose dad braids her hair. I think that’s a perfect dad. He already is the world’s greatest dad to me. I just wanted everyone to know that.”
4. Being a father is one of the great joys in life.
 - a. I am blessed to have 4 children and very thankful for that wonderful opportunity.
 - b. But as I consider the blessings, I am also reminded of the responsibilities.
 - c. God has entrusted us with a unique position along with an expectation to fulfill our obligations to the family.
5. Our text reveals a man who serves as a role model for fathers.

- a. Although time and cultures change, the responsibilities of fathers do not.
- b. The qualities that Jairus possessed ought to be pursued today.
- c. So today, let's examine The Qualities of a Godly Father.

I. A FATHER'S PRIORITY - VS 22A

22 And, behold, there cometh one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name....

1. Jairus was a ruler in the synagogue.
 - a) *He was a man of position, prestige, and power.*
 - b) *He had a prominent place in society.*
 - c) *He was regarded as a man of influence, in charge of the local assembly at the synagogue.*
2. At first glance, all that seems wonderful.
 - a) *Jairus had it all but at this moment none of it mattered*
 - b) *Because Jairus is now in a difficult situation.*
 - c) *His only daughter, according to Luke, was dying. All the prestige and power he had couldn't help her.*
3. He had heard about a Man named Jesus who he believed could heal her.
 - a) *But, Jesus was not accepted by the religious rulers.*
 - b) *He was viewed as a blasphemer who claimed to be the Son of God.*
 - c) *The Pharisees desired to get rid of Jesus. He was upsetting their way of religion.*
 - d) *If Jairus went to Jesus, what about those with whom he worshipped. He would likely lose all that he had worked so hard to achieve.*
4. Jairus made a profound decision; he decided to put his family ahead of his own personal achievements.

- a) *Jairus made his daughter the priority of his life.*
 - b) *He was willing to risk it all to get her to Jesus.*
5. Men, what a lesson for us today!
- a) *Our positions, prestige, places of business, and accomplishments should not come at the expense of our families.*
 - b) *We need to understand and fulfill our obligations to them.*
 - c) *Getting our children in the presence of Jesus will be the greatest thing we can achieve!*
 - d) *A godly father will have his priorities in order: God, family, and then self.*

A Father's Priority....

II. A FATHER'S PETITION - VS 22B-23

- Jairus made his way through the crowd of people in search of Jesus.
- He decided that he must get to Jesus for his daughter.
- He would plead for help from Jesus.
- He pushed through the crowd and up ahead he saw Jesus
- There are a couple of things worth mentioning about his petition.

A. His Humility - vs 22b

22b ...and when he saw him, he fell at his feet,

1. Here is Jairus, the ruler of the synagogue, a man who has others in submission to him, bowing at the feet of Jesus.
2. He laid aside his pride and dignity.
3. He wasn't concerned with the opposition or prejudice of others.
4. He has put his position, with all its security, fame, and authority on the line.
5. He humbled himself before the Lord.
6. Jairus did not come to Jesus in the night like Nicodemus
7. We need fathers who will do that in our day.

- a) *We need to come humbly before the Lord in prayer and supplication for our children.*
- b) *Our families need fathers who will spend some time at the feet of Jesus!*

B. His Faith - vs 23

23 And besought him greatly, saying, My little daughter lieth at the point of death: *I pray thee, come and lay thy hands on her, that she may be healed; and she shall live.*

1. Jairus was confident that Jesus could bring healing to his daughter.
2. "I cannot heal my daughter, but I believe that You can." - What a statement of faith
3. She was at the point of death, but he knew that Jesus had the power to overcome any problem.
4. Notice the extent of his faith: she shall live.
 - a) *Jairus was aware that the situation was beyond his control.*
 - b) *There was nothing he could do no matter how desperately he tried.*
 - c) *He trusted the Lord for things he couldn't provide.*
5. When we face situations within our families that are beyond our control, and they are many, trust in Jesus
 - a) *I'm glad there is hope for those who believe in and trust Him*
 - b) *Honor Jesus with your faith; expect Him to do the unexpected!*

A Father's Petition...

III. A FATHER'S PERSISTENCE

- Jairus had made it to Jesus, but they weren't home yet.
- As they began to make their way to Jairus' house the crowds continued to follow.

- The Bible doesn't record anything that Jairus says during this time, but I'm sure there were some tense moments.
- Time was of the essence; his daughter may not make it until they arrived.
- In the face of great difficulty Jairus continued to believe
- He wasn't about to give up on Jesus.
- The text reveals three areas that his faith was tested, and yet he was persistent.

A. A Time of Delay - vs 24

24 And Jesus went with him; and much people followed him, and thronged him.

1. In the verses that we didn't read is the account of the woman with the issue of blood.
 - a) *She had come with a great need, but while Jesus was ministering to her there was a delay in getting to Jairus' daughter.*
 - b) *His faith remained persistent in time of delay.*
 - c) *He had placed his need in the hands of Jesus and fully trusted Him to provide for his daughter.*
2. We must learn this great truth.
 - a) *God doesn't always work when we think He should.*
 - b) *There are times when we feel that God has denied or forgotten our request.*
 - c) *Remember that a delay doesn't necessarily mean a denial. God works in His time and He is never late.*
3. We may not always understand what God is doing in our lives, but we must trust Him in those times when it seems that nothing is happening for our benefit at all.

B. A Time of Despair - vs 35-36

35 While he yet spake, there came from the ruler of the synagogue's house certain which said, Thy daughter is dead: why troublest thou the Master any further? 36 As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, he saith unto the ruler of the synagogue, Be not afraid, only believe.

1. As Jairus patiently waited on Jesus he heard some dreadful news, his daughter had died.
 - a) *Those who brought the news said, she has died, there's no need to bother Jesus any longer!*
 - b) *He had done all he could and she was gone.*
 - c) *I can't imagine how Jairus must have felt at that moment*
 - d) *His dreams and hopes were instantly shattered and broken*
 - e) *I wonder if he thought to himself, "If that woman with the issue of blood had not interrupted us Jesus would have healed her before she died."*
2. Jairus remained persistent in his faith.
 - a) *As he stood there Jesus said, Be not afraid, only believe.*
 - b) *This means "Keep on believing, there's no limit to what faith in the power of God can do."*
 - c) *We will all face those difficult times of despair, when it seems all hope is lost.*
 - d) *At that time don't abandon your faith in Jesus.*
 - e) *When unexpected problems crop up, stay close to the Savior.*
 - f) *When other people seem blessed and you seem forgotten, stay close to the Savior.*
 - g) *When your situation seems hopeless, stay close to the Savior.*
 - h) *When things seem worse than ever, stay close to the Savior.*

C. A Time of Doubt - vs 38-40

38 And he cometh to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and seeth the tumult, and them that wept and wailed greatly. 39 And when he was come in, he saith unto them, Why make ye this ado, and weep? the damsel is not dead, but sleepeth. 40 And they laughed him to scorn. But when he had put them all out, he taketh the father and the mother of the damsel, and them that were with him, and entereth in where the damsel was lying.

1. A sad situation had changed into an impossible situation - she is no longer just sick, she is dead
2. When they arrived at Jairus' home a group of mourners had already gathered.
 - a) *Jesus proclaimed that she isn't dead, only asleep.*
 - b) *With that the people begin to laugh and mock Jesus*
3. The mourners didn't have the faith that Jairus had.
 - a) *They haven't spent any time at His feet; they haven't heard His voice of comfort; they haven't seen the miracle that Jesus has just performed.*
 - b) *Jairus was still persistent in his faith.*
 - c) *He would trust Jesus no matter who else did.*
4. Make sure that your faith isn't dependent upon the attitude or opinions of others.
 - a) *The world may look at your situation and declare that there is no hope, but keep on trusting in Jesus.*
 - b) *They don't know what you know.*
 - c) *They haven't labored in prayer; they haven't heard His words of comfort as you have; they know nothing of the power of the God we serve.*

IV. A FATHER'S PRIVILEGE - VS 41-42

41 And he took the damsel by the hand, and said unto her, Talitha cumi; which is, being interpreted, Damsel, I say unto thee, arise. 42 And straightway the damsel arose, and walked; for she was *of the age* of twelve years. And they were astonished with a great astonishment.

1. What began as a day of despair and uncertainty ended in a day of deliverance and rejoicing.
2. Jesus raised their only child from the dead.
3. Jairus was a man of influence before a lot of people in the synagogue, but on this day he was a man of influence in his own home.
 - a) *His daughter was raised up because of her encounter with Jesus.*
 - b) *Jairus was the key to her meeting the Master.*
 - c) *Had he not sought out the Lord, she likely would've been buried, separated from her family.*
 - d) *Because of his commitment to his family, as a faithful father, his daughter had been given life.*
4. We need to be all that we can be for the Lord so that they can see Jesus in us and desire what we have!
 - a) *I'm sure that Jairus' daughter remembered his love and concern for her more than the position that he had in the synagogue.*
 - b) *What will our children remember about us?*

Conclusion:

1. When my son was a small boy playing with his buddies in the back yard, I overheard them talking. The conversation was amusing- it was one of those "my dad can whip your dad" kind of conversations. One little boy said proudly, "My dad knows the mayor of the town!" Then I heard another boy answer, "So what! My dad knows the governor of the state!" I wondered what was coming next in the progression of

bragging and I heard the voice of my son. "That's nothing! My dad knows God!"

I swiftly slipped away from my place of eavesdropping with tears running down my cheeks. I dropped to my knees in my room and prayed earnestly and gratefully, "Oh God, I pray that my boy will always be able to say, "My dad knows God."

I hope and pray that on this Father's Day, as we men gather to worship, our kids and all the kids of the church family will be able to say, "They know God."