



PROVERBS 4:1-4, 20-23  
JOHN 4:7-14

JUNE 21, 2020

FATHERS DAY  
PREACHER: THE REV. ALFRED T.K. ZADIG, JR.

*The Church on Fire*

THE REV. ALFRED T.K. ZADIG, JR.

WELL, ONE OF THE UNIQUENESSES OF LIVING THROUGH THIS PANDEMIC HAS BEEN THE 669 BILLION DOLLAR BUSINESS LOAN PROGRAM...CALLED: THE PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM, KNOWN AS PPP. PPP HAS A SINGLE GOAL, TO KEEP WORKERS IN BUSINESSES AND NON-PROFITS EMPLOYED! SOME HAVE SAID THAT BECAUSE OF THIS EMERGENCY MONEY, 30 MILLION JOBS AND MANY INSTITUTIONS HAVE BEEN SAVED.

BUT THE PANDEMIC HAS REVEALED THERE ARE OTHER INSTITUTIONS THAT NEED TO BE SAVED IN OUR CULTURE RIGHT NOW, CHIEF AMONG THEM IS THE SACRED INSTITUTION OF THE FAMILY.

**WE ARE IN NEED OF A PPP PROGRAM FOR THE FAMILY-BECAUSE WE CONTINUE TO HAVE A CRISIS OF FATHER-LESSNESS IN OUR CULTURE. LET ME BE MORE POINTED. WHAT DO I SEE BEHIND SO MUCH OF THE CIVIL UNREST IN OUR COUNTRY?**

**WIDESPREAD FATHERLESSNESS...WHITE, BLACK, BADGE-NO BADGE.**

**IT WAS THAT PURITAN PASTOR RICHARD BAXTER WHO SAID:**

**WE WILL NOT SEE REFORMATION IN CULTURE, UNTIL WE SEE REFORMATION IN THE FAMILY...AND FAMILY REFORMATION STARTS WITH FATHERS.**

**FOR MANY///TODAY MIGHT BE CALLED: FATHER-LESS DAY...JESUS UNKNOWN, THEIR OWN FATHER...UNKNOWN..**

**RIGHT NOW, 19.7 MILLION CHILDREN, OR 1 OUT OF EVERY 4 CHILDREN IN AMERICA LIVE WITH NO FATHER IN THE HOME.**

**WHEN A CHILD IS RAISED IN A FATHER-ABSENT HOME, BAD THINGS HAPPEN:**

**FATHERLESS CHILDREN:**

**ARE 4 TIMES MORE LIKELY TO LIVE IN POVERTY, 2 TIMES MORE LIKELY TO DROP OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL, 2 TIMES MORE LIKELY TO BE OBSESE, MORE LIKELY TO FACE ABUSE AND NEGLECT AND MORE LIKELY TO ABUSE DRUGS AND ALCOHOL, COMMIT A CRIME AND GO TO PRISON**

**THE INSTITUTION OF FATHERHOOD IS IN CRISIS, 1 OUT OF 4...+**

**MANY FATHERS CHOOSING INSTEAD TO BE GROWN UP ADOLESENTS..**

**FATHERHOOD NEEDS A PPP BAILOUT!**

**SO, ON THIS FATHERS DAY, LET ME PUT BEFORE YOU A PPP PLAN FOR ALL FATHERS.**

NOW 2 QUICK DISCLAIMERS..

FIRST, I USE ACRONYMNS NOT TO BE CLEVER BUT TO CREATE A MEMORY HOOK FROM THE SERMON SO TOMORROW YOU REMEMBER WHAT I'VE SAID..BY THE END OF THIS SERMON YOU WILL BE ABLE TO RECALL THE PPP PLAN OF FATHERHOOD..

SECOND DISCLAIMER..

JUST BECAUSE I'M PREACHING ON FATHERHOOD, DOESN'T MEAN I'M NOT SPEAKING TO ALL OF YOU.

MEN, I KNOW SOME OF YOU AREN'T FATHERS.. BUT PERHAPS YOU'RE A GODFATHER, AN UNCLE, A MENTOR...I ALSO KNOW THERE ARE BRAND NEW AND SOON TO BE FATHERS...

I'M ALSO SPEAKING TO WOMEN, YES MARRIED AND SINGLE WOMEN...  
**TO GIVE YOU A VISION OF WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN A CHRISTIAN MAN!**

FOR WOMEN NOT LOOKING FOR MARRIAGE,  
**THIS SERMON IS FOR YOU SO YOU KNOW HOW TO PRAY FOR FATHERS TODAY.**

AND TO OUR CHILDREN,  
**WHAT I PRAY YOU WILL LOOK FOR IN YOUR FATHERS AND THE FATHERS YOU WANT TO BE!**

SO LET ME TAKE YOU ALL TO THE STORY OF KING DAVID AND HIS SON SOLOMON.

LAST TUESDAY IN OUR BIBLE IN A YEAR READING WE WERE ABLE TO BE FLIES ON THE WALL WHEN KING DAVID GAVE HIS FINAL EARTHLY WORDS TO SOLOMON..

FIRST KINGS:2:

WHEN DAVID'S TIME TO DIE APPROACHED, HE CHARGED HIS SON SOLOMON, SAYING, "I'M ABOUT TO DIE, BUT YOU—BE STRONG; BE OBEDIENT TO GOD..  
**WALK IN HIS WAY.**

IN MANY WAYS SOLOMON WOULD FOLLOW THAT WORD...THE PROOF IS THE BOOK OF PROVERBS WHICH SOLOMON WROTE FOR THE NEXT GENERATION SO THEY WOULD KNOW HOW TO FOLLOW GOD'S WAY.

SOLOMON BEGINS IN TODAY'S READING:

LISTEN TO THE INSTRUCTION OF A FATHER, GIVE ATTENTION THAT YOU MAY GAIN UNDERSTANDING, DO NOT ABANDON THEIR TEACHING, DO NOT LET THEM DEPART FROM YOUR SIGHT, KEEP THEM IN YOUR HEART.++

THIS ALL BECAME VERY REAL TO ME SEVERAL YEARS AGO AFTER ATTENDING A CONFERENCE BY VODDIE BAUCHAM...

**HE WAS RAISED IN A NON-CHRISTIAN SINGLE PARENT HOME...CAME TO CHRIST IN COLLEGE AND NOW HIMSELF IS A HUSBAND, FATHER, PASTOR, AUTHOR, PROFESSOR AND CHURCH PLANTER IN TEXAS.**

LISTEN TO HOW HE NAMED THE CONFERENCE...IT WAS THIS:

**WHAT HE MUST BE**

**TO MARRY MY DAUGHTER...**

I LOVE IT..SO, IN THE SPIRIT OF DAVID TO SOLOMON, AND HIGHLIGHTING VODDIE'S TEACHINGS..

LET ME GIVE YOU A PPP ABLE TO SAVE FATHERHOOD TODAY.

THE FIRST ROLE OF THE FATHER,  
IS TO BE THE **PROPHET** OF GOD IN YOUR FAMILY.

A PROPHET IN THE OLD TESTAMENT WAS SOMEONE WHO HEARD REVEALED TRUTH FROM GOD.

MEANING..

THE FIRST ROLE OF A FATHER IS TO COMMUNICATE AND LIVE WHAT HE HEARS FROM GOD.

WHAT DO WE HEAR?

LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, MIND AND SOUL...

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF..

NOW...

FOR HUSBANDS, AFTER JESUS, THE NUMBER ONE RELATIONSHIP IN YOUR LIFE IS YOUR SPOUSE...

SHE IS YOUR MOST IMMEDIATE NEIGHBOR, FOLLOWED BY YOUR CHILDREN.

ADORE YOUR BRIDE..LOVE HER AS YOU LOVE YOURSELF!

THE BEST WAY TO LOVE YOUR CHILD IS TO LOVE YOUR CHILDS MOTHER!

IT ALSO MEANS

YOU ARE THE ONES TO TEACH MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE- SCRIPTURE TO YOUR

FAMILY...THINK ABOUT IT,

I ONLY GET 16 PULPIT MINUTES A WEEK WITH YOU..OKAY, MAYBE 18...

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS, MAYBE AN HOUR

THAT LEAVES JUST UNDER 167 HOURS DADS TO BE A PROPHET IN THE HOME...

HOW? LEADING FAMILY DEVOTIONS IN THE HOME...USING GOSPEL PROJECT...OR OTHER STUDIES..BEFORE BREAKFAST OR AFTER DINNER...SIMPLY READING THE BIBLE, GOD'S VOICE TO YOUR FAMILY.++

SO, IN THIS PPP INITIATIVE...FATHERS, FATHER FIGURES, LADIES, LOOK FOR A MAN WHO WILL GLADLY TAKE UP THE ROLE OF PROPHET IN THE HOME.++

THE SECOND WAY OF LIVING INTO PAUL'S UNDERSTANDING OF HEADSHIP IS TO LIVE INTO YOUR ROLE AS PRIEST IN THE HOUSE. DON'T PANIC, I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT SLAPPING A COLLAR ON YOU, BUT IN THE BIBLE, A PRIEST DID TWO THINGS...

- A PRIEST WENT BEFORE GOD ON HIS KNEES ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE... AND
- WENT BEFORE THE PEOPLE ON BEHALF OF GOD..

YOU SEE...**JESUS DIED** TO SEE VERTICAL HEALING AND SAVING BETWEEN HUMANS AND GOD...

EARTHLY FATHERS IN THE SAME WAY, AS PRIEST, WE ARE CALLED ON DAILY TO DIE TO SELF TO GO BEFORE GOD ON BEHALF OF OUR FAMILY...THIS MEANS PRAYING FOR YOUR FAMILY BY NAME EVERY DAY, DYING TO YOUR EARLY MORNING SCHEDULE AND APPOINTMENTS, AND BECOMING AS PRIEST:

THE CHIEF INTERCESSOR, THE CHIEF CONFESSOR FOR YOUR FAMILY BEFORE GOD, THE CHIEF MODELLER OF HUMILITY..KNOWING THEIR SUFFERING AND JOY, KNOWING THEIR NEEDS ENOUGH TO INTERCEDE BEFORE THEM TO THE FATHER...

BUT THEN, ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THINGS...GOING BEFORE THE PEOPLE- ON GOD'S BEHALF..

FATHERS DO WE KNOW OUR CHILDREN WELL ENOUGH TO KNOW IF THEY ARE PURSUING A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD? DO YOU EVER ASK THEM QUESTIONS ABOUT THEIR FAITH? DO WE WITH GRACE, TRUTH AND LOVE CONFRONT THEM WHEN SIN EMERGES? DO WE STICK WITH THEM IN FAITHFULNESS THROUGH THE STORMS OF LIFE? GIVING THEM YOUR MOST PRECIOUS COMMODITY, TIME.

I FIND THE STORY ABOUT CHARLES ADAMS, THAT 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY POLITICIAN AND DIPLOMAT VERY REVEALING.

CHARLES ADAMS THE FATHER KEPT A DIARY AND ONE DAY ENTERS THIS: I WENT FISHING WITH MY SON TODAY, **A DAY WASTED.**

HIS SON BROOK ADAMS, ALSO KEPT A DIARY, WHICH IS STILL IN EXISTENCE... ON THAT SAME DAY BROOK MAKES THIS ENTRY:

**WENT FISHING WITH MY FATHER TODAY, THE MOST WONDERFUL DAY OF MY LIFE..**

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FATHER AS PRIEST, REACHING INTO THE FAMILY, RESTORING IT TO GOD...THIS ROLE OF PRIEST ECHOES THAT OF OUR REDEEMER JESUS, SENT TO RESTORE US TO THE FATHER,

AS OUR EARTHLY FATHER IS CALLED TO HELP RESTORE DAILY HIS FAMILY TO THE FATHER.++

IN THIS PPP INITIATIVE...FATHERS, FATHER FIGURES, LADIES, LOOK FOR A MAN WHO WILL GLADLY TAKE UP THE ROLE OF PROPHET AND PRIEST IN THE HOME.

BUT THERE IS ONE MORE ROLE, ECHOING THAT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT..AND THAT IS, FATHER AS PROVIDER..NOW I KNOW FATHERS, WHEN I SAY WE NEED TO BE THE PROVIDERS WE THINK IMMEDIATELY OF FINANCIAL SECURITY..

IN FACT, AS ONE MAN SAID...

**A FATHER IS A MAN WHO HOPES TO HAVE ENOUGH MONEY ON FATHERS DAY-TO PAY THE BILLS FROM MOTHERS DAY!**

WE ALSO THINK ITS OUR 1<sup>ST</sup> DUTY IS TO PROVIDE THE BEST: EDUCATION, SCHOOLS AND SPORTS PROGRAMS..NOW....HOW CAN I SAY THIS ITS HEARD AROUND THE WORLD...

EDUCATION, SCHOOLS, SPORTS...**IS SECONDARY, TO PROVIDING THE PATH OF SALVATION!** WE CAN'T BE SO PRE-OCCUPIED WITH MAKING SURE THEY GET INTO A GOOD 4 YEAR COLLEGE EXPERIENCE, THAT WE SAY...

**“REGARDING HEAVEN, ETERNITY AND FOREVER? OH, YOU’RE ON YOUR OWN!”**

**DON’T YOU FATHERS WANT TO BE WITH YOUR CHILDREN IN HEAVEN?”**

I KNOW OUR CHILDREN AT SOME POINT HAVE TO MAKE THEIR OWN DECISION ABOUT SALVATION, BUT THE ROLE OF FATHER, GODFATHER, UNCLES AND GRANDFATHERS.. **PROVIDING** THE PATH, THE EQUIPMENT,

AS WE’VE STUDIED ON PENTECOST AND TRINITY SUNDAY OVER THE LAST 3 WEEKS..

THE HOLY SPIRIT EXISTS TO PROVIDE FOR US THE TRUTH OF JESUS CHRIST... TO BE THE PROVISION, TO BE OUR FUEL..TO PROVIDE FOR US EVEN A CHRISTIAN VISION FOR THE HOME!++

FATHERS, WHAT VISION DO YOU WANT TO PROVIDE FOR YOUR FAMILY? WHAT DO YOU WANT TO ACCOMPLISH MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE WITH YOUR CHILDREN BEFORE COLLEGE? AS HABAKKUK SAID...WRITE YOUR VISION, MAKE IT PLAIN!

I REMEMBER READING THE VISION OF ONE FAMILY...THE FATHER SIMPLY WROTE:

**MY PRIMARY VISION FOR MY FAMILY IS THAT  
THEY HAVE A VIBRANT AND GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS CHRIST  
AND A LOVE FOR HIS WORD AND HIS CHURCH...  
AND FURTHER THAT EACH OF MY CHILDREN WILL LEARN TO COMMUNICATE THE  
GOSPEL WITH CLARITY AND PASSION!**

IN THIS PPP INITIATIVE...FATHERS, FATHER FIGURES, LADIES, LOOK FOR A MAN WHO WILL GLADLY TAKE UP THE ROLE OF PROPHET, PRIEST AND PROVIDER OF THE VISION IN THE HOME.

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HOW ARE YOU DOING WITH THIS? THAT QUESTION COULD BE ANSWERED WITH ANOTHER QUESTION:

*DADS...HOW OFTEN DO YOUR CHILDREN TURN TO YOU FOR ADVICE AND COUNSELING?  
AND*

*HOW OFTEN DO YOU TURN TO YOUR ETERNAL FATHER FOR HIS ADVICE AND COUNSELING?*

*++SOME OF US MIGHT SAY, WOW, I’M OUT...AS FATHER, I’VE FAILED...OR, MY FATHER FAILED ME..I’VE NEVER KNOWN WHAT GOOD FATHERHOOD IS..IT’S TOO LATE FOR ME.*

*++4 YEARS AGO,*

PAUL SCANLON, PASTORING A CHURCH IN ENGLAND ASKED A CHURCH GATHERING OF 400 MEN..HE SAID: HOW MANY OF YOU WANT TO SAY:

**“BUT I AM NOT MY FATHER!”**

IMMEDIATELY 60% OF THE HANDS WENT UP IN THE ROOM..IT OPENED UP SCORES AND SCORES OF HEALING OPPORTUNITIES WITH FATHERS. OUT OF THAT, HIS MINISTRY TO MEN EXPLODED TO THE POINT THAT 4 YEARS AGO, HE WROTE A BOOK CALLED:

*I AM NOT MY FATHER!* IN THE BOOK HE TALKS OF WHAT HE CALLS:

**THE FATHER WOUND.**DEFINED AS THE WOUND MANY FATHERS FROM THEIR FATHERS CARRY IN THEIR HEARTS..MEN WHO SAY..I WAS CHEATED, I NEVER RECEIVED A DAD WHO MODELLED HEADSHIP AS PROPHET, PRIEST AND PROVIDER++

MEN, YOU MIGHT BE LIKE THE SONS OF THE 5 AND A HALF HUSBANDS OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN AS TOLD TODAY IN JOHN 4!

JESUS PROVES THE GIFT OF THE SECOND CHANCE TO THE SAMARITAN WOMAN WHO MARRIED EACH OF THEM..JESUS KNEW HER MORE THAN SHE KNEW HERSELF BY SAYING YOU'VE HAD 5 HUSBANDS NOT INCLUDING THE GUY YOUR LIVING WITH. JESUS GIVES HER THE SECOND CHANCE... BUT I'VE ALWAYS WONDERED ABOUT THOSE 5 AND A HALF HUSBANDS...AND THEIR SONS, THEIR DAUGHTERS..AS THE STORY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN PROVES..JESUS IS LORD OF THE 2<sup>ND</sup> THIRD AND INTO INFINITY CHANCE...

JESUS THROUGH FORGIVENESS SETS US FREE...I'M HERE TO SAY NO MATTER HOW AMAZING YOUR DADDY WAS OR WAS NOT..DADS AND MENTORS, NO MATTER HOW EFFECTIVE OR INEFFECTIVE YOU WERE AND ARE..THERE IS FORGIVENESS, A NEW START AND THE MANDATE THAT SAYS YOU ARE LOVED!

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FATHERS ENROLL IN THE PPP PLAN! IT ISN'T TOO LATE TO BE THAT PRIEST, PROPHET AND PROVIDER.

BUT LIKE EVERY PPP PLAN REQUIRES THE HELP OF A BANK, THE FATHER'S PPP PLAN REQUIRES 2 AGENTS:

THE SPIRITUAL PPP PLAN REQUIRES THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS OUR FUEL, YOUR GAS, FATHERS CALL ON THE HOLY SPIRIT TO BE PRIEST, PROPHET, PROVIDER.

SECONDLY, YOU NEED OTHER MEN AROUND YOU! ISOLATION LEADS TO DEVASTATION...MEN NEED TO MINISTER TO MEN.. THIS OFTEN DOESN'T COME NATURALLY....BUT WE AT ST. MICHAEL'S WILL NEVER GIVE UP..

WHICH IS WHY WE ARE CONTINUALLY WORKING TO SHARPEN MENS MINISTRY THROUGH: FATHERS GROUPS, WEDNESDAY THEOLOGY OVER COFFEE FOR MEN MONDAY MENS GROUPS WITH JOE NICHOLSON...

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YOU KNOW, OVER THE LAST MONTH WE HAVE LOST TWO PPP MEN, THE REV. DR. PETER MOORE AND THE REV. DR. RAVI ZECHARIAS...CERTAINLY TWO OF MY HEROES...

BOTH FUNERALS WERE SUCH CELEBRATIONS OF THE LIVES OF THESE PRIESTS, PROPHETS AND PROVIDERS.IN RAVI'S FUNERAL, HIS DAUGHTER NAOMI SPOKE IN A WAY THAT REDUCED MY WIFE AND ME TO TEARS. IN A PORTION OF WHAT SHE SAID, SHE SAID.. "WHEN MY FATHER WAS AT HIS WEAKEST NEAR DEATH, MY 8 YEAR OLD SON ASKED IF PAPA WAS GOING TO BE OKAY...AS WE STARTED TALKING ABOUT MY DAD, MY SON WAS OVERWHELMED WITH EMOTION AND SAID MOMA

**YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, I CAN'T BE ME WITHOUT PAPA..."**

THE PPP PLAN FOR FATHERS!

FATHER AS **PROPHET**, ECHOING THE VOICE OF GOD IN SCRIPTURE..

FATHER AS **PRIEST**, ECHOING THE VOICE OF JESUS RESTORING THE FAMILY TO THE FATHER

AND FATHER AS **PROVIDER**, ECHOING THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT TO LIVE INTO THE VISION JESUS HAS FOR YOUR FAMILY.

LET US PRAY.