

A Glimpse of the Father's Heart

Sermon Delivered on June 16th, 2019

AM Service

By: Pastor Greg Hocson

Text:

Proverbs 23:22 Hearken unto thy father that begat thee, and despise not thy mother when she is old. 23: Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding. 24: The father of the righteous shall greatly rejoice: and he that begetteth a wise child shall have joy of him. 25: Thy father and thy mother shall be glad, and she that bare thee shall rejoice. 26: My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways. 27: For a whore is a deep ditch; and a strange woman is a narrow pit. 28: She also lieth in wait as for a prey, and increaseth the transgressors among men.

Introduction

Today is Father's Day. It seems like Father's Day is not as big a celebration as Mother's Day. A young boy was asked about Father's Day, said, *"It's just like Mother's Day, only you don't spend much on gifts."*

A dad describes what Father's Day look like in their house this way, *"Father's Day is that one time of the year when I get complete obedience from every member of my family. I tell them not to spend a lot of money on me--and they don't."*

Everyone has an earthly father. But sad to say, **not all fathers are good fathers**. Some fathers are **absentee** fathers, and some are **not positive role models**. For many Father's Day is not a good day. Their memories of father are not good memories. But whether your father was a godly father or not, **you can always look to God the Father as the ultimate example**.

As we celebrate Father's Day, we must remember that there are no perfect earthly fathers. We are all flawed human beings. And **being a father is not an easy task**, especially in our time.

Billy Graham once said, *"A good father is one of the most unsung, unpraised, unnoticed, and yet one of the most valuable assets in our society."*

Fathers need to be **recognized** and need to be **encouraged**. And the observance of Father's Day gives us an **opportunity** to encourage them and to express our special thanks to them for their **love** and **sacrifice**.

I believe we have godly fathers here in our assembly this morning and **every godly father here has great desires for their children**. Every father who loves his children wants to see his children **get saved** and **live for God**. That's the heart of every loving and godly father.

In the text we read this morning, we see a **glimpse of a father's heart** as King Solomon speaks and counsels his own son Rehoboam. But ultimately, this is **the Heavenly Father speaking** to His children **through the book of Proverbs**.

This morning I invite you to **see a glimpse of the heart** not simply of Solomon but the heart of **the Heavenly Father**. Let us see the Father's heart in three headings, namely, the Father's **Exhortation**, the Father's **Satisfaction**, and the Father's **Protection**.

I - The Father's Exhortation

Proverbs 23:22 Hearken unto thy father that begat thee, and despise not thy mother when she is old. 23: Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding. 24: The father of the righteous shall greatly rejoice: and he that begetteth a wise child shall have joy of him.

There are two exhortations here that every father gives his children.

1. Hearken to your father

Proverbs 23:22 Hearken unto thy father that begat thee, and despise not thy mother when she is old.

The first appeal here is for the children to **hearken** or to **listen**. Listen to your father, who brought you into this world, who gave you life, and do not despise your mother when she is old.

One of the **tragedies of our society**, is the **loss of respect** for those in authority. **The problem** of lack of respect **started** within our **homes**. In many homes today, it's the children and grandchildren who rule. They are the authority figures and parents and grandparents bow down to their whims.

We no longer look upon the **wisdom of the elderly**, our **parents**, and our **leaders**. We reject and fail to learn the lessons that they have learned. But a wise child will listen to his father's counsel.

Proverbs 1:5 **A wise man will hear**, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:

It's **only reasonable** and a **matter of honor** and **respect** to listen to the one who **brought you into this world**. It's only reasonable and a matter of honor and respect to listen to the one **who feeds you** and **who pays your school bills**, and **who pays for the clothes on your back**.

Do you want to be wise? Then be swift to hear, slow to speak, and slow to wrath (**James 1:19**). Be quick and ready to listen to what your father and mother had to say.

2. Hold on to the Truth

Proverbs 23:23 **Buy the truth, and sell it not**; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding.

The exhortation of every godly father to his children is not only to hearken unto him but also to **hold on to the truth**. Today, more and more young people are **buying the idea** that there is no

such thing as absolute truth. There is a **growing denial of truth.** Relativism is being promoted in every segment of our society, be it in the **media** or in **colleges** or **universities.** The current and popular notion in our society is that there is no truth! All truth is relative! It is purely subjective. It's maybe true for you but not for me! And **even if there is truth,** it is **unknowable.** This is the growing belief in our society today. And **this is affecting the home and even the church.**

But the Bible is clear that truth exists. Jesus Christ declares that He Himself is the truth.
John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

John 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

John 1:17 For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

So, every godly father counsels his children to buy the truth and sell it not! To “buy the truth and sell it not” means **to put great value on the truth.** Value truth **more than you value** your friends, your clothes, your music, your appearance, your hairstyle, fashion, fame, popularity, sports, job, house, car, food, etc.

Value truth **more than wealth.**

Psalm 119:72 The law of thy mouth is better unto me than thousands of gold and silver.

Value truth **more than food and raiment** (clothing).

Job 23:12 Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food.

God's word is priceless and precious. There are **hidden spiritual treasures that await** those who will **search the Scripture** and value it. Listen to what David says about the word of God ...

Psalm 19:10 **More to be desired are they than gold,** yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.

I wonder if you **have come to that place in your life** where you treasure God's truth more than gold and more than necessary food. O, children and young people, **pay attention** to the exhortations of your father. **Listen** to them. **Embrace** the truth. **Hold on** to the truth. Buy the truth and sell it not! When you have embraced the truth **cleave** to it and **don't trade it in** for earthly profit or passing pleasure. **Let the world know you are not for sale!**

II – The Father's Satisfaction

Proverbs 23:24 The father of the righteous shall greatly rejoice: and he that begetteth a wise child shall have joy of him. 25: Thy father and thy mother shall be glad, and she that bare thee shall rejoice.

Joy and gladness in the children, that's what every godly father wants. O what a blessing to have a home filled with joy and rejoicing and gladness. In these verses we see **what gives a godly father and godly mother pleasure and satisfaction.**

1. When Children Walk in Righteousness

Proverbs 23:24 **The father of the righteous shall greatly rejoice:** and he that begetteth a wise child shall have joy of him. 25: Thy father and thy mother shall be glad, and she that bare thee shall rejoice.

The father whose children live godly has cause for joy. The greatest joy of a godly father comes **when his children live right for the Lord.** It is the greatest joy of every godly father to see his **children walk in truth.**

3 John 4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.

Everything in life may be going well but if you are **not walking in truth** and not living for the Lord, it is **very distressing** to your father and mother.

Proverbs 23:15 My son, if thine heart be wise, my heart shall rejoice, even mine. 16: Yea, my reins shall rejoice, when thy lips speak right things.

The Bible says, that a father has great peace and joy when his children are **living right** and **talking right.** These are the things that give them pleasure and satisfaction **more than a championship trophy,** more than a **game winning shot** or **home run** or **touch down,** more than an **award** from the school, more than any **recognition** you may receive in your life time. The things that make a godly father and a godly mother glad and rejoice is the **simple act of obedience** to the word of God.

2. When Children Walk in Wisdom

Proverbs 23:24 **The father of the righteous shall greatly rejoice:** and he that begetteth a wise child shall have joy of him.

A godly father and mother get pleasure and satisfaction not only when their children walk in righteousness but also **when their children walk in wisdom.**

Notice it **does not say,** *“he that begetteth a **smart** child or an **intellectual** child or a **genius** child shall have joy of him.”*

A godly father would rather have a child who is a ‘C’ student with a **great attitude** and **loving** and **serving God** than a straight ‘A’ student and have a bad attitude. There are too many who are intellectual agnostics and atheists.

Proverbs 10:1 The proverbs of Solomon. **A wise son maketh a glad father:** but a **foolish son** is the **heaviness** of his mother.

Proverbs 28:7 Whoso keepeth the law is a wise son: but he that is a companion of riotous men **shameth** his father.

There are too many young people who are **not acting wisely.** And that is a **grievous** thing to the parents.

But what a pleasure to have children who are wise. **Children, live to make your father and mother joyful!** Make your father and mother happy that you are their child.

III – The Father’s Protection

Proverbs 23:26 My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways. 27: For a whore is a deep ditch; and a strange woman is a narrow pit. 28: She also lieth in wait as for a prey, and increaseth the transgressors among men.

Solomon here asks his son Rehoboam to give him his heart. This is what every godly father asks their children. Give your father your **whole-hearted love** and **respect at all times**. Don’t be the kind of son that’s so nice right before your birthday **because you want** a new pair of shoes. Don’t be the kind of son just really good to get along with **when there’s something you want**. Give your father and mother a **whole-hearted** and **sincere** obedience **at all times**.

This is not only Solomon or earthly fathers asking their children to give them whole-hearted obedience. This is **ultimately the Heavenly Father speaking** through Solomon in this book of Proverbs.

Proverbs 23:26 My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways.

Why give your heart to God? Why does God ask for your heart? God asks you to give your heart to Him because He wants **to protect you**. He doesn’t want you to ruin your life.

We live in a **world** that is **filled with danger**. Danger is everywhere. Not just physical danger but **spiritual** and **moral danger**.

Proverbs 23:27 For a whore is a deep ditch; and a strange woman is a narrow pit. 28: She also lieth in wait as for a prey, and increaseth the transgressors among men.

When Solomon asked his son Rehoboam to give him his heart, he was trying **to protect his son**. He is trying to help his son **from ruining his life**. And that’s exactly what parents want. They want to help their children **from making tragic mistakes**.

Children, do you want to give your father and mother joy and gladness? If you do then listen to their exhortation, work toward their satisfaction and embrace their protection by giving your whole-hearted to them at all times.

Closing Thoughts

Let me close by speaking to the fathers among us.

Proverbs 23:26 My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways.

Fathers, your talk talks and you walk talks, but your walk talks louder than your talk talks. Don’t be the kind of father that says, *“Do as I say, not what I do.”* As fathers, you and I have the responsibility not only to instruct them to be godly but also **to show them how** to be godly.

We are **to model the Christian life**. Fathers and mothers, our children **see us** and **observe us**. They see whether you **come to church**. They see whether you **sing in church**. They see whether you **read your Bible**. They see and hear whether you **pray**. They see what you are **looking at**. They hear what you are listening to. They hear the **words you say** specially at home. Be an example to your children. **Let their eyes observe your ways** as you seek to obey God in your own life.

[Proverbs 23:26 My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways.](#)

None of us are perfect model but be real to your children. May God bless you as you seek to apply these truths in your life!

AMEN!