

A TIME FOR REFLECTION – [Pastor Gene Henderson]

It will be Father's Day again next Sunday. "*Honor your father and your mother. This is the first commandment with a promise.*" (Ephesians 6:2 NLT)

Jesus might have disagreed because the promise that comes with that commandment is "*then you will have a long full life in the land the Lord is giving you*". (Exodus 20:12 NLT) Jesus died a 33, crucified precisely because He called God His Father.

Hours before He died, Jesus said to God: *My Father, if there is any other way, get me out of this.* (Matthew 26:39 Message) And this is the struggle of fatherhood, to know there is no way out. Love your children beyond words. Sacrifice for them, work for them, provide for them, teach them, coach them, and inspire them. Ultimately you cannot protect them from a broken, random, merciless world.

In fact, it's worse than that. Raise your children with strong morals and values and they will try to help those around them. In doing so, they will deny themselves and put themselves at risk. Inevitably they will sacrifice themselves to save the world around them. They see no way out. In our world, suffering is the price of saving.

If we wonder what Jesus felt that night when He asked His Father to be rescued from His suffering, we should also wonder what His Father felt knowing His Son – His perfect Son, His innocent Son, His good-hearted Son, His wise, caring, courageous Son – was about to suffer to save the world.

Fathers can wrap their hearts around their children, but eventually they have to let them go. They have to watch those children who carry their hearts face a troubled, trying world. They have to mend the hearts that world has broken, rebuild the confidence that world has trashed, re-inspire the hope that world has crushed. And re-launch them into that same cold world.

To save it.

That is fatherhood. At once the most fulfilling and frightening task a man undertakes. Sadly, some children face life without an earthly father. Others step into that vacancy and become father figures. And even without that, everyone has a Heavenly Father.

Next Sunday America honors fathers. Not sperm donors, fathers. May we begin and end that honoring process with a tribute to our Heavenly Father.

Welcome!

June 10, 2018



"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so they can have life. I want them to have it in the fullest possible way."

SERVICES

Sunday Morning Worship: 10:30 AM

Unity In Prayer: 6:00 PM

Wednesday – Bible Study: 7:00 PM;

Kid's Club & Youth

Prayer ½ hour before services

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Special Speaker – this morning Pastor Art Henderson will be ministering while the Pastor is away visiting his father.

Wednesday Bible Study – We will have a guest teacher this week. The Pastor will be returning next week.

Snacks For Children – There is a basket in the foyer for donations of snacks for Children’s Church and Wednesday night Kid’s Club.

Ladies Bible Study – this Thursday morning at 10:00 and in the evening at 7:00. The study will be on “Uninvited” by Lysa TerKeurst. Come and learn while fellowshiping.

Missionary Letters – there are new missionary letters on our bulletin boards in the foyer.



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