

# Love You Dad

Bible Study | The Church of God International | June 2, 2018

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# Introduction



This is the beautiful rainy month of June.  
This month is known for its third Sunday –  
Father's Day.



Today, we will talk about that special person in our lives. Yes, our fathers. This message is for all the fathers, would-be fathers and all the fathers' children.



Fathers are God's greatest gift. They stand in the authority of God on earth; being our progenitors. Fathers are God's instruments in giving life and bringing up children in the world.



This bond is stronger than any other human relationship. As such, we are to give them due honor.



Therefore, God gave us a command to honor our fathers and mothers. This command is enshrined as the 5<sup>th</sup> commandment of God. This is the command with a promise.

Notice Exodus 20:12 and Deuteronomy 5:16.



# Exodus 20:12

12 “Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.



# Deuteronomy 5:16

16 “Honor your father and your mother, as the Lord your God has commanded you, so that you may live long and that it may go well with you in the land the Lord your God is giving you.



How Do You Love Your  
Father?



Generally, it is easier to relate to mothers than to fathers. This is because they fill two different roles in our lives.



Mothers fill the nurturing role. Mothers are sensitive and have a keen sense of awareness and discernment with their children. They are more responsive and receptive to their children's needs.



Mothers are more expressive in both verbal and non-verbal communication. There is more emotional connection between a mother and a child than a father and a child. Mothers become natural teachers in the education, training and development of a child.



Fathers fulfill a different role. The connection of a child to a father is often times more rational, practical and pragmatic. Fathers help prepare their children for the realities of the real world. Fathers tend to focus on their children's future.



Their expectations are usually high, and they are sometimes too rough in terms of discipline.

Fathers are not as sensitive to the children as mothers are. A father's role is to instill discipline, morals, values, ethics and principles in the family.



The following Proverbs illustrate the unique roles of the father and the mother. The father provides the “hard side” of instructional upbringing and the mother provides the “soft side” of nurturing and teaching the children.



# Proverbs 1:8

“Listen, my son, to your **father’s instruction** and do not forsake your **mother’s teaching.**”



# Proverbs 6:20

“My son, keep your **father’s command** and do not forsake your **mother’s teaching.**”



# Relationship



How is your relationship with your father? Were there times when you doubted the love of your father? Were there times when you felt distant from him? Have you ever felt uncared for, unappreciated, unloved and unimportant? Even if you have, you will have to honor your father as commanded by Christ.



We do not choose our parents. Neither do parents choose their offspring. God chooses the children for parents. The family relationship is what we build together.



A relationship is built on expectations and experiences. Your relationship with your father depends on what you expect from him. If you expect your father to be like your mother, having the soft skills of nurturing, you might be frustrated.



We need to understand the role of the father in the family. This sets the stage for having a good, if not great, relationship with your father.



The scripture has these instructions for fathers:



# Ephesians 6

1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

2 “Honor your father and mother”—which is the first commandment with a promise—



# Ephesians 6

3 “so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”

4 Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the **training and instruction of the Lord.**



Our earthly father and our Heavenly Father play the same role of instructing us to achieve success in our lives.



# Hebrews 12

5 And have you completely forgotten this word of encouragement that addresses you as a father addresses his son? It says,

“My son, do not make light of the **Lord’s discipline,**

and do not lose heart when he rebukes you,

6 because the **Lord disciplines the one he loves,**

and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son.”



# Hebrews 12

7 Endure hardship as discipline; **God is treating you as his children.** For what children are not disciplined by their father?

8 If you are not disciplined—and everyone undergoes discipline—then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all.



# Hebrews 12

9 Moreover, we have all had **human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it.** How much more should we submit to the Father of spirits and live!

10 They disciplined us for a little while as **they thought best;** but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may **share in his holiness.**



# Hebrews 12

11 No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been **trained by it**.



# Deuteronomy 6

4 Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.

5 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

6 These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts.



# Deuteronomy 6

7 **Impress them on your children.** Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

8 Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads.

9 Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.



# Deuteronomy 6

24 The Lord commanded us to obey all these decrees and to fear the Lord our God, so that we might always prosper and be kept alive, as is the case today.

25 And if we are careful to obey all this law before the Lord our God, as he has commanded us, that will be our righteousness.”



In verse 24, we can glimpse the four (4) important roles of a father; they are:

1. Provider
2. Protector
3. Instructor
4. Role model



# Roles of Fathers



Understanding the immense role of the father allows us to have a closer and more intimate relationship with our own fathers.



The Bible talked very little about Joseph – the  
“adoptive” father of Jesus.



From what little information we have in the scripture, we know that:

1. Jesus had an excellent relationship with Joseph.
2. Jesus honored His father.
3. Joseph attended to his earthly fatherly role to Jesus.
4. Joseph was a good protector, provider, instructor and role model in Jesus' life.



# Provider



Joseph was a carpenter by profession. The word rendered carpenter is the Greek word “Tekton.” Tekton can mean a carpenter, cabinet worker, craftsman, artisan, even a contractor or homebuilder.



A carpenter is a skilled worker; a craftsman. It is possible that Joseph and Jesus were contractors building houses and other structures. It is interesting to note that Jesus made many references to building a house.



# Matthew 7

24 “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

25 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.



# Luke 14

28 “Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it?

29 For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you,

30 saying, ‘This person began to build and wasn’t able to finish.’



The scripture seems to suggest that Joseph was not a wealthy person. He offered a pair of doves as a sacrifice instead of a lamb. If Joseph were a contractor – homebuilder – he would not be poor as well. He could have been middle class by our standard today.



Joseph had a big family. Matthew 13:55 says  
“Isn’t this the carpenter’s son? Isn’t his mother’s  
name Mary, and aren’t his brothers James,  
Joseph, Simon and Judas?”

Jesus had four (4) brothers and at least two (2)  
sisters. Seven (7) siblings at the very least.  
Joseph provided well for the family.



# Protector



As a father to Jesus, Joseph protected his family from public disgrace and physical harm. There were three (3) instances wherein Joseph asserted his paternal role in protecting Mary and Jesus.



# 1<sup>st</sup> instance: Matthew 1

18 This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was **pledged to be married** to Joseph

(Mary and Joseph were engaged to be married. In ancient time, the formal engagement was a public announcement. It was a done deal.)



# Matthew 1

, but **before they came together**, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.

(Before the wedding, Mary possibly mentioned to Joseph that she was pregnant according to the announcement of the Angel Gabriel. The story was difficult to believe.)



# Matthew 1

19 Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

(Joseph thought to divorce Mary quietly in order to protect Mary's reputation.)



# Matthew 1

20 But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take **Mary home as your wife**, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.



# Matthew 1

21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the **name Jesus**, because he will save his people from their sins.”

(The angel affirmed the story of Mary.)



# Matthew 1

22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:

23 “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).



# Matthew 1

24 When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and **took Mary home as his wife.**

(Joseph realized he had a paternal role to play in the birth of Jesus. He moved to assume that role.)



# Matthew 1

25 But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

(In ancient time, it was the duty of the father to name the child. Joseph dutifully fulfilled his role as the father of Jesus.)



# 2<sup>nd</sup> instance: Luke 1

Please pay close attention to the narrative of the story. There is a point here that many people miss.



# Luke 1

26 “In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to **Nazareth, a town in Galilee,**

27 to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary.”



# Luke 2

1 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world.

2 (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.)



# Luke 2

3 And everyone went to their own town to register.

4 So Joseph also went up **from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea**, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David.



# Luke 2

5 He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was **expecting a child**.

6 While they were there, the time came for **the baby to be born**,

7 and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son.



Joseph and Mary were residents of Nazareth in Galilee. In the census, only the males were required to be registered.



On this occasion, Joseph took Mary on the journey because Joseph knew and expected the child to be born around the time they reach Jerusalem. It was not an accident that Mary happened to find herself in labor while traveling.



After giving birth to baby Jesus, Joseph and Mary moved into a house. After many months, the Magi, guided by a star, found them inside the house. The narrative can only mean one thing. Joseph had settled in Bethlehem after the birth of Jesus to protect the Jesus from the preying public eye and opinion.



# 3<sup>rd</sup> instance: Matthew 2

7 Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared.

8 He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”



# Matthew 2

9 After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was.

10 When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.



# Matthew 2

11 On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

12 And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.



# Matthew 2

13 When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up,” he said, “take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.”

14 So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt,



# Matthew 2

15 where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: “Out of Egypt I called my son.”

(As a father protects a son, Joseph wasted no time in escaping from the pending danger. He took flight to Egypt protecting baby Jesus. There he stayed until the danger cleared.)



# Matthew 2

16 When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi.



# Matthew 2

19 After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt

20 and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child’s life are dead.”

21 So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel.



# Matthew 2

22 But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee,

23 and **he went and lived in a town called Nazareth**. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets, that he would be called a Nazarene.

(Again, Joseph took precautionary measure to protect his family and Jesus by settling in Nazareth, a town in Galilee.)



It is evident from the scripture that Joseph had always acted in a manner befitting a loving father in the protection of his family and Jesus.



# Instructor



We know that Joseph was faithful to the law. He performed all his fatherly obligation and duty to Jesus. Joseph had the baby circumcised on the 8<sup>th</sup> day in accordance with the Jewish tradition.



# Luke 2:21

On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the child, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived.



And, thirty three (33) days after, Joseph and Mary brought baby Jesus went to the temple for consecration.



# Luke 2

22 When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord  
23 as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord”  
24 and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: “a pair of doves or two young pigeons.”



Joseph was a very religious and faithful person. He had Jesus circumcised on the 8<sup>th</sup> day and consecrated him on the 33<sup>rd</sup> day in accordance with regulations. You could see why God selected him to be the guardian for Jesus. He was fit to teach young Jesus about God and the law.



# Luke 2

41 Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover.

42 When he was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom.



# Luke 2

43 After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it.

44 Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends.



# Luke 2

45 When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him.

46 After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.



# Luke 2

47 Everyone who heard him was **amazed at his understanding** and his answers.

48 When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, “Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you.”



# Luke 2

49 “Why were you searching for me?” he asked.  
“Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s house?”

50 But they did not understand what he was saying to them.



# Luke 2

51 Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart.

52 **And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature,** and in favor with God and man.



One would expect Joseph to have actively participated in the development and growth of Jesus in wisdom and stature.



# Role Model



Joseph was a good role model for Jesus. The last mention of Joseph was when Jesus was twelve years of age.



The Jews have a tradition called Bar mitzvah. Bar mitzvah is Hebrew for “son of commandment.” When a Jewish boy turns 13, he turns to an adult. At age 13 he starts to pick up a profession. He starts to work. Jesus became a carpenter. He continued the trade of His father Joseph.



# Mark 6:3

“Isn’t this the carpenter? Isn’t this Mary’s son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren’t his sisters here with us?”



Here we have tremendous insight into the relationship between Joseph and Jesus. Jesus could have taken up any profession. But, he chose to be a carpenter, just like his father Joseph.



This shows the high respect Jesus had for his father Joseph. It is a great honor when a son or daughter picks up the profession of the father. You know therein lies the immense respect and admiration for a parent.



Jesus chose to take on the trade of His father. Jesus as a young man had spent many hours, months and years learning the craft and trade of being a “carpenter” or a builder. Jesus learned the trade under the tutelage of his father. They most likely worked on projects and even built house together.



Jesus chose to be a carpenter because he saw in his father Joseph as a role model.



# Summation



Fathers are special. They are God's great gift to us. They fulfill a God-given role vital in our upbringing. They are our links to God. They are our provider, protector, instructor and role model. They are to instruct and lead us unto righteousness and to God.



# Ephesians 6

1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

2 “Honor your father and mother”—which is the first commandment with a promise—

3 “so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”

4 Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the **training and instruction of the Lord.**



How do we show our love to our fathers? The answer is: try to understand them. Understand them to appreciate the role that they are to fulfill in your life. Once you realize that it will transform your relationship with your father.



Our father is our life giver and our lifesaver. He stands in the authority of God on earth. Therefore, we are to honor them as God has intended and has commanded.



END



