

The D-Day

Fathers Day 2023 - the 7 Ds a father must pursue.

Multiple passages

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Women of excellence lifetime achievement award for volunteerism

INTRO

Happy Father's Day. On this Father's Day, perhaps it's appropriate that we are studying the demon locust army from hell.

- First, it tells us that there are hellish beings that are designed to damage humanity.
- Right now, there are unseen demonic armies that are seeking to indoctrinate our children with demonic lies.
- Fathers, this is one of the reasons your role is so important. God placed you in the life of your son or daughter as the protector, leader, and guide to help navigate their hearts into safe green pastures and protect them from those who would lead them to the slaughter.
- As I started jotting thoughts down that challenged and convicted me as a father, I changed course yesterday and thought I'd share the very rough version with you. The good news for you dads today is that this may be one of the shortest messages I've ever preached... and perhaps the longest???

D-DAY

June 6, 1944, marked one of the most infamous and heroic battles known to modern warfare. Dubbed D-Day, over 156,000 allied troops took their offensive stand on the beaches of Normandy, France, against the forward momentum of Hitler's 3rd Reich into France and, subsequently, turning the tide of his advancement into Europe. It's considered the largest military offensive ever staged and assembled. A staggering 10,500 soldiers died, went missing, or were wounded in that battle.

While I'm not here to bring some gruesome or unnecessary example, and I certainly don't want to discourage fathers today, I believe that Dads today are at war over their children's hearts, souls, minds, and bodies. Today is another D-Day... it's Dad's Day. And while guns won't fire (at least in a battle) and, Lord willing, no blood will be shed, today might be a day that reminds some of us dads that without our engagement, the battle against our children, young or old, might very well be won by the enemy.

Brigadier General Theodore Roosevelt Jr., upon discovering that his 4th infantry division troops landed on the wrong spot on Utah Beach, is famously quoted as saying these resolute words:

"We'll start the war from right here!"

Today, it doesn't matter where you find yourself in fatherhood: a future father, a current father, a grandfather. Whether you have succeeded or failed at landing in the right place as a father. Today, we will adopt the attitude, ***"Fine! We'll start the war from right here!"***

1 Dads must DECIDE

IT MIGHT SOUND ELEMENTARY. BUT THE FIRST STEP TO BEING AN EFFECTIVE FATHER



Social commentator, David Blankenhorn, writes about family life in our modern age, **"Fatherlessness is the most destructive trend of our generation."**

- Many of us know and understand the staggering and devastating stats:
 - Today, nearly 20 million American children live in fatherless homes. More specifically, 23.6% - nearly a quarter of all kids live in a home where dad is absent. 1 And the results are devastating and far-reaching... Fatherless children are six times more likely to live below the poverty line as kids in homes where dad is present... Some 43% of state prison inmates grew up in fatherless homes... Young ladies living without a father are twice as likely to become teenage mothers... Children in fatherless families are more vulnerable to ills like dropping out of school, joblessness, drug addiction, suicide, mental illness, and sexual abuse.
 - And realize, fatherless homes are not just homes without fathers. Just because you and your kids have the same address, and live under the same roof - it doesn't mean they aren't living in a fatherless situation.

When I say that fatherhood takes resolve, I don't want to imply that somehow you will become a perfect father. There is only one perfect father, and it's God. The rest of us are simply in process, trying to imitate our heavenly Father in a way that benefits our earthly children.

- It's important to realize that our fatherhood roles are not scripted like Charles Ingles, they are in real-time.
- All fathers here are in need of improvement.
- But we also recognize that decisions are important. A father must decide as soon as they are made aware, to either step up to the task of guiding, loving, instructing, and tending their children or to choose selfishness, apathy, and disengagement from their family. Sometimes it's a daily choice as we battle our flesh and naturally sinful tendencies.

BIBLE PASSAGE

[Jos 24:15 NKJV] 15 "And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that [were] on

the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

Notice, Joshua doesn't simply make a decision that pertains to only him, but his decision trickles down into his household.

"As the man of the house goes, so goes the house."

ILLUSTRATION

There was a Father's Day card that, on the outside read, ***"Being a dad can be expensive, time-consuming, frustrating, confusing, and emotionally draining..."*** Then you open up the card, and on the inside, it reads... ***"Actually, it's a lot like playing golf."***

- I agree. God gives men things that are designed to keep them humble, and fatherhood is no exception. But no matter how much I swear, "I'm never golfing again..." somehow I'm back out there again the net time!

QUESTION 1

"Are you holding back from your commitment to fatherhood? Why?"

2 Dads must DEFEND

DADS MUST DEFEND THEIR CHILDREN FROM PHYSICAL, MENTAL, AND SPIRITUAL THREATS.

ILLUSTRATION

Convicted child offender Jack Renolds did an interview where he was asked if he had scoped out a child before attacking them. He said he didn't observe the child, but he did observe the family. If the father wasn't a threat, there was an easy victim. If the father was a threat, he stayed away.

Satan hates strong godly men determined to withstand and stand against his agenda.

And if you think that you and your family aren't that big of a deal for Satan to bother, think again! Satan knows something that most humans forget... every life God creates matters and can make a difference. Satan is happy to destroy one life, one child at a time. At the end of a child's time at home, they don't need to leave home knowing dad was cool, but that dad was a protector.

STATS

The enemies today against our children are numerous and occur at ever age and stage of life.

- When I talk to my dad, he still tells me at 43, ***"Son, do the work of an evangelist. Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching."***

Children at a younger age, who have not yet learned how to identify and battle the enemies of their soul are in greater need of Dad Defenders.

According to the CDC (yeah, I realize we can't trust all their information), the average time children spend on screens is astonishing and frightening.

- Between the ages of 8-10, the average time is 7 hours a day.
- 11-14 - 9 hours a day. Let that sink in. More than a work day.
- 15-18 - 8-10 hours a day.

This isn't doing productive learning. This is scrolling aimlessly, unprotected, and thoughtlessly through Tictok, Instagram, Facebook, Snapchat, and others.

- And while I believe redemptive things can happen on social media, those unprepared, unfiltered, and without boundaries are walking through a minefield of satanic strategies, doctrines of demons, and human perversion of every kind.

Whether or not you decide to send your children to public school or not, we can't be ignorant of the godless agendas that are seeking to indoctrinate our children in our public education institutions. Fathers must be on the front lines of conversations with their kids, seeing the warning signs of toxic relationships and observing the beginnings of a warped worldview.

I'm not suggesting that mom doesn't have a role in protecting; of course, she does. Between mom and dad, children still statistically will spend more time with their mom. But again, protection and standards flow from the top down.

BIBLE PASSAGE

I love Nehemiah's challenge to the men of Israel who were rebuilding God's city while an enemy was seeking their destruction:

[Neh 4:14 NKJV] 14 "Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, great and awesome, and fight for your brethren, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your houses."

QUESTION

What battles are raging over your children that you need to reengage in, whether through prayer or action?

3

Dads must DISCIPLE their children with godly instruction

BIBLE PASSAGE

[Psa 44:1 NKJV] 1 To the Chief Musician. A Contemplation of the sons of Korah. We have heard with our ears, O God, Our fathers have told us, The deeds You did in their days, In days of old:

I CAME ACROSS A GREAT TOP TEN LIST OF THINGS DAD'S HAVE LEARNED FROM THEIR KIDS

"The Top Ten things I learned from my kids that I didn't really want to know..."

10) A screaming four year-old's voice is louder than twohundred adults in a crowded restaurant. 9) When you throw a baseball into a spinning ceiling fan, the blades can hit the ball a long way, and generate enough force to break a window. 8) When you hear the toilet flush, followed by the words "uhoh" - it's already too late. 7) Legos pass through the digestive tract of a three year-old. 6) The words "Play-Doh" and "microwave" should never be used in the same sentence. 5) Old MacGyver re-runs can teach a child many things he doesn't need to know. 4) Peanut-butter-and-jelly sandwiches should never be stuffed in a person's back pocket. 3) Rocks in a gas tank will make lots of noise. 2) The spin cycle on a washing machine does not make earth worms dizzy. It does make cats dizzy - and a dizzy cat will throw up twice its body weight. 4 1) Quiet does not necessarily mean all is okay.

APPLICATION

The great commission starts in our homes!

It's certainly true that our kids teach us a lot. Observing my children has taught me much about myself, God, and life.

- But by default, love and instruction are designed by God like water... they flow from the top down.
- I don't have to try to be a teacher to my children... I already am by default. The question is, "what am I teaching?"

- Every child looks to their dad from a young age for clarity on their identity, approval, moral values, priorities... the list goes on and on.
- While we we learn a ton from our kids, what they learn from us is far more important.

BIBLE PASSAGE

Proverbs 22:6 - Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.

APPLICATION

There are 7 references in Proverbs the the “instruction of a father.”

- Train up - hanack - to dedicate or inaugurate - dedicate your child to the ways of the Lord. Kick them off in the things of God.
- As a mother bird flings her chicks out of the nest, so we are to thrust our kids wholly upon the truths and ways of the Lord.
- When he is old - what you teach your kids now is what will affect the way the live, act and think later. Some stray and come back when they are older, but for some, it's literally not until they are OLD!

It's not only WHAT we teach our children that matters, but HOW we teach them.

BIBLE PASSAGE

Col 3:21 NKJV - Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

APPLICATION

The instruction of a father must be active but not overbearing, and not self-centered.

At the same time, if a father chooses the path of passivity and silence, they tell their kids, "I don't care enough to get into the mess. I don't care enough to give you clarity and direction. I'm sure you'll figure it out on your own."

- Children don't figure it out on their own. They learn from the loudest and strongest voices and influences in their life... And dads, you need to be a force to be reckoned with when it comes to other voices and influences outside of God, you, your wife, and other carefully selected people that want the main role of influence in your child's life.

QUOTE

“If you don't impart your values to your children, the culture will impart its values to your children in their place.”

Jon Tyson, *The Intentional Father*

QUESTION

What things have you learned from the Lord that you could practically pass on to your children and their children?

4 Dads must DISCIPLINE

ILLUSTRATION

Bill Maher hosts the TV show, *Politically Incorrect*. I disagree with most of Bill's views, but in one interview he was asked, "Were you and your dad good friends?" He

answered, "Friends? We're friends now, but while growing up I didn't need my dad to be my friend. I needed him to be my dad. This idea of dads getting mushy, and being friends is overblown. Dads are suppose to be the guy who tells you right from wrong!"

APPLICATION

Now we aren't suggesting dads shouldn't be friendly and approachable. Heeding discipline does not imply meanness or unconstrained anger.

In Proverbs 3:11–12 the father says, “My son, do not despise the Lord’s discipline or be weary of his reproof, for the Lord reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights.”

I don’t know about you, but God has been very patient with me. He has been gracious with my weaknesses, abundant with His blessings and kind in His discipline.

When the Lord disciplines me, it’s never pleasant, but because He has shown me such great love and so much delight, I know that His heart for me is good. Dad’s, what do your children see more? The rod or the heart behind the rod?

Don’t get me wrong. We need discipline! Lack of discipline is an unloving gesture to your kids. It says, “I don’t love you enough to show you the

a better way and protect you from ungodly decisions.” But the opposite is also true. Harsh discipline without love says to your kids, “I can’t stand you because your not like me.” It’s selfish and creates divisions that will lead your kids into rebellion.

BIBLE PASSAGE

[Eph 6:4 NKJV] 4 And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

APPLICATION

Provoke - to rouse to wrath, to stir up, exasperate.

APPLICATION

The Bible defines fatherly discipline as "bringing a child up in the training admonition of the Lord."

- Sometimes that means physical discipline to display that poor actions have painful consequences.
 - **[Pro 22:15 NKJV] 15 Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; The rod of correction will drive it far from him.**
 - Sometimes the board of education has to be applied to the seat of learning!
- Sometimes discipline is exhorting your child to move beyond their natural inclination to quit, to take the easy way out, to cut corners, to lie, or to be self-serving. This involved not only stopping their wrong course of action but teaching and showing them the better course of action and following through on ensuring they learn how to implement that course of action.
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QUESTION

Where do you see your children deviating from the correct path that will require follow-through with instructive discipline?

5

Dads must DETEST anything that would seek to deter him from his calling

APPLICATION

The calling of a father is rightly represented in the threefold ministry of Jesus for His children: *Jesus is a prophet, a priest, and a king*. Being like Christ to his wife and children, a father assumes similar roles:

- **A king is a role of authority.**
 - Authority structure is important in every setting, be it church, society, work, military, or the family. A father is to assume a role of kind yet firm leadership. He is to mimic Christ, who, as king came to serve others. Sometimes the buck needs to stop with the buck. The father must not shirk his responsibility to do the hard things, make difficult decisions, and lead the way by example. And **NOTE**, **when a husband won't lead well, there will be a wife close-by ready to crown him!**
- **The priest is a role of spiritual leadership and intersection.**
 - Jesus is our great high priest. He intercedes on our behalf. He teaches us the things of the Father. He stands in the gap where we spiritually fall short. Likewise, a father is the one who sets the spiritual tone and temperature of his home.

ILLUSTRATION

Remember Job. He served as a priest to his kids. Job 1:4-5, **“Now his sons would go and feast in their houses, each on his appointed day, and would send and invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. So it was, when the days of feasting had run their course, that Job would send and sanctify them, and he would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings according to the number of them all. For Job said, 'It may be that my sons have sinned and cursed God in their hearts.' Thus Job did regularly.”**

Job offered a sacrifice - just in case his kids had sinned against God. He was concerned about his kid's spiritual welfare.

APPLICATION

- The Prophet is the role of speaking God's life and truth to those who need guidance.
 - Jesus, as prophet proclaimed a new and better covenant, the coming of God's kingdom, and His ultimate salvation.
 - Not only that but through the Holy Spirit, Jesus speaks life into us. He calls us up and out and prepares us for His kingdom.
 - As fathers, it's part of our role to speak God's life, direction, and hope over our children, calling out the things that we see God has placed in.
 - We must be diligent in prayer, speaking God's word, and holding God's revelations in our hearts.
 - God has shown me aspects of my children that they don't see yet. AS a prophet, I'm called to help exhort and encourage them in those things.

ILLUSTRATION

It reminds me of the Sunday School class where the teacher ask the kids to draw a picture of God... One child portrayed God as a brightly colored rainbow... Another child drew Him as an old man coming out from the clouds... Still another little boy drew God with a strong resemblance to Superman... But the best sketch came from the little girl who said, "I don't know what God looks like, so I just drew a picture of my daddy." This is why I say, a father's role are big shoes to fill! For better or worse, a child learns about God by looking at the character of their dad.

BIBLE PASSAGE

Pro 20:7 NKJV - The righteous man walks in his integrity; His children are blessed after him.

APPLICATION

Because of His unique role, we as fathers must detest anything that might seek to compromise our integrity not merely for our sake, but for the sake of those under us, and those who will come after us.

- After a man's integrity comes blessing for his children.
- We've all seen the undesirable consequences our children have faced for our foolish, sinful, or selfish decisions. Well, it also works in reverse order.
- A man's place is to walk in God's strength against sin that seeks to destroy him and his family.

BIBLE PASSAGE

[Pro 27:8 NKJV] 8 Like a bird that wanders from its nest is a man who wanders from his place.

[Pro 25:26 NKJV] 26 A righteous man who falters before the wicked is like a murky spring and a polluted well.

APPLICATION

Men, don't wander from your place!

- What is seeking to allure you into abandoning your role as a father?
- Pleasure? Laziness? Selfishness? Lust? Apathy? Insecurity? Fear?
- Realize those are fiery darts and tactics of satan to get you to move away from where you need to be the most.

QUESTION

How can I identify and address the specific aspect of my life that is impeding my ability to be an effective father, and eliminate it?

6 Dads must DEVOTE

DADS MUST DEVOTE THEMSELVES TO THEIR GOD AND MARRIAGE.

QUOTE

“The most important thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother.”

Theodore Hesburgh

QUOTE

“Show appropriate but unashamed affection to your wife in front of your children.

“Despite kids’ protests that it’s gross, witnessing physical affection between their parents reassures them that their parents love one

another. It also helps teach kids about love, marriage and affection which can prepare them for their future relationships.”

Amy Morin, Family and marriage therapist

BIBLE PASSAGE

[Eph 5:25-29 NKJV] 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, 26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. 28 So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church.

APPLICATION

Most men who get caught up in adultery, sexual immorality, pornography are using those things to escape the toxic relational environment they created by never investing in their marital intimacy.

Men aren't in marriage to be gratified, they are in marriage to serve!

APPLICATION

I think it's important to recognize that parenting takes different forms throughout the years as children move through stages of life.

- Parenting is a slow process of letting go until you release a child and can put your hand out to be there when needed.
- Marriage, on the other hand, should be a process of clinging tighter with each year. Your marriage is the relationship that will still be there once your children have flown the coop.

Yet many parents practice the opposite; sometimes, this is even more true with mothers:

- They tighten their grip on their children as they grow while loosening the grip and intimacy in their marriage to the point that when the kids leave, they are losing their greatest treasure, only to turn around and look at their spouse and say, "Oh, is that all I get now?"

We want to model to our children, young and old, that we are committed to the lifelong bond of marriage. That, by the way, creates the healthiest environment for a child to grow up in, feel safe in, and know what kind of healthy checkmarks to look for when pursuing a relationship of their own.

QUESTION

How can I practically improve my visible love and respect for my wife in front of my children?

7 Dads must **DEPEND** on the Holy Spirit

APPLICATION

As a father of 17 years, I've dealt with most of the things normal fatherhood entails: First steps, first words, broken bones and broken hearts, mistakes and victories, wins and losses.

Most fathers, even those who don't know the Lord, can learn the skills to be present and active in their kids' lives.

But there are some moments, the moments of eternal value and weight, that one can't get apart from the wisdom, insight, and power of the Holy Spirit.

- These are the moments that are more difficult to discern naturally. Moments where the one thing your child needs more than anything is Jesus, His word, His truth, His grace, and His mercy in their lives; only the Spirit-filled dad will be able to handle those moments in a way that has a spiritual impact. Paul wrote:

[Eph 5:18 NKJV] 18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit...

I've heard it put this way:

"A drunkard starts out to get mellow, and then he gets ripe, and finally he ends up rotten. Whereas, a Christian filled with the Spirit starts out rotten, ripens with fruit, and then ends up mellow - living and abiding in the peace of God."

BIBLE PASSAGE

[Exo 29:1-7 NKJV] 1 "And this is what you shall do to them to hallow them for ministering to Me as priests: Take one young bull and two rams without blemish, 2 "and unleavened bread, unleavened cakes mixed with oil, and unleavened wafers anointed with oil (you shall make them of wheat flour). 3 "You shall put them in one basket and bring them in the basket, with the bull and the two rams. 4 "And Aaron and his sons you shall bring to the door of the tabernacle of meeting, and you shall wash them with water. 5 "Then you shall take the garments, put the tunic on Aaron, and the robe of the ephod, the ephod, and the breastplate, and gird him with the intricately woven band of the ephod. 6 "You shall put the turban on his head, and put the holy crown on the turban. 7 "And you shall take the anointing oil, pour it on his head, and anoint him.

APPLICATION

Aaron and his sons were chosen by the Lord to be the priestly line for the house of Israel. At their dedication, Aaron, the father, gets his priestly garb. He's **CLEANSED** with ceremonial water, He **CLOTHED** with priestly garments, and He's even capped with the turban and crown of the priest. But there is still one thing he needed, to be anointed with oil.

- **Dad, you might be cleansed by the blood of Jesus, clothed as a priest by the righteousness of Christ, and crowned as a king unto God... but to effectively do**

your job as a spiritual father, you need to be baptized and anointed by the oil of the Holy Spirit.

QUESTION 7

Are there areas of weakness in my life where I need to ask for the Holy Spirit's power and wisdom?

ILLUSTRATION

Once, a little girl posed a question to her mom, "Mommy, if the stork brings us babies - and if Santa Claus brings us presents - and if Jesus gives us our daily bread... then why do we keep Daddy around?" I hope I've answered her question this morning.

1. Dads must DECIDE to be intentional fathers.
2. Dads must DEFEND against the attacks of the enemy and the world.
3. Dads must DELIVER godly instruction.
4. Dads must DISCIPLINE in the ways of the Lord.
5. Dads must DETEST all things in themselves that hinder their job as a father.
6. Dads must DEVOTE themselves to loving their God and their wives as an example.
7. Dads must DEPEND on the power of the Holy Spirit.