

A Father's Day Message

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- [0 : 0 0] You can be dismissed. Give your dad a kiss or grandpa a kiss goodbye.! Say thank you and adios.!
- Hope all the dads were able to sleep in and have breakfast in bed. No crying in the house. No whining.
- Well, I had it first. Hopefully you had a great morning. Praise the Lord. Praise God. So thankful for all the dads and just this special day.
- Amen. I want to thank you for everyone else that's here this morning. And this service today with great worship. And, you know, on Father's Day, it seems like on Mother's Day, we honor, we celebrate, we congratulate, we...
- And all those things. And it seems like on Father's Day, you need to be more like this. And you need to do this more. And you need to do that more. And today I wanted to really lift up dads today.
- [1 : 2 9] And because, you know, at this church, we really believe in building up men. And in a world that beats men down, tells them they're a buffoon, they're dumb, they're whatever.
- Of the TV dads, today we want to lift up men. We want to honor men. And their role in the family, their role in the home, and their role in the plan of God.
- So I want to start off today by asking a question to everybody, to all the dads. What's the most dad thing you've ever done? What's the most dad thing you have ever done?
- And I'm sure your children could tell you all about it. I'm sure they've told you all about it. But, you know, it could have been a number of things. Maybe you've told a dad joke. You know, and your kids kind of have that cringe.
- Oh, dad. That dad, you know, that's not hip, but that's not cool. Even the words that I'm using right now are not really hip. But maybe, I mean, it could have been, again, a number of things.
- [2 : 3 4] But let me share a couple of dad jokes with you that I'm going to put in my repertoire. I can share with you, okay? I only know 25 letters of the alphabet. I don't know why. Why did the dad bring a ladder to church?
- Because he heard the sermon was going to be uplifting. What do you call someone who tells dad jokes but isn't a dad? A faux pas. Here's the thing about dad jokes.
- There actually is a study about dad jokes. In 2021, the British did a study that said dad jokes actually help and model emotional strength and humility to children.
- And the ability to take life not too seriously. So when your kid's grown, just smile. You're not annoying. You're just raising well-adjusted children.
- Okay, dad? So be encouraged today. So when the kid's grown, just remember, just look at them and say, I'm making you stronger. Okay, I remember we went to Costco.
- [3 : 4 3] And on the way out, you know they check your receipt list? Okay? We're walking out and the lady just checks it off.

And I said, oh, no smiley? Where's my smiley face? She goes, oh. And I'm thinking like, oh, yeah. And I said out loud, oh, you probably heard that one before.

And then my kids and then my wife are like, oh, dad, come on. So embarrassing. But kids, I'm making you stronger. Okay? Don't worry. Here's the thing about fatherhood, though.

Here's the thing about fatherhood is that fatherhood is under attack. Fatherhood is under attack in the media. It's under attack in the homes, in the culture, even in the church.

Society says dads need to know their place and not speak too loudly, not step up or be too strong. But when men show up, everything changes.

[4 : 48] I believe that. When men show up, real men, when real men show up for their children, for their families, things change. Things happen. Listen to this.

Fatherlessness in America. 85% of youth in prison come from fatherless homes. 71% of high school dropouts come from homes without a dad.

90% of runaways. And homeless youth, no dad in the picture. When the father is first to follow Jesus, 93% of the family follows.

Those are facts, folks. James Dobson once said, A father, if he will rise to his role, is the solid foundation under his family. But when he is absent and abdicates, everything starts to crack.

So dads, hear me today. You're not optional. You're the solution. Dads, you are the solution. We are the solution to this problem in this world today.

[5 : 53] You're not the background. You're the foundation. You're not the problem. We are civilization's last hope. And I know that's going to rub some people the wrong way.

But they're part of the problem. Men, we are not optional. We are the solution. I want to say this.

You know, just by being in this service this morning, you're making a statement. Men, fathers, just by being in this service this morning, you are making a statement to your family, to this world, to the church, and to your children.

Say, I showed up. Things may have been difficult even to get here, but I'm here. Amen. Amen. When a father shows up, families stay together. Faith gets passed down, and culture gets rebuilt.

And today I want to walk through a life of a couple of men. I want to walk through a life of a couple of men, a father and a son. And I want to look at their lives for a minute.

[6 : 59] And we want to glean some truths from their lives. Okay? Kind of what the dad went through, what the son went through. And we're talking about Asa. Asa is one of the good kings of Judah.

And his story can be found in 2 Chronicles 14. And we're going to begin in chapter 2. Asa did what was pleasing and good in the sight of the Lord God.

Okay, we're starting out really good here. He removed the foreign altars and the pagan shrines. He smashed the sacred pillars and cut down Asherah poles. Again, these were pagan poles and pagan worship, these pagan gods.

And he commanded the people of Judah to seek the Lord, the God of their ancestors, and to obey his law and commands. Asa also removed the pagan shrines as well as the incense altars from every one of Judah's towns.

So Asa's kingdom enjoyed a period of peace. During his peaceful years, he was able to build up and fortify towns throughout Judah. No one tried to make war against him at this time.

[8 : 04] For the Lord was giving him rest from his enemies. See, Asa had just become king. And he inherited a kingdom from his father Abijah.

His father Abijah. The grandfather of Rehoboam. And they left Judah in a sorry state. If you remember, Rehoboam was the one who had part of tearing the kingdom apart.

He had a whole big part in that. So now in the kingdom, there is a spiritual wreckage. People are worshipping false gods. People are worshipping idols.

And they're doing the idol worship thing. And so they're in a wreck right now. Even his relative, Mekah, was deep in idol worship.

You see, Asa didn't inherit revival. Asa actually made a decision. I'm not going to live like my fathers lived. I'm not going to live like my past, my predecessors lived.

[9 : 06] I am choosing to live in the ways of God. He chose it. He decided, I'm making a decision today. And I'm going to stand and live for God. Some of you know what it's like to grow up with a really good example.

How to be a man. Some of us grew up, some of us may have grown up without a good example of how to be a man. But there's always a man in our life that stood up and said, you can be more. You can do better.

You can be better. God is good and God is faithful. But Asa decided, it's going to stop here with me. I'm leading my family to God. I'm leading this nation to God.

He had made that decision. Probably threw in a couple dad jokes too. You can't change your past, but you can start a new pattern. So here, he's got this really good opportunity right now.

He's got peace in the land. There's peace. He's taking down the poles. He's taking down the places of worship. And all of a sudden, without fail, something happens.

[10 : 14] Remember, we talked about last week that the Bible shows patterns. Not just plots. Not just storylines. There's a pattern here. So now they're in this reform. And everyone's loving God.

Everyone's worshipping God. Everything's good. 2 Chronicles 14, verse 9 says, Once an Ethiopian named Zerah attacked Judah with an army of a million men and 300 chariots.

Look at that. Things are going great. There's revival in the land. Asa decides, hey, we're going to turn this around. I'm not going to be like my predecessors or like my fathers.

And he turned things around. And all of a sudden, here comes the attack. When anything good happens, here comes the enemy. Amen? Amen?

Here comes the enemy. And so they advance to the town of Marishah. Verse 10, So Asa deployed his armies for battle in the valley north of Marishah.

[11 : 17] Verse 11, Then Asa cried out to the Lord. He cried out to God. He cried out and he prayed. He said, Oh Lord, Listen to this prayer. Oh Lord, No one but you can help the powerless against the mighty.

Help us, Oh Lord God, For we trust in you alone. It is in your name that we have come against this vast horde. One million. That's a lot of people.

Oh Lord, You are our God. Don't let mere men prevail against you. And verse 12 says, And the Lord defeated the Ethiopians in the presence of Asa and the army of Judah.

And the enemy fled. This is a huge army. One million strong. There's revival in the land. There's reform. Asa is deciding, you know, I'm going to change this.

I'm going to create a different legacy for my family. And then all of a sudden, here comes the enemy. And one million Ethiopians attack. And Asa's response is to get the army together and get it ready for battle.

[12 : 24] But his initial response, first response is spiritual. It's to pray. It's to seek the Lord. And he cries out to him.

In the time of what most people would panic at. I mean, I don't know how you would feel about it if you heard about a million people coming to attack you. But immediately he drops to his knees and he cries out.

He cries out to the Lord. He doesn't panic. He prays. Publicly and boldly. Church, when dads pray, Especially under pressure.

The whole family learns. The whole family learns where to run. The whole family learns where to go to as their source. And Jehoshaphat, he's watching all of this.

We're going to learn about Jehoshaphat in a minute. But Jehoshaphat's his son. And he sees and he hears the prayers of his father. He sees his dad's pressure. Man, we feel pressure.

[13 : 30] Don't we? There's stress. There's things that come against us. But Asa's initial response was to pray. And to seek the Lord. Drop on his knees and call on God.

And his son, Jehoshaphat, Hears it. Sees it. And notices his dad praying. I don't forget, You know, Pastor, when he was, There's been many times where he's praying at the altar.

Praying. Walking the altar. Walking around. And we have a picture of Cash just standing right here. And a pastor's just praying.

He was just praying, oblivious to Cash. And Cash is just walking around. Praying. And it's moments like that that our children will never forget. When they see a father or a grandfather's response.

I'll even say this, A mother's response. To pressure. What's mom going to do right now? Oh, she's going to pray. What's mom going to do? Oh, I don't even have to think about it.

[14 : 38] I know mom's going to pray. What's grandma going to do? Oh, I know she's going to pray. She's a woman of prayer. She's going to call on God. And so Jehoshaphat notices the prayer and his father.

And he saw what a real man does. When fear comes knocking, He turns to God. He turns to God. So next Asa, you know, he started to clean house before.

He's cleaning house again. Verse 8, chapter 15 of 2 Chronicles says, When Asa heard this message from Azariah, who was the prophet, he took courage and removed all the detestable idols from the land of Judah and Benjamin, and in the towns he had captured in the hill country of Ephraim.

And he repaired the altar of the Lord, which stood in front of the entry room of the Lord's temple. And King Asa even disposed his grandmother, Mekah, from her position as queen mother because she had made an obscene asteripal.

She had idol worship. She was a worshiper of idols. And he cut down her obscene pole and broke it up and burnt it in Kidron Valley. Asa was like, not in my house.

[15 : 46] So not in my house. This is not how we're going to do it. We're going to serve God. So Asa wasn't just willing to confront culture. He confronted his own household.

He said, this is how we're going to do this here. He stripped down the poles. He stripped down the worship of these idols. Man, real leadership starts in our houses, in our homes.

And I've had a little, you know, I remember being, you know, at work. And I feel like I was accomplishing a lot at work, you know, being like a really good leader.

And then I come home. And, you know, there'd be chaos. There'd be chaos sometimes. And I go, man, I remember feeling convicted.

It's like, God, I'm putting so many hours and so much effort into leading this group of men at work and doing the right thing there. But when I come home, it just, it seems like I'm absent.

[16 : 52] Like things are out of control here. And I said, God, forgive me. I'm not leaving my home well. My boys need me. They need an example. You know, I have all these accolades at work and get all these prizes.

And I have. I've received certificates and whatever else. But when I get home, that's the most important recognition right there. That's the most important thing to me.

But there was a season in my life where, you know, I got it kind of mixed up. And I was doing the right thing, all the good things at work. But my home was suffering. My children were suffering. And they needed my example.

They needed their dad to show up and be there. You know, kids will be kids. And they'll do certain things and whatever. But they need dad to show up and to be at home.

And that's what I needed to do and what I needed to adjust in my own heart. You can't outsource righteousness. You don't just protect your family from danger. You protect them from drifting.

[17 : 51] We set the course. We say this is where we're going. We set the direction. We set the direction for our family. Being a godly man means making the hard calls for the right reason.

It says we're going to serve God in this house. We're going to go to church today. We're going to pray right now. We're going to read God's word. Amen. We're going to seek the Lord first. And there's an other aspect of Asa.

Because, you know, we talk about fatherhood. And we say, well, you should be this and this and this. And we think, oh, we need to be perfect. And we need to be all those things.

But I want to read about Asa's later years. 2 Chronicles 16 says, Yes, folks.

We're talking about foot diseases in the Bible. That's right. You know, I know what that's about. Oh, man.

[19 : 13] My dad. I don't know. I won't tell that story. It's a good one, though. Maybe I'll tell you after service. Okay. But, yeah, we're talking about foot disease.

It's crazy. When I first read that, I mean, I read it a long time ago. But I read it again. I'm like, man, that is crazy. I read it in a different version, a translation. It says, Asa developed a serious foot disease.

There was no Tufactin to Nactin. Okay. Boom. Tufactin to Nactin. There was no, I don't know what other brands there are, but there's no cure for that.

But yet, even with the severity of his disease, he did not. Listen to this. Even with the severity of his disease, he did not seek the Lord's help.

But turned only to his physicians. So I want to paint a picture. Yeah, Asa decided, I'm going to serve God. I'm going to train up this nation for revival.

[20 : 12] We're going to make some reforms, tear down some things. But later in his years, he kind of drifted. He kind of drifted from his first years. And it says that even with the severity of his foot disease and whatever, his fungal issues and, you know, his sandals probably stunk, that even with the severity of his disease, he did not seek God.

I know, I'm sorry. It's just pretty nasty. He did not seek the Lord. But he turned only to his physicians. Asa's last years were marked by stubbornness.

And he wanted his independence. He served as strong, but let his pride keep him from finishing well. Here's the thing about legacy. Legacy is built on direction, not perfection.

The legacy we leave, dads, families, the legacy we leave is not built on perfection, but it's the direction we are choosing to live.

What direction are we headed in? We talked about this on a long time now, a few weeks now, talking about direction. What direction are you headed? Where are you going to be in six months? Our legacy, fathers, our legacy, men, is built on direction that we're headed, not on the perfection of our lives and the perfection of our choice, because we're going to make mistakes.

[21 : 35] We've probably already made some today, okay? And you know what? It's that built on that. It's built on the direction of our lives. Even if we've hit some potholes along the way, our legacy, we can choose today that it's going to be built on the direction that we choose to live, not on the perfection of our lives.

Amen. Amen. Some of you dads may feel like, hey, I missed the moment. I missed the mark with my kids, with my grandkids. But God can still use your story.

God can still use your life. God can still use our words and our actions and our lives for some good in our family, in our children. There's still hope for the rest of our lives.

If we choose today, I'm going to change my direction. I'm going to change the direction of my life right now, because I got little ones coming up after me. I got little ones in front of me. I got little ones in my life.

But Jehoshaphat, his son, didn't follow Asa's finish. He followed Asa's faith. Followed his faith. Jehoshaphat.

[22 : 41] Let's talk about Jehoshaphat for a minute. He followed his father's faith. In 2 Chronicles 17, verse 3, it says, And the Lord was with Jehoshaphat, because he followed the example.

Is this my cue to finish? No. The Lord was with Jehoshaphat, because he followed the example of his father's early years, and did not worship the images of Baal.

He sought his father's God and obeyed his commands instead of following the evil practices of the kingdom of Israel. Verse 5. And so the Lord established Jehoshaphat's control over the kingdom of Judah.

Jehoshaphat had a good heart. He sought the Lord. But he didn't carry the latter years or the failures of his father.

He carried his father's example of his early years. What does that say in verse 3? He followed the example of his father's early years, and did not worship the images of Baal.

[23 : 44] So even though Asa kind of failed towards the end of his life, Jehoshaphat saw the impact, right? And the impact was great on his life, of how he lived and how he served God in the early years.

He saw how his dad tore down the Astro poles and the idols and the Baal worship. He saw all those things. And he chose to live in those.

He chose to live and carry that faith and that example on. And he followed what Asa got right. He followed the prayer of Asa. He followed the reform.

He followed the faith. He followed the courage of Asa. Again, your kids don't need perfect. Your kids need a pattern.

Our children need a pattern. They need a pattern. Amen. They need a direction. Amen. They don't need perfect dads. They need a perfect mom.

[24 : 42] They need a pattern. A pattern of consistent prayer. A pattern of the Word of God. A pattern of showing up to church. Amen. It makes it, it makes all the, you think, to show up to church is the little thing.

Like I said, man, just you showing up to church with your children has lasting impact on their lives. Amen. Amen. They will never forget it.

And they will see dad. You know, I've seen, because kids see everything. They see hard, they see when we're going through hard times. They see when we're having frustrations. They see, they see all those things. But when they see dad having a hard time or going through a tough time, but he gets up and goes to church, that speaks a lot.

That impacts that child's life. When he sees his dad being bombarded and he sees them go to pray, that speaks volumes.

That echoes in their lives. Asa's fear, or it could have been his downfall, one million, Jehoshaphat saw his dad pray.

[25 : 51] Legacy, again, isn't about perfection, but it is about the direction of our lives. And we talked about Asa's prayer. Check this out. 2 Chronicles chapter 20 says, well, let me actually lead up to this.

Chapter 19 of 2 Chronicles. There is like a spiritual reset. Remember to say reset. There is a spiritual reset.

It's a spiritual reset chapter for Jehoshaphat and for the nation of Judah. And wouldn't you know it? Here comes trouble.

Remember, patterns, folks. Patterns. Verse 1 of chapter 20. After this, this reform, this revival, this repentance by Jehoshaphat, it says, the armies of the Moabites and Ammonites and some of the Meunites declared war on Jehoshaphat.

And messengers came and told Jehoshaphat, a vast army from Edom is marching against you from beyond the Dead Sea. They already had Hazazon Tamar.

[27 : 02] Verse 3. Jehoshaphat was terrified by this news and begged the Lord for guidance. He also ordered everyone in Judah to begin fasting. So people from all the towns of Judah came to Jerusalem to seek for the Lord's help.

Verse 5. And Jehoshaphat stood before the community of Judah and Jerusalem in front of the new courtyard, the temple of the Lord. And he prayed. This is a beautiful prayer.

Oh, Lord. God of our ancestors. You alone are the God who is in heaven. You are the ruler of all the kingdoms of the earth. You are powerful and mighty.

No one can stand against you. Our God, did you not drive out those who lived in this land when your people arrived, Israel arrived? And did you not give this land forever to the descendants of your friend Abraham?

Your people settled here and built the temple to honor your name. They said, Whenever we faced with any calamity such as war, plague, or famine, we can come to stand in your presence before this temple where your name is honored.

[28 : 18] We can cry out to you to save us. And you will hear us. And you will rescue us. And now see what the armies of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir are doing.

You would not let our ancestors invade those nations when Israel left Egypt. So they went around them. And did not destroy them. Now see how they reward us.

For they have come to throw us out of your land which you gave us as an inheritance. Listen to this one. First of all, this is the key. Our God, won't you stop them?

We are powerless against this mighty army. That is about to attack us. We do not know what to do. But we are looking to you for help.

And this is all the men stood before. People of Israel. What a beautiful prayer. And call out to God. Jehoshaphat's response mirrors his dad's.

[29 : 21] Jehoshaphat's response to this distress and these armies coming to attack him mirrors his father Asa's response.

When one million Ethiopians came to attack him. His father had set an example. When you are in distress.

When the enemy is against you. When you are feeling surrounded. Go to prayer. And what did Jehoshaphat do? Jehoshaphat got on his knees. And he prayed to God.

He said, Lord, no one can help us but you. No one can save us but you, Lord. No one can get us out of this but you, God. He mirrors his dad's prayer.

And when fear came, he repeated. Remember, he would say he was terrified. When fear came, he repeated what he saw his dad do. Years before him.

[30 : 22] I mean, think about it. He's surrounded, aren't getting the news that they're coming to get him. He's terrified. And as he's terrified, he's thinking about his dad. He's thinking about the one million Ethiopians coming to get him.

What did my dad do? He saw that for God. That's exactly what Jehoshaphat did. Ace's prayer became Jehoshaphat's instinct.

Ace's prayer became his first response and his first example. What you model under pressure becomes their instinct under pressure.

What we model under pressure is going to be their instinct under fire, under distress. Just watch our children.

I mean, I could, we just watch our children, how they handle stress and how they handle hard times. But what a beautiful legacy. He was able to leave to his son.

[31 : 29] Man, your family doesn't need a superhero. They need a seeker. They need a seeker. They need someone who lifts his hands when life gets heavy.

Our children, our families need someone to make tough decisions. We're going to the house of God. We're going to prayer. We're going to seek the Lord.

They need someone who can set the tone of prayer. And again, it may not be perfect the first time, second time, third time. And we may, you know what? It may feel a little awkward to sit down with the children and your wife and everyone pray.

I don't know. But sitting down, again, makes a statement. Deciding, hey, let's go kids. I'm not saying you should pray every night together.

I'm just saying once, twice. I know people that pray every night together. I know a family that prays every night and they have tongues interpretation. Everyone's bawling, falling out in the spirit.

[32 : 39] Drunk in the Holy Ghost, as they say. But then I know families that pray once a week together. And they've told me it was difficult at first.

Just getting started. But after a time, it kind of got a little easier. And, you know, the dad was like, well, you know. It was a little awkward for me.

I wasn't able to know what to say as I prayed. I said, just as long as you get started. That's the most important thing. Just starting and getting that routine going.

That's important. John, there's a quote. He said, my dad always said, be home by 11.

He never said why. But he said, it was such authority. I still think something magical happens at 11 o'clock. Dad's no best, right?

[33 : 43] Here's the thing. Dad's presence, they create this safety. His voice creates gravity. Even humor.

Even in humor. You're shaping hearts. Even with your dad jokes. You're shaping hearts. You know what? I'm going to tell more dad jokes. I'm going to tell dad jokes even harder now.

I'm going to tell them all the time now. I'm going to have like a Rolodex. Anyone know what that is still? I'm going to have a Rolodex of just dad jokes. Exactly.

I mean, if I tell a dad joke, my son, Grayson, he goes, oh, dad. David Bernard said, a godly father leads his family in prayer, in purity, and in purpose.

Not with perfection, but with direction. Start something that sticks and let God finish what you begin.

[34 : 45] Amen. Let's all stand. Amen. I could have preached this all fiery and, you know.

I just have a conversation. Just have a conversation. Because, again, this world wants to beat on dads.

The spirit of this age wants to blur lines. And take their authority. We want to build men up.

We want to build up dads. Grandpas. Spiritual dads. We want to build you up today. Stepdads. We want to build you up today.

And we just want to say, your presence speaks so much. You being here speaks volumes. We want to encourage you.

[36 : 01] Praise God. I want to close with this prayer. Can we close our eyes and bow our heads?

Let's pray. God, we thank you for every man in this room. We thank you for every dad, every grandpa, every stepdad in this room, God.

God, we pray that you would strengthen them. Strengthen them to lead. Strengthen their hands, God. Strengthen their minds, their hearts, and their spirits, Lord.

Speak life, God. Strengthen them, Lord, to model humility and to walk in faith. Strengthen them, God.

Strengthen them to speak life to their children and to their families, God. Let their example live longer than their years on this earth, God. Let their children rise up and say, I saw my dad follow God.

[37 : 09] I, too, will follow the Lord. Start something, O God, eternal today. Start something, God, that's lasting today, God.

As time passes by, Lord, I pray for these men. I pray for these fathers, Lord. And I pray that you would lift them up and give them strength.

And in the time of distress, Lord, that, God, they would run to you. They would run to you and say, O Lord, only you. Only you, God, can help me.

Help us, God, as dads to set the direction. I pray for the dad's direction, Lord, here today. God, we love you.

We praise you, O Lord. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen. Praise God. Amen. Amen.

[38 : 06] Happy Father's Day to all the dads, stepdads, grandpas. We love you. And we want to say, we want to give you a gift on the way out.

Sister Corosco, set these up. We want to say thank you to her for setting them up. Get them together. And they look great. I'm going to devour it all by myself, by the way. I'm not sharing.

So dads, we love you again. We want to build you up. We respect you. We appreciate you. Have a great Father's Day. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen. Amen. Amen.