

THE BIG IDEA: To leave a godly legacy, trust God now.

The Take-Off

This may be way to heavy as the start of a message, but nothing can make me feel more like a failure like fathering. Father's Day is a weird time, because we get honored for a role that seems almost impossible to really fulfill.

I just don't know a lot of dads who - if they're honest - would say that they're nailing it at the dad thing.

Now, your failures may not be quite as bad as these guys...

[show pics of father fails]

...but we can probably all relate to coming up a bit short as fathers, especially when we see how desperately the role of a father is in our culture.

43% of children in America live without a father, and the consequences are huge, as percentages of runaways, suicides and pregnancies all go up significantly in teens from fatherless homes.

We need fathers, and nothing proves that more than this :38 clip

[Video - "Do you want me to be your daddy, son?"]

So if our culture needs fathers, then there's even more pressure on fathers to be good ones, and that brings me to the father that we're going to learn from this morning.

His name is David, and we're going to read his story in 2 Samuel 24:18-25.

The good news is that he was a failure, too. His choice to have an affair led to murder and the death of his child.

Maybe you aren't a lying, murdering adulterer, but we can relate to failing, yes?

The better news is that God took this failing father and used him to establish an amazing legacy, and that's what all of us want as dads. To cast a long shadow for our kids, and to leave them with an amazing legacy of God's faithfulness through us.

How did David pull it off? How did he leave a legacy that impacted generations to come? For all the bad he did, we see 3 things that he did well in this story, and if we do them, we'll be fathers who leave godly legacies, too.

1. He obeyed (2 Samuel 24:19; 1 Chr. 21:19)

- a. David went up in obedience; What a beautiful passage
- b. No questions asked like, "Who's Arauanah?" or "Why that threshing floor?"
- c. He just instantly obeyed
- d. We like all things instant but not that
- e. Missionary who yelled out to his child "duck!" and just as he did, a cobra struck where the child would have been standing
- f. I don't think that's true, because I have children.
- g. If it was, the child would have died. I think it's a story made up by parents trying to convince their children to obey
- h. The bottom line: we hate obedience! We do the opposite of what we're told to do. "Raise your hands" we dig them deep.
- i. Even if we do obey, it probably isn't instantly.
- j. But this is the first step: none of the great things that will happen in our passage can happen without first obeying.
- k. So where are you in this area? If not good, welcome to the majority. But that's not an excuse to not do better.
- l. Expecting more from our children. Isn't God the same with us?
- m. We need to follow David's example and "go up in obedience"

2. He paid (2 Sam. 24:24; 1 Chr. 21:25)

- a. One says 50 shekels of silver and one says 15 pounds of gold
- b. It's an apparent contradiction but easily explained: silver - the down payment; gold - the full payment
- c. Point is that David's obedience cost him a lot (about \$300K in today's currency) and so will ours
- d. Some pay up front more than others, like Christians persecuted in other parts of the world or in churches in Charleston, but we will all pay
- e. ILL Parker: "Daddy, if I was in China I couldn't do this...'Blessed be the name of the Lord'" (he started singing)
- f. Sometimes when we're buying something expensive, it's important to remember what we're buying
- g. We throw away 20 bucks at Walmart, but if we're dropping serious coin on something, we're smarter
- h. David bought a threshing floor

1. I always thought it was like a barn
 2. but it's outside on top of a hill with a stone wall about 2-3 ft around it with a flat, clean packed dirt floor
 3. They would throw all the wheat in it and crush it by foot, oxen, hand blades or sleds with blades for runners
 4. At night when the wind would blow they would toss the heap up into the wind to separate it into 3 piles
 5. Chaff went farthest away, the straw closer and the grain closest
 6. This makes me believe in God more! Wouldn't it be great to clean up your house like that?
- j. That's the type of place David was buying in order to sacrifice to God
- k. We picture a perfect place, brand new sanctuary with climate control and great sound, but God told David to buy a place of violence and chaos
- l. Why would David spend so much on a place like that? Because he valued his relationship with God that much!!
- m. Matt. 13:44-46 (pearl and field) - the men did it "joyfully"
- n. The other thing is that people are going are going to think you're nuts because they wouldn't have paid as much
- o. Bill Bright interview (Blue Like Jazz, p. 233)

A guy I know named Alan went around the country asking ministry leaders questions. He went to successful churches and asked them why what they were doing was working. It sounded very boring except for one visit he made to a man named Bill Bright, the president of a big ministry. Alan said he was a big man, full of life, who listened without shifting his eyes. Alan asked a few questions, I don't know what they were, but as a final question he asked Dr. Bright what Jesus meant to him. Alan said Dr. Bright couldn't answer the question. He said he just started to cry. He sat there in his big chair behind his big desk and wept.

When Alan told that story I wondered what it was like to love Jesus that way. I wondered, quite honestly, if that Bill Bright guy was just nuts or if he really knew Jesus in a personal way, so well that he would cry at the very mention of His name. I knew then that I would like to know Jesus like that - with my heart and not just my head. I felt like that would be the key to something.

- p. Some of you love like that and you have paid a high price to be near to Jesus and you're on the threshing floor.
- q. You have paid dearly only to find your life, your dreams, and your hopes in disarray, turned upside-down, thrown to the wind
- r. You may wonder if it's worth the price and I can say that it is!
- s. It's worth it to be cut deep enough on the threshing floor for God to plant seeds in you that will bear great fruit.

3. He played

- a. I don't mean like volleyball, I mean he played his part in God's plan
- b. 2 Chr. 3:1 - God used David's obedience to secure the very spot that Solomon built the temple!
- c. If I'll be willing to obey and pay and play my part, somewhere down the road God will bring His plan together.
- d. Sometimes we just get antsy - life doesn't make sense and we start to question, "What's going on God?"
- e. We sound like little children and Matt. 17:17 is about us: "How long will I have to put up with you?"
- f. It's like me and my children - "Are ya'll in college yet?"
- g. During one of my threshing floor moments I read Jeremiah 29:11 - a great verse but God had me read it again
- h. He asked me who knew the plans and I said, "You do," and He asked me, "Isn't that enough?"
- i. Isn't it enough that the God whom Psalm 139 says knit me in my mother's womb knows the plan for my life?
- j. David wanted to play his part even to the point of great personal cost
- k. One version says he didn't want to give to God what Aruanah had paid for
- l. Don't you think it's time we paid our own price, played our own part, instead of living off the price others have paid?
- m. I want to pay whatever price and play whatever part so that future generations can look at my life - at the place where I was threshed - and say, "That will be the foundation of the place where we will meet with God"

- n. Oh, I want to live my life like if I don't buy the threshing floor, my children won't be able to build a temple.
- o. A life of trust, knowing that God knows the plan and it's a good one.
- p. I know that requires so much trust, but His plan is good.
- q. How many times have I told my children to get in the car to go somewhere and they've said, "Where? How long 'till we're there? What will we do?" And when I tell them it's a surprise, they still ask. "Just buckle up. I promise it'll be good!"
- r. GET IN THE VAN!!

The Landing

I think if there's one thing we can do as dads to leave a godly legacy in the future, it has to be trusting god in the present, right?

No matter what we're facing, whether we really understand it or not, just that rugged, "toe the line" all in trust that God has a plan, and so we're getting in the van.

And when we as dads get in the van, our families will, too.

Fathers have the greatest influence over their children's spiritual lives than anyone else.

Consider this as we prepare to close:

- in homes where fathers never attend church, only 2% of children grow up to become Christians, but
- 94% of believing fathers will lead their entire family to faith in Christ

Now, 94% seems high, but what if it was only 75%? or 50%? It's a far cry from 2%, and dads have a huge impact on that.

[Video - Like Dad]

Close afterwards