

Sunday Morning Message

June 16, 2019

Lessons About Fatherhood from the Book of Proverbs

Father's Day 2019

Text – Proverbs 1

Congregational Reading – Proverbs 1:1 - 8

Introduction

Illustration – Joke (from ministry127.org)

Three boys in the schoolyard were bragging about who had the highest paid father:

The first boy said, "My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a poem, and they give him \$100."

The second boy said, "That's nothing. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a song, and they give him \$1000."

The third boy said, "My Dad is ever better than that. He scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, calls it a sermon, and it takes 6 or 8 men just to collect all the money!"

Read Proverbs 1:1 – 8

The Book of Proverb is really a book of wisdom principles written from a father to his son.

Most, if not all, of the Proverbs were written by Solomon. Some of them may have been wise sayings that were handed down to him from oral tradition, and he merely recorded them. Some sections of the Book of Proverbs are attributed to other men. The proverbs in chapter 30 are said to be "the words of Agur." The proverbs in Proverbs 31 are said to be "the words of King Lemuel." Both of these sections may have also actually been written by Solomon as well. We know from 4:32 that Solomon wrote three thousand proverbs and a thousand and five songs (or psalms). It is believed that Solomon wrote many of these proverbs early in his reign as king when he was given his wisdom from the Lord (discussed in 1 Kings 3).

Read Proverbs 4:1 – 7.

Read Proverbs 2:1 – 5.

Notice the phrase, "my son," in v. 1. This phrase is found 23 times in the Proverbs.

Many times this phrase is given as an encouragement for the son to heed the instruction that was about to be given from the father:

"My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments: For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee. Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart: So shalt thou find favour and good

understanding in the sight of God and man. Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

(Proverbs 3:1-6)

"Hear, O my son, and receive my sayings; and the years of thy life shall be many. ... My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings." (Proverbs 4:10, 20)

"My son, attend unto my wisdom, and bow thine ear to my understanding:" (Proverbs 5:1)

"My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother:" (Proverbs 6:20)

"My son, keep my words, and lay up my commandments with thee." (Proverbs 7:1)

"Cease, my son, to hear the instruction that causeth to err from the words of knowledge." (Proverbs 19:27)

"Hear thou, my son, and be wise, and guide thine heart in the way. ... My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways." (Proverbs 23:19, 26)

The proverbs written by Solomon to his son(s) cover a wide variety of topics: all of which are subjects, which should be taught by a dad to both his sons and daughters.

1. He teaches his son generally about the importance of wisdom, and how to get it.
(Proverbs 4:5 – 13; 8:1 – 11; Proverbs 9:1 – 6)

2. He teaches him to read and study the Word of God:

"Whoso despiseth the word shall be destroyed: but he that feareth the commandment shall be rewarded. The law of the wise is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death." - (Proverbs 13:13-14)

"Whoso keepeth the law is a wise son: but he that is a companion of riotous men shameth his father." - (Proverbs 28:7)

3. He teaches his son not to be lazy:

"He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack hand: but the hand of the diligent maketh rich. He that gathereth in summer is a wise son: but he that sleepeth in harvest is a son that causeth shame." (Proverbs 10:4-5)

"Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest. How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep? Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and thy want as an armed man." (Proverbs 6:6-11)

"I went by the field of the slothful, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding; And, lo, it was all grown over with thorns, and nettles had covered the face thereof, and the stone wall thereof was broken down. Then I saw, and considered it well: I looked upon it, and received instruction. Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth; and thy want as an armed man." (Proverbs 24:30-34)

4. He taught his son to be a good steward of the money he receives:

"Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine." (Proverbs 3:9-10)

"The rich ruleth over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender." (Proverbs 22:7)

5. He warns him about the dangers of keeping bad company:

"My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not." (Proverbs 1:10)

"Forsake the foolish, and live; and go in the way of understanding." (Proverbs 9:6)

"Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men. Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away. For they sleep not, except they have done mischief; and their sleep is taken away, unless they cause some to fall. For they eat the bread of wickedness, and drink the wine of violence. But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day. The way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble." (Proverbs 4:14-19)

6. He warns him about the strange woman:

"To deliver thee from the strange woman, even from the stranger which flattereth with her words; Which forsaketh the guide of her youth, and forgetteth the covenant of her God. For her house inclineth unto death, and her paths unto the dead. None that go unto her return again, neither take they hold of the paths of life." (Proverbs 2:16-19)

"For the lips of a strange woman drop as an honeycomb, and her mouth is smoother than oil: But her end is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a twoedged sword. Her feet go down to death; her steps take hold on hell." (Proverbs 5:3-5)

7. He teaches him about the qualities to look for in a wife:

Proverbs 31:10 – 31 is all about the virtuous woman.

8. He teaches him how to be faithful to his wife:

"Drink waters out of thine own cistern, and running waters out of thine own well. Let thy fountains be dispersed abroad, and rivers of waters in the streets. Let them be only thine own,

and not strangers' with thee. Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth." (Proverbs 5:15-18)

9. He warns him about the dangers of alcohol:

"Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise." - (Proverbs 20:1)

"He that loveth pleasure shall be a poor man: he that loveth wine and oil shall not be rich." - (Proverbs 21:17)

"Be not among winebibbers; among riotous eaters of flesh: For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty: and drowsiness shall clothe a man with rags." (Proverbs 23:20 – 21)

"As a thorn goeth up into the hand of a drunkard, so is a parable in the mouth of fools." - (Proverbs 26:9)

"Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes? They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine. Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright. At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder. Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and thine heart shall utter perverse things. Yea, thou shalt be as he that lieth down in the midst of the sea, or as he that lieth upon the top of a mast. They have stricken me, shalt thou say, and I was not sick; they have beaten me, and I felt it not: when shall I awake? I will seek it yet again." - (Proverbs 29-35)

"It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine; nor for princes strong drink: Lest they drink, and forget the law, and pervert the judgment of any of the afflicted. Give strong drink unto him that is ready to perish, and wine unto those that be of heavy hearts. Let him drink, and forget his poverty, and remember his misery no more." - (Proverbs 31:4-7)

10. Perhaps most importantly, he teaches his son to fear the Lord:

The phrase is found fourteen times in the Book of Proverbs.

"The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate." (Proverbs 8:13)

"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding." (Proverbs 9:10)

"The fear of the LORD prolongeth days: but the years of the wicked shall be shortened." (Proverbs 10:27)

"In the fear of the LORD is strong confidence: and his children shall have a place of refuge. The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death." (Proverbs 14:26-27)

"The fear of the LORD tendeth to life: and he that hath it shall abide satisfied; he shall not be visited with evil." (Proverbs 19:23)

"Let not thine heart envy sinners: but be thou in the fear of the LORD all the day long." (Proverbs 23:17)

Conclusion

Dad's – God has given you the awesome responsibility of teaching your children all of the wise principles that God would have them to learn.

Perhaps the reason we are seeing a moral breakdown in America is because dads are either absent completely, or they have abdicated their responsibility to:

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

Illustration – see graphic below (from fatherhood.org)

Illustration – Father's Day Cards (from ministry127.org)

Executives of a greeting-card company decided to do something special for Mother's Day. They set up a table in a federal prison, inviting inmates to send a free card to their Mom. The lines were so long they had to get more cards.

Due to the success of that event, they decided to do the same thing on Father's Day, but this time, not one prisoner felt the need to send a card to his Dad. In fact, when asked about it, many had no idea who their fathers were.

If you are a dad here today, then your children don't have to suffer from these negative statistics. You can spend the time necessary to love, nurture, and teach your sons and daughters to love God and live successfully.

How?

Why not start by reading the Book of Proverbs every day with your children.

One chapter every day – 31 chapters per month.

Discuss what is being taught. Learn other principles from the Scriptures to add to what is taught in the Proverbs.

Dad's, Grand-dad's let's accept with joy and eagerness the responsibility, the privilege of being a huge part of the lives of our children. Don't wait – time is slipping away. Start today.

THE FATHER ABSENCE CRISIS IN AMERICA

There is a crisis in America. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 19.7 million children, more than 1 in 4, live without a father in the home. Consequently, there is a "father factor" in nearly all of the societal ills facing America today. Research shows when a child is raised in a father-absent home, he or she is affected in the following ways...

Source: 2017, U.S. Census Bureau. Data represent children living without a biological, step, or adoptive father.

