



Week 8

Father's Day – Tell your Story

Psalm 145:1-7

Pastor Dwayne Smith

Benefits of a loving and involved father:¹

- Fewer behavioral problems.
- Healthier relationships – interact and engage with others well.
- Girls tend to look for men like Dad.
- Boys tend to model themselves after their father and look for their father's approval.
- Improved cognitive, behavioral and general health and well-being.
- Adolescent girls are more likely to form positive opinions of men and are better able to relate to them when fathered by an involved father.²

I. Praise – Every story begins with praise.

- a. Psalm 145:1-7
 - i. Last of the Psalms of David – Introduces the hymns of praise that finish out the Psalms.
 - ii. The Psalmist exhausts the language to use different words for praising – extol, bless, praise, commend, declare, meditate, pour forth, sing aloud, give thanks.
- b. A life of praise is the foundation of our story.
 - i. Reveal – Psalm 145:3 “his greatness is unsearchable.”
 1. We have witnessed the greatness of God.
 2. There is more than we can see.
 - ii. Response
 1. We respond to what we have seen.
 2. We praise what we are convinced about and what we are excited about.

II. Tell your story!

- a. In the middle of the Psalm of praise, David encourages us to tell the story to each generation – Psalm 145:4 “One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.”
 - i. Praise makes you want to tell the story.

¹ http://www.huffingtonpost.com/dr-gail-gross/the-important-role-of-dad_b_5489093.html

² <https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/the-long-reach-childhood/201106/the-importance-fathers>

- ii. We pass to others what they will need – the next generation needs this. There is great value and intention in passing our story along to our generations.
- b. This is the method used throughout history.
 - i. Biblical Model – Oral Tradition.
 1. “Oral transmission was very important in Judaism, and one of the strongest characteristics of rabbinic theology is the importance attached to the oral law in addition to the written law.”³
 2. This is how the gospel spread – Jesus told His disciples, and they in turn told others.
 3. “In most places and at most times in antiquity, only a small proportion of the population could read or write proficiently....the transmission of oral traditions was a major engine of cultural development and continuity.”⁴
 - ii. What storytelling does:
 1. Moves beyond facts to experience/application.
 2. Connects us to each other and the timeline of our generation.
- c. Parts of the story:
 - i. Characters – Who we are.
 - ii. Setting – Where we are.
 - iii. Conflict – We struggle with the things that are important to us.
 - iv. Resolution – How did we get through it How did God “show up” in our lives?

III. My Dad’s Story

- a. Deuteronomy 11:18-20 ¹⁸ “So commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these words of mine. Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. ¹⁹ Teach them to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up. ²⁰ Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”

Conclusion

- Be a man of praise!
 - Praise for God.
 - Encourager of others – people should be excited when they see you coming.
- Who are people in your life that need a “father?”
- Tell your story!
- God is still writing your story.

³ Elwell, W. A., & Beitzel, B. J. (1988). Tradition, Oral. In *Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible* (Vol. 2, p. 2094). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House.

⁴ Derico, T. M. (2016). Oral Tradition. In J. D. Barry, D. Bomar, D. R. Brown, R. Klippenstein, D. Mangum, C. Sinclair Wolcott, ... W. Widder (Eds.), *The Lexham Bible Dictionary*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.