

A FATHER'S EXAMPLE

Scripture Reading: Matthew 7:7-11

Introduction:

1. Many grow up with the desire to be like their father.
2. The example of our earthly fathers reveals certain aspects of the nature of our heavenly Father.
3. What are some of the aspects of the heavenly Father we observe?

I. PROVISION

A. EARTHLY FATHERS

1. Fathers earn a living and provide for their own -1Th 5:8
2. Fathers know how to give good gifts to their children -Mt 7:7-11

B. OUR HEAVENLY FATHER

1. God provided for the needs of His people in the wilderness -De 8:3, 4
2. The Psalmist, "...I have not seen the righteous forsaken..." -Ps 37:25
3. The apostle Paul -Ph 4:11-20

II. EXPECTATION

A. EARTHLY FATHERS

1. Training their children in the ways of God
 - a. As Paul stated -Ep 6:4
 - b. As Moses also said -De 6:6-9
2. The desire for a godly father is for their children to know Christ, and become like Him.

B. OUR HEAVENLY FATHER

1. His expectation is for His people to grow spiritually
 - a. Are you still without understanding -Mt 15:16
 - b. If you have seen Jesus, you have seen the Father -Jn 14:9-11
 - c. We should not be satisfied with milk, but move on to the meat -He 5:12-14
2. We have the same expectation for our children to grow physically

III. FORGIVENESS

A. EARTHLY FATHERS

1. Children make mistakes, but find forgiveness
2. David and Absalom
 - a. Absalom commits treason against his father David -2Sa 15:1-ff
 - b. David later mourns over his son's death -2Sa 18:33

B. OUR HEAVENLY FATHER

1. Remember the father of the Prodigal son -Lk 15:20-24
2. Remember the example of Paul
 - a. He stated he was not worthy to be called an apostle -1Co 15:9
 - b. He called himself the chief among sinners -1Ti 1:15

Conclusion:

1. Our earthly fathers gives us an example of our heavenly Father through provision, expectation, and forgiveness.
2. Our heavenly Father wants what is best for us.
 - a. He sent us His Son that through Him we could have life everlasting.
 - b. Let us take advantage of the opportunity we have to make ourselves right with Him.