

**A Father's Loving Care**  
Sermon June 19, 2016

A man came home from work, late again, tired and irritated. He found his 5-year-old daughter waiting for him at the door. "Daddy, may I ask you a question?"

The dad replied: "Yeah, sure, what is it?"

"Daddy, how much money do you make an hour?"

The dad got suspicious and said, "Why do you want to know?"

The little girl said: "I just want to know. Please tell me, how much do you make an hour?"

The dad, wanting to sit down and relax, said: "If you must know, I make \$30 an hour."

The little girl sighed and bowed her head. Looking up, she asked, "Daddy, may I borrow \$15 please?"

The father flew off the handle. "If the only reason you wanted to know how much money I make is so that you can hit me up for some cash to buy some stupid toy, then you march yourself straight to your room and go to bed. I work long, hard hours every day and don't have time for this."

The little child quietly went to her room and shut the door.

The dad sat down and started to get even madder about the nerve of his little child. How dare she ask questions only to get some money. After an hour or so, the man had calmed down, and started to think that maybe he was a bit hard on his daughter. Maybe his child really needed the money for something important. And so, the father went up to his daughter's room and opened the door. "Are you asleep, my child?"

"No daddy. I'm awake," replied the little girl.

"I've been thinking, maybe I was too hard on you earlier. It's been a long day, and I took it out on you. Here's that 15 bucks you asked for."

The little girl straightened up, beaming. "Oh, thank you, daddy!" she exclaimed. Then, reaching under her pillow, she pulled out a wad of crumpled up bills.

The dad, seeing that his child already had some money, started to get angry again. The little girl slowly counted out her money, and then looked up at her dad.

The father demanded to know what was going on. "Why did you want more money if you already had some?"

The little girl replied: "Because I didn't have enough, but now I do. Daddy, I have \$30 now... and I'd like to buy an hour of your time".

In this story, we see an angry and impatient father. He was angry and impatient, like our fathers were sometimes. Our unconscious behaviour with our children is seen by them.

Paul says: Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead bring them up in training and instruction of the Lord. (Ephesians 6:4)

Why do we delay to make changes in our behaviour?

God very clearly says that dads are to be difference-makers by leading and loving their wives and kids. Fellow fathers, it is my prayer that, through our worship, we might experience a great awakening in both our person and in our parenting!

I have to confess to you, that my children did not ask me for anything as much as for TIME. I am regretting that I missed so many opportunities to spend with them.

When my wife and I immigrated to Canada with our two children, we had a few suitcases and \$800 (Canadian). My wife and I were working very hard to provide a living for them. TIME was the biggest issue in our family.

God ordered to the fathers to bring our children up because they will not get there by themselves. But we have to recognize that our responsibility is to take an active role in shaping the character of our children. We do this ONLY when we spend time with them.

I read about a historian writer, Brooks Adams. His father was Ambassador to Great Britain under Abraham Lincoln. Brooks recalled: "The best day of my life when I was growing up was that day when my dad took me fishing. I remember that we talked and spent time together".

Time and time again, Brooks recalled that wonderful day when he and his father went fishing together. Years later, a historian was going through Ambassador Adams' papers and found the diary in which that day was mentioned. Brooks' father had written: "Went fishing today with my son. The day was wasted."

I wonder how many wasted days have come and gone that were monumental days in the lives of our children, and we never knew? I wonder how many things we were going to do but never got around to doing, that might have changed a life and molded a personality?

This is a testimony: If I could do it all over again, I would thank God more for those years with my children, for sticky faces, constant questions, toys on the floor, not enough quiet time, and for the words, "Daddy, would you come with me?" I would thank God for all of that, and much, much more.

John Dresser wrote a book titled, *If I Could Do It All Again*. In that book, he shares 8 things that he would do differently if he could go through his years of being a father all over again. Here is what he wrote:

*First of all, if I could do it all over again, I would create an environment of security in our home. Our love would be something they could see, something they would never have to worry about.*

*Second, I would laugh more. I would relax and enjoy my children and laugh at their antics. I would spend more time with them and enjoy being a father.*

*Third, I would present a more realistic model for my children to follow. I would be honest with them about myself. I would let them know that I had problems in school, too, that I stumbled, and made mistakes, and failed. I would let them know that I understand, and that they can come to me when they fail, because I have been there as well.*

*Fourth, I would listen to what they say. I would listen to their pains and problems and worries and concerns. I would listen when they wanted to talk to me, because now I realize that if I listen to them when they are small, and to their little problems, then when they are big, and have big problems, they will still come and talk with me.*

*Fifth, I would stop praying for my family as before and I would change my prayer for them, because a father's prayers so often sound something like this: "God, make my son and daughter good people. Help them to succeed in school. Help them to find the right person to marry. Take care of and protect them." Instead, I would start praying more for myself, that I might be the right kind of father, realizing that when I become the right kind of father, my children will probably be the right kind of children.*

*Sixth, I would pay more attention to little things. I would begin to appreciate the touch of love and the word of encouragement. So many times we fathers are quick to criticize their failures, and so slow to praise and encourage them when they do something right.*

*Seventh, I would create an environment of belonging. I would want my children to know that they belong, and that they are important family members, because I realize that there are going to be people saying to them, "Join this and join that". But if they have a solid identity in the home and in the family, they will not easily be led astray.*

*Last, but certainly not least, I would make God an intimate friend of my family. I would use His name freely. I would communicate to them that He is involved in all our family decisions. I would want them to see me pray and read God's Word and search for His direction and leadership.*

Folks, if I had my life to live over again, I think I would try very seriously to improve in those 8 areas, too.

I read a quote from General Douglas MacArthur:

*"By profession, I am a soldier and take great pride in that fact. But I am prouder, infinitely prouder, to be a father. A soldier destroys in order to build. The father only builds, never destroys...It is my hope that my son, when I am gone, will remember me not from the battle, but in the home."*

Maybe there are some here this morning who long for a father to reach out and love them, and forgive them. Maybe there are some here who have never known that voice of authority, the tender discipline and understanding that only God can provide. Maybe there are some who are still looking for a place to belong.

If so, then I point you to Jesus, my Saviour and my Lord. I invite you to know God as your loving heavenly father, who loved you so much that He gave the greatest gift that we could ever receive. Amen