

A Weak Leg, A Strong Father. (Father's Day)

Texts: 1 Kings 19:1-4
Galatians 3:23-29 (Series C, 3rd Sunday after Pent.) Ps.43
Luke 8:26-39

"Almost every trial increases our love for others. So even if we don't see any other good, we know of at least one--more love."

Prayer:

This was to be his moment. Although he had been plagued by injuries throughout his entire career, on the evening of August 3rd, 1992 *Derek Redmond* had never felt stronger. He broke quickly in lane 5, making up the stagger on the runners in lanes 6-8.

Then Redmond felt something pop in his right leg. He had torn his hamstring. As the other runners finished the race, all eyes turned to him, helpless and motionless on the track.

Suddenly, a man who broke through security appeared next to the injured runner, who, in spite of his injury, was determined to complete the race. Redmond's father had been watching in disbelief from the grandstand.

Now he provided a much-needed shoulder as his son hobbled in agony toward the finish line. Together the father and the son produced one of the most glorious finishes in Olympic history. *Barcelona 1992*

A grown man's simple tribute to his father "*Living at our house was nice!*" gives us a warm feeling all over. And, over and over again in the Gospels, Jesus employs the image of "*earthly father*" in order to give us our best human glimpse of His and our heavenly Father.

Jesus speaks of a priceless Father-Son relationship of loyalty and love: "Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me ... the world must know that I love the Father and do as the Father commanded Me" (Jn.14:11,31).

He speaks of a generous Father: " ... the Father knows what we need before you ask Him. It is My Father who gives you the real heavenly bread..." A Father's role is changing in our society and "Do we need fathers in the home today?"

- ❖ There has been a big trend lately in our culture for women (*who planned*) to have children without a husband.
- ❖ The thought is that they don't need a father. A loving mother will be good enough. Is that true?
- ❖ In today's society where more and more women are raising children on their own: in some community the crime rate is going up.
- ❖ substance abuse and depression is up.
- ❖ This isn't to say that mothers are at fault, but that it is clear that God intended for fathers to be an important part of the family. Fathers give stability. In a world that seems upside down at times, it is good to know that a good father is always there.
- ❖ Psychologists have found that or I should say affirms what the Bible teaches that girls with good self-esteem generally come from homes where the father was *loving* and *available*. I know is it hard for us to accept, especially in a politically correct society.

Steve Farrar says that the father is the anchor of the family. Whenever a father abandons his family or mistreats his wife and children, the family starts to drift. Those children struggle with insecurity and often lack a moral compass.

Consider the ship the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower, which carries 6,000 sailors. The vessel weighs 95,000 tons and has not one but two anchors. Each of them weighs 60,000 pounds. Imagine a single anchor that weighs 30 tons! But the huge chain that anchor is attached to weighs 665,000 pounds.

Each gigantic link weighs 365 pounds. Even a ship that is not so monstrous needs an anchor, and that anchor has to be connected to the ship by a series of individual links.

Families are like that. The father in each generation is a link in a chain that reaches back in time hundreds or even thousands of years. Each link in that chain is important, but what God is most concerned about today is us fathers--the anchor at the end of that chain!

Dads, are the one who needs to anchor their families on the rock--Jesus Christ--for the next 100 years. Our life today will influence not only our children and grandchildren, but their children after them.

Even though I didn't have a father growing up, I was raised by my mother. I am of the school of thought that believe fathers are to be the good leaders of the family. This doesn't mean they should be domineering person.

- Fathers need to guide the family to be the best they all can be.
- Fathers need to love the family as Christ loved the church.
- That is a huge responsibility that many fathers don't want to assume.
- Those that do, are fathers worthy of great honor.

I am really blessed to have a family, and able to come home to a loving, caring family. If you are a good father, but a poor man, your reward is worth any sacrifice you made.

Paul reminds us, in his letter to the Galatians, that we are all one in Christ and also that we remain the children of Abraham. At the end of this week's Gospel from Luke, Jesus tells the man freed of demons: *Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.*

Let us be still and listen for God in the silence of our souls, let us open our hearts to smile with the laughs of children, and be alight with the joy of sunrise breaking through a long dark night.

Let us continuously re-claim our faith, through the Word, prayer and by action ~ however tenuous in the difficult times ~ believing in the power of God to guide us through until we can at last *praise the Lord, stand in awe, and give glory.*

Let us be released from those piggies of doubt, anger, hatred, fear, and greed, and send them off for an eternal swim! Most of all, let us always remember that we are *marked as Christ's own forever* in Baptism, children of Abraham and people of Easter.

Finally, back to fathers don't ever forget that or let anyone tell you differently. Men retire from business every day. Powerful men, I mean powerful men but when they walk out of that office for the last time, they are quickly forgotten. But your children will be around you the rest of your life.

As a father, I would do everything in my power to protect and provide for my family. But God goes even further, God not only provides and protects us. God forgives where sin great, and where sin is greater, his grace is even greatest. This is heart of God the father. And fathers are encouraged to imitate his character.

Happy Father's Day

**May the peace of God which passes all understanding
keep your heart and mind in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen.**

Prayer concerns: *Matilda Molyneaux-Piper, Shirley Walker, Hanne Bourgeoise, Sven Berg, Astrid Hylland, Ellen Eriksen, Ellen Dahal-Lanteigne, Wilhelmina Tiemersma,, Soo Young, Shirley Walker, Pastor Timothy, Sherly Beller-Kenner, The dire tension between Russia and Ukraine, Protectors at various places in Canada, Covid -19 patients, essential and Frontline workers, finally Families of departed souls in recent weeks and months.*

Prayer: Most High God, Creator of *All* Humankind, on this auspicious date of Juneteenth, release us from any and all unholy possession that turns us away from You. Keep us mindful of the hope and freedom granted us through Christ, and fill us with the faith and compassion to proclaim Your Name by all that we are and all that we do. We ask through Jesus, our Teacher of Love in Action; and the Holy Spirit, the Spark that ignites our Souls; who together with You are One God forever and ever. **Amen.**

Make melodies in your heart with these hymns:

- **Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now # 527**
- **O Jesus, I Have Promised # 810**
- **Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me # 767**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Henrik Langer, Madelene Sabaldt

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

n/a