

6/19/66
"Father's Day"

Scripture Lesson: - I Corinthians 16: 13-24.

Text: - I Corunthians 16: 13.

Introduction: - This is the day designated on our church calendars as "Father's Day. It is in order that we have a Father's Day, for we have a Mother's Day, and we think it almost a sin to neglect it.

As a father, I would make much of the day. The father's need to know that life is not complete without them. They are the heads of the households. They are the bread-winners. They are the bulwark against all the dangers that may assail the home. They should also be the leaders in all things that are for the benefit of the home. In such things as the school, the church, and the community, they should be among the leaders.

First, let me say unto you, that a father and his sons, and daughters, have the responsibility of being a father of the right kind. You have the responsibility of being an "ideal father". A boy does not naturally get to be greater than his father, unless he receives the nurture and fellowship that a true father can give. One little bit of a boy was asked the question, "Who do you think is the greatest man in the world?" His answer was, "my daddy". Would he think that his daddy was the greatest man a few years hence? He should think so.

A father must take time to go with his sons to enjoy some of the outdoor sports a boy instinctively likes. He must find time to go fishing, to go hunting, to play games of sport. I have a son, now grown to manhood. One of the things I enjoy, is to look backward and see some of the most interesting, pleasing, things that grew out of those trips. But many of our lads of today hardly know their dads. The dad comes late and leaves early, and the only knowledge the boy has of him is what his mother has told him. She told him that the man he asked about was his dad.

May I say, in the language of the text, "Quit you like men, be strong." Men of courage are needed in America today. Men of strength and heroism, who are not afraid to cry out against the sins of today and stand for Christianity. Christianity requires backbone; it is not effeminate. It is a challenge to strong manhood.

II.

Father's should know that the world today is filled with perplexing problems. The nations of the world are wrestling with staggering problems of war that might end civilization. Education is baffled with the lack of authority and the low morals. The threat of world war three keeps people jittery with fear and forebodings.

There has never been so much crime and frustration. Crime is on the march in America. Day after day, year after year, the tide of criminality continues to rise. The appalling increase of crime and sexual vice continues to rise among the youth the youth of our land should arouse the Christian

of our land to action. Every day we see in the newspapers the terrible crimes committed by the youth of our land, youth still in their teens. And youth is one of our most precious possessions. Can we not do something about it? We can. Do you know where the trouble lies? Yes, you are right. It lies at our doorsteps.

Statistics tell us that we have about 25 million youth without any religious training whatever. Whose fault is it? Are the young people to blame? This means that millions of parents are utterly indifferent to the religious training of their children. Godlessness among 25 million youth is a fertile seedbed for crime that would destroy the Democratic way of life.

Some father's and mother's too, say, "I will let my children grow up and then let them make their own decisions in religious matters". But who will be their helper while they are growing up? They need help right now. It may be too late when they grow up to make the right decision. Parents do not hesitate to talk to their children about politics and other matters. They should help them mold their thoughts about matters of religion and help them to find Christ as their Savior.

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover says that the criminal flood is the result of our failure to teach God to our children, and the one sure way to stem the tide is to return to the religious teaching in the home and the church. It will not be sufficient to send the child to church, but take him to church. It is the training in the home and the

church that has the strength to guard the child against the modern temptations. It takes the training of both home and the church to give a well balanced character.

IV.

Then we have the menace of communism. The goal of the communists is world domination. They are spreading to every government in the world. They kept our president from going to Japan. They will try to keep him from fulfilling his promise to go to others.

Today they are spreading to the churches. All ministers are to be contacted and in a mild sort of way are to introduce the idea of communism into the sermons they preach. Some of the ministers of our day have been thrown out of their pulpits on account of their communist pronouncements.

The situation in Cuba is of Communist origin. Christianity in Cuba is certainly undergoing a real persecution. The house arrest of many pastors, priests and the imprisonment of many bishops by Communist groups. Protestant groups, a fine religious minority, have a difficult task before them. Let us pray for them.

V.

We have become proficient in big business and in splitting the atoms in the laboratory. We have outstripped our forefathers in fields of science and invention; we have harnessed the lightning and snatched voices from the air, and pictures too; we have lengthened the life of man through medical skill, we have relieved life of much of its hardship by the devices we have invented; we have spanned the oceans

in a few hours of time. But with all of this, the wonders of the age, we have neglected the biggest business of rearing our children in the fear and admonition of the Lord. The modern man needs a Savior. When we ignore and neglect him we must reap the harvest of chaos and ruin.

Without God we are headed for increasing confusion and distress. It is high time that we turn back to God before our nation goes down in defeat like the nations of the past. Our leaders in business, education and science have come to realize this fact.

Conclusion:- Yes, you who are father's, have a great task before you. I know that on this Fathers Day, you want to remember the one who is your father, and that is well and good. But let us fathers become wise and get busy with the greatest business in the world, raising our children. We ought to hear their cry for something better than that they have had. We ought to give to them the wholesome influence of a father. We should make it possible for them to make some of the good choices of life.

Like it was at the funeral of David Livingstone.

Brothers
Only men of faith can lead the world out of its present dilemma
god's call to each of us in this present hour is to stand up
speak out the message of Christ
the only hope of the world-