



HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!



Grace for Damaged Kids and Despairing Dads

Today's Message (15/16 June 2019) / 2 Samuel 13-19

THE ONLY HOPE
FOR DAMAGED
KIDS WHEN
PARENTS FAIL IS
THE GRACE OF
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The story in these chapters serve as one big illustration of how God's grace prevailed in the life of David and how Absalom could have availed of it. David, after a failure bigger than most of us could ever do, seemed finished. But God is never done with us. He doesn't always spare us the consequences of our sins, but still cares more about us than we could ever care about ourselves.

On the other hand, Absalom is like many children who are old enough to make their own choices, but consistently choose the wrong ones. God's grace is the hope of every family, and it redeemed a failure of a dad like David, but was sadly missed by a damaged child like Absalom.

1. THE RAPE OF TAMAR:

- This would set up the vengeful murder of Amnon by Tamar's brother, Absalom, who was also next-in-line for the throne. The would-be king becomes a fugitive.
- When sin is not nipped in the bud by those who can, it always comes back to bite you. David could have put a stop to it then by handling Amnon with justice, but didn't.

2. THE REJECTION OF DAVID:

- After much hesitation, David allows Absalom to return but refuses to see him.
- Partial forgiveness is sometimes worse than none. Let's not make the same mistake. Two years seething in rage made Absalom the perfect monster who would do everything to hit two birds with one stone—get the throne and kill his father.

Regular English Services

(Sun, 8 & 10:30 a.m., 5:30 p.m.)

Prelude

Call To Worship

Worship Through Praise

Worship Through Fellowship

Appreciation of Fathers

Pastoral Prayer

Scripture Reading

Worship in the Word

Pastor Larry Pabiona

Worship Through Giving

Response Song

Benediction

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3. THE RAGE OF ABSALOM:

- Absalom succeeds remarkably: he dethrones his father, who runs for his life. But Absalom is not content. He still plans to kill his father not only from fear of his return, but from rage at his rejection.
- Absalom followed wrong advice because this ruler was ruled by two things that still control many of us today: pride and anger.

4. THE RETURN OF THE KING:

- God restores the kingdom to David. Yet he paid a painful price for it. Three of his children's lives are destroyed, his kingdom is in shambles, just like the prophet Nathan predicted.
- Hebrews chapter 12 tells us much about the heart of God. A God whose grace is greater than our failures, but whose love and wisdom allows us to learn from our mistakes. What is your view of God? What shapes it? Answer carefully: your joy in life depends on it!

FINAL THOUGHTS

Sadly, Absalom never seemed to have a personal relationship with God. The only hope for damaged kids when parents fail is the grace of God. When a father doesn't do a stellar job, all the more you must turn to the fatherhood of God. He is the Father who never fails!

Most fathers succumb to despair when the kids don't turn out right. Fellow father, you need a Father, too. And when you don't know what to do, or already came up short, remember David. Why would God take him back? Because God's grace is greater than our failures. And those who return to Him with a broken life and broken heart, He heals and restores, even in the midst of the consequences of their sins. Fellow father, make sure you are a good son of the Heavenly Father. He'll teach us how to father ■

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

The Shepherd's Voice

by Elder Ave Gaspar

A FATHER'S DAY REFLECTION

Happy Father's Day to all biological and spiritual fathers for all their love, hard work and sacrifice for us. For most of us, we are blessed to still have our fathers with us. For some, they may be far or have already passed on.

I remember when the father of a colleague died. I spoke with him in his time of grieving and mourning. He was devastated. In tears he asked me, "Why does God give us fathers, only to let them die sooner or later?" It was a hard question. He obviously loved his father so much. He must have been so close to him, his best friend, his inspiration and role model. At that moment, I did not know how to answer.

This colleague is a successful corporate executive with a relatively healthy family life. I think that must be a proof that he was raised by his father well.

I then realized that if we want to raise good children, we must be good fathers ourselves! Of course, this is in partnership with our wives. Matthew 12:33 says, "Either make the tree good and its fruit good or make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for the tree is known by its fruit" (NASB).

Fathers have a God-ordained role to lead their families into godliness and fruitfulness! Sadly, many have delegated this to their wives. A recent

Barna study revealed that majority of Christians say that it was their mother's faith that had a great impact on their spiritual walk. That may be true with us, too. When we look at church activities, it is not uncommon to see women—mostly mothers—outnumbering men. Are we men just too busy? Or uninterested?

As I gathered my thoughts in reply to my colleague's desperate cry, I uttered a swift prayer to seek God's wisdom. Then I said, "God gave us our earthly fathers, so we can experience a foretaste of God, our Heavenly Father Himself!"

Those words ricocheted back to me. What a sacred role and a privilege it is to be a father—both biological and spiritual! God desires that our children experience Him through us—imperfect and inadequate as we are.

"For I have chosen him, so that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing righteousness and justice" (*Genesis 18:19a*).

So, this Father's Day, as we are receiving thanksgiving and accolades, let us thank God for the privilege of being His representative. Find time alone with God and ask Him what areas of our life needs retooling or rebooting perhaps as we lead our families to more fruitfulness and righteousness ■

Ministry Opportunities + Announcements



ROOTED IN GOD'S LOVE

Joy Women's Fellowship

June 18 (Tues), 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon
at the Fellowship Hall

Speaker: Hon. Maria Lourdes Sereno

For more details, contact 0917 532 1921.

WIDOWS: PRECIOUS IN GOD'S SIGHT (WIDOW'S RALLY)

Naomi Women's Ministry celebrates

International Widows Day

Speaker: Helene Fischer (Open Doors Int'l.)

June 22 (Sat), 8:30 a.m. at the Fellowship Hall

For more details, contact 0917 532 1921.

JOY OF MOTHERHOOD AS SUPAMOMS

Speaker: Emma Yujico

June 22 (Sat), 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the

Youth Center | For more details, contact 0917 532 1921.

THINK RIGHT! SEEING CHRIST ABOVE THE GODS OF TODAY

Apologetics Conference with Pat Zukeran and Greg Koukl

July 12 (Fri, 6-9 p.m.) & 13 (Sat, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.)

Topics include worldviews, Jesus as apologist, faith and relativism, and many more

Registration is free; sign-up at the info booth.

For more details, contact 0932 371 3457.

MUGS 'N MUFFINS: ONCE WORTHLESS, NOW PRECIOUS

with Precious Lara Quigaman

July 20 (Sat), 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon

Admission is free. For more details, contact 0917 532 1921.

The flowers this week are given with praise and thanksgiving to God by Rubelyn Enriquez, the Basilad family, the Valera family, and the Messiah College. The flowers are also given by Teresita Roseus as thanksgiving for healing and provisions. Please call 632 1354 to 56 for inquiries on how to participate in this ministry.

Join a DISCIPLE-MAKING GROUP

Growth Group Express

Mixed group led by Ptr. Emer Manaloto

Sundays, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Rm. B124

GGEx Extreme

Choose any group: Women, Men, Young Men, Youth

Sundays, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Fellowship Hall

Burning Hearts Chronicles GG

Group for couples

Sundays, 9:30-10:00 p.m.

Rm. B124

God's Grace GG (G4)

Group for couples

Fridays, 7:30-10:00 p.m.

Rm. B124

Best Together in Christ

Group for couples

Sundays, 9:30-11:00 a.m.

Rm. B508

If you are interested in joining any of the small groups above, fill out the tear-off form of this bulletin, drop it in the offering bag, or submit it at the Growth Group booth at the lobby. For more information, you can text or call us at 0932 282 2290.

Oikos Bible Study (OBS) Training

Learn how to facilitate inductive Bible studies at your home or office on June 30, July 7, 14, 21, 28, August 4 and 11 (Suns), 9:30-10:30 a.m., at the Fellowship Hall.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT / June 2019

| JUNE | Projected | Rcvd., June 1-11 | YEAR-TO-DATE | Projected | Rcvd., as of Jun 11 |
|---------------------------|-----------|------------------|---------------------------|------------|---------------------|
| General Funds | 7,311,261 | 3,840,554 | General Funds | 48,655,827 | 46,105,617 |
| Mission Support Fund | 1,317,698 | 561,280 | Mission Support Fund | 7,906,187 | 5,973,651 |
| Others (Designated, etc.) | 717,488 | 105,792 | Others (Designated, etc.) | 7,190,106 | 6,118,106 |
| TOTAL | 9,346,447 | 4,507,626 | TOTAL | 63,752,120 | 58,197,374 |

The blessing of a father from the Father

BY DIDI, JUSTINE, AND TANYA PARASO

Papa is a humble father with a big heart. One of my most memorable moments with him happened two decades ago. We arrived home late at night from a musicale rehearsal. I was so tired and sleepy, so he carried the seven-year-old-me from the backseat of the car to my bed. Never did he grumble or gloat about it the next day. This is one of the countless times he has shown me what it means to be a servant leader. His small acts of service modeled to me as I grew up have reaped a great influence to me now as a leader who desires to serve others.—*Didi*

If kindness were a person, he would be my father. I've brought mistakes and pain to the table, yet not once did he raise his voice or hand at me. One unforgettable moment I had was when I hurt him more than I ever did in the past with one decision I made. I was crying in my bed when he sat beside me and said, "It's okay. I still love you." See, if kindness was a person, he would be my father.—*Justine*

Many say, "My dad isn't like any ordinary dad!" but saying that about Papa is an understatement. Papa doesn't go home after a hard day of work, lift his legs on a stool, and watch TV. He comes home, puts his phone away, and asks us how our day went, how we feel. He's the first

one to rise and cook our family breakfast and the last one to sleep to make sure all of us are rested and cared for. Papa shows his love for God by how he loves us so patiently and unconditionally.—

Tanya



The Paraso Family (from left): Didi, Cris (father), Justine, Tanya, and Ruth (mother).

It's not easy being a father (what more a father of three moody girls), but he has done a pretty good job. God has blessed us with a papa who works hard, yet doesn't tire to serve those he loves. He's not perfect, but he has become the epitome of a man after God's own heart for us, and for that we are ever grateful. We love you, Papa. Happy Father's Day! And Happy Father's Day to all the fathers out there! ■

PRAYER
at the Chapel

The GCF Hour of Prayer
Tuesdays, 6-7 a.m.

Midweek Prayer Service
Wednesdays, 7-8:30 p.m.

Weeknight Prayer Gatherings
Except Wednesdays, 7-8 p.m.



Greenhills Christian Fellowship
Know Christ and Make Him Known

Ruby cor. Garnet Roads, Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605
Tel. Nos. 632 1354 to 56, 635 0078 to 80, 635 0082 to 83 | Fax No. 632 1357
Mobile No. 0920 961 2964, Mon.-Fri., 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
E-mail: email@gcf.org.ph • Website: www.gcf.org.ph

How may we SERVE YOU BETTER?

Fill-out this tear off form and drop it in an offering bag/box or at the Ministry Information Booth. Please check all that is applicable:

- ☐ I am a first-time guest.
- ☐ I prayed to receive Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord today.
- ☐ I would like to know how to become a Christian.
- ☐ I am interested in becoming a member of this church.
- ☐ **I want to join a Growth Group.**
(Specify age group: _____)
(Specify group composition: _____)
- ☐ I want to start a Growth Group.
- ☐ I want to host a Growth Group.

Please share with us some information about yourself:

Name: _____

Age: ____ Landline no.: _____

Mobile no.: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Year of membership: _____

Name of Growth Group (if you already have one): _____

*Today is **15/16 June 2019**, and I attended the 8 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 3:00 p.m., 5:30 p.m. or 6:00 p.m. (Sat) (encircle the time).*

Write below *any* inquiry or prayer item that you want to ask or share.

For hospital or house visitation, dedication service, or funeral service requests, please call or text 0917 532 7794.

God's Way to Heaven

THE GOSPEL

"Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures."
(1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

THE TRUTH ABOUT GOD

God is holy and righteous: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty, the whole earth is full of his glory" (Isaiah 6:3). **He requires holiness of us as well:** "Be holy, for I am holy" (1 Peter 1:16).

THE TRUTH ABOUT MAN

Man is sinful: "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).
Sin demands a penalty: "For the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23).

THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRIST

Christ is the expression of God's love for us: "God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). **Christ paid the penalty of our sins and died for sinners:** "For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God" (1 Peter 3:18). **Through Christ, God offers man reconciliation:** "God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them" (2 Corinthians 5:18).

WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

Believe and receive Jesus as Lord and Savior: "If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved" (Romans 10:9).

PRAYER: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner. I believe that you died on the cross in my place, to save me from my sins, and I accept you as my Savior, and the Master of my life forever. Amen.

Need someone to talk to?

Visit the Emmaus Road Counseling Center at the GCF Mezzanine floor or contact 632 1354 to 56, 635 0078 to 80 or 0917 532 7794 for inquiries.