

WHAT FAITH DOES FOR FATHERS

Mal. 4:6

Introduction: Father's Day - exactly that, not husband's day, emphasizing the relation between husband and wife.
Father's Day emphasizes relation between father & children,
Mother's Day " " " " " "

the last verse in O.T., although probably few, if any, here have realized this, is concerned with just this subject - the relation between father & children. Malachi discusses the coming of the prophet in the spirit and power of Elijah, to prepare the way of the Lord and Samuel, who, when He comes, "will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers."

It is a wonderful and beautiful thing to see a family where the heart of the father is toward the children, and the heart of the children are toward the father, in tenderness, love, trustfulness & companionship.

The father looks at his son and says:

"He is myself again, with hopes of old,
With old temptations and with old desires;
He is myself again - the clay to mold
Into the man, and all the man aspires.
Who says that youth returns to us no more?
He is as I was in the days of yore."

Often we speak of the faith of our fathers; this a.m. I want us to think of what faith does for fathers.

I. First, it saves the soul.

1. The soul is lost in sin

2. Jesus died to save us

3. Faith is the connecting link that leads the lost soul to God.

II. Second, Faith transforms a Father's life.

1. Since the children a new Father.
 - A. Heart filled with love - little girl who was blind, how she discovered her father after operation. "Oh, to think, I had this wonderful father so many years & never knew him." (Webb, p. 8)
 - B. Heart filled with Patience
 - C. Heart filled with sympathy & understanding.

"My little son, who look'd from thoughtful eyes
And moved and spoke in quiet grown-up wise,
Having my law the seventh time disobey'd,
I struck him, and dismiss'd
With hard words and unkind,
— His Mother, who was patient, being dead.
Then, fearing lest his grief should hinder sleep,
I visited his bed,
But found him slumbering deep,
With darkened eyelids, with their lashes yet
From his late sobbing wet.
And I, with mean
Kissing away his tears, left others of my own."

2. Since the home a new Happiness.

3. Delivers the Father from fear, worry, anxiety.

4. Gives Him new energy for work.

— story of coal mine cave-in in Lancashire.
stalwart, gray-headed man shoveling with the
strength of the men, said, "Get out of my way;
I have two boys down there." (Webb, p. 82).

III. Binds the Family Together.

1. In Devotion.

A. To God

B. To each other - see Truett's story of his
friend whose father had heart condition.

said, "Jim, you've been a good son to me.
You've been so faithful and so helpful."

2. In Diversion - fun.
— story of man dragged by horse.

IV. Secures the Nation From Judgment

1. "lest I come & smite the land" with a curse."

2. Christian faith firmly implanted in the heart is our Nation's finest line of defence against its enemies.

The Bridge Builder:

"The builder lifted his old gray head:
"Good friend is the path I have come," he said,
"these follow with after me today
a youth whose feet must pass this way.

This chasm that has been naught to me
so that fair-haired youth may a pitfall be.

He, too, must cross in the twilight dim;
Good friend, I am building the bridge for him."

— Will Allen Dringdale.

to have

3. Believing Fathers and Faithful children, with their hearts knit together like David and Jonathan, is the best security of a Christian home.

A. Children can lead their father to Christ—
girl at Wheaton College talking to Dr. Edman.

B. Father can lead the children to Christ—

(1). Tommy Johnson's mother.

(2). Father as a guide (Weht p. 82)

(3). Over

women who said, "I would rather live on bread and water & live in a tent, and have my husband and my children on the dark side with me, than to dwell in the grandest palace on earth with them going the wrong way."

The Blind Child

"I know what mother's face is like,
although I cannot see;
It's like the music of a bell;
It's like the roses I can smell —
yes, that it's like to me.

I know what father's face is like:
I'm sure I know it all;
It's like his whistle on the air;
It's like his arms which take such care
and never let me fall.

And I can tell what God is like —
the God whom no one sees.

He's everything my parents seem;
He's fairer than my fondest dream,
And greater than all that.

CONCLUSION: story of Lot

"And the men said to Lot:

Host thou any here besides? —

son-in-law, and thy sons, and thy daughters,
and whatsoever thou hast in the city,
bring them out of this place." — Gen. 19:12

Augsburg, Ger., Oct. 16 June 63

When the crew of the Squalus realized they had taken their last dive and that they were lying helpless at the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean, 240 feet below the surface, they sent up smoke flares & a buoy.

Would one of the sister ships find them, and if so, could they be rescued? Their help must come from above. In agonizing silence they waited.

Soon after that fatal dive the submarine Sculpin set out in search.

The red smudge was found, then the buoy.

But 24 hours passed before actual rescue work could be started.

A giant 10 ton diving bell dipped and rose again & again, each time taking several men alive from those awful depths, until all 33 men who were alive in the submarine had been rescued.

When that huge diving bell came down for the Squalus crew, not one sailor refused to be rescued, but all gladly accepted ~~the~~ way to safety.

When the Sculpin sent down

The 10 ton diving bell, not one of the 33 men said, "I will think it over," or "There are hypocrites on the Sculpin," or "I want nothing to do with them." Not one said, "I am O.K. as I am," or

"I don't understand the workings
of the diving bell."

not one said, "I don't feel like
being rescued" or

"Tomorrow I will ask rescue."

not one of them found fault
with the Sculpin crew—

as some find fault with the church
or the preacher.

all gladly accepted the way to safety.

Christ is ready to receive and
forgive you,

to strengthen and use you.

You should come to Him more
quickly than ever a wounded man
cried for a doctor.

You should come to Christ more
quickly than ever a drowning man
reached for a lifeboat.