

S. M. June 20, 1976 P. M. W. R. I.
(Father's Day) -

WHAT KIND OF A DAD

Gen. 7:1

Come thou and all thy house into the Ark.

This is God's call to a father. And God has been trying to get the ear of Fathers for a 120 years but only Noah would listen to him. And God has been trying to get the ears of Fathers as we pay a tribute today, especially on this Father's Day, to the Fathers of this great land.

The cup of iniquity was full when Jesus wanted to tell about the iniquities that were going to come and fill the earth, preceding the second coming, he used the text - Luke 17:26. "As it was in the days of Noah." After many long years of warning, suddenly the stroke fell.

Geologists tell us that there are sea shells and marine formations found on top of the Alps and the Andes - proving that at some period of the earth's history the water washed over them.

There are four full chapters given to this man Noah.

Peter, in the New Testament, makes a very important edition to our knowledge of Noah. Noah, the eighth person, was a preacher of righteousness. And we have that he gives quite a bit about Noah.

Noah was a (planter of vineyards). He was the owner of vineyards and a dealer no doubt in wines. Even unto his old age. But with only eight souls saved, and some of them scarcely saved, we can next determine that he was a preacher.

And the question comes, why was it that Noah was so (unsuccessful) as a preacher. Was it because it was righteousness that he preached. That may very well have been it. As far as my experience goes, righteousness is one thing that hearers will not have and will not receive very gladly.

All other kinds of preaching that I do, people are ready to take. Apologetical preaching, historical preaching, biographical preaching, evangelical preaching.

Some of the people will welcome and some people indeed demand - but they will all agree in refusing and resenting the preaching of righteousness. That means the preaching of repentance, plus the preaching of conversion, conduct, and character. People just do not like that.

Josephus supplements what Peter and Moses had said about Noah, this great man. He said that he preached and pleaded with them to change their dispositions. And their actions until he was afraid that they were going to kill him."

One thing we are sure, Noah did not discredit his preaching by his life. For Noah had a testimony that he was a preacher that walked with God. God ~~had~~ gave him the (instructions) and Noah went to work on them. And this was a terrible task that this man would go lonely but he preached as best he could. He was as earnest as he could be until the end drew near. Every hammer that fell, every ax that fell a tree in the forest, every stroke of the hammer - all of this was saying, men, you are correct. The day of wrath is coming. But sad to say, those men would not help him to build the ark. Even the men that he hired - they would have nothing to do with his preaching or belief.

Now all of Noah's sermons were excellent because they had an appeal about righteousness. Had he not himself gone and done what the Lord commanded him to do - that was to say, had he not prepared the ark - and gone up into the ark and asked the Lord to

shut him in. That is the very best kind of Gospel.

The next Sabbath preached his sermon on righteousness. There had never been such a dry season, in the memory of man. Now Noah preached and prophesied that this terrible calamity would come. Unless this generation repented from the corruption and unless some mighty thing took place.

I think Noah must have disappeared in the forest. He must have prayed that sign from a sign from Heaven. There might have been a little cloud to come. And the only answer that Noah got from his prayer was "my spirit shall not always strive with man - make me an ark."

I imagine that Noah moved with a great deal of fear. He worked with all of his might for another six days until the Sabbath day, when he preached again - and again he received the warning. 'His spirit will not always strive with man.' No sooner was the ark finished and Noah was shut in, than God gave him the signal. And the stormy wind struck and the whole creation shook and groaned. And in the twinkling of an eye waters which were below, leaped up. The high hills that were under the whole Heaven were covered. Noah only remained alive in the ark. There was never anything like it before on the face of the earth. And there the ark was, the next (150 days) until God's judgement and God's wrath had been suspended.

There is only one thing that out does that ark on this earth, and that is the heart of a regenerated man. The saving knowledge of the grace of God in his heart, when God knocks at his door, he opens and lets him come in.

Some person may say how did Noah and his family occupy themselves during the long dreary voyage. Did they play cards, did they have newspapers, did they read sensational novels. Well, I have no idea how they occupied themselves. I can tell you certainly what Noah did. I have no books. But Noah said I have myself. And himself for 150 days

and nights - to be there on board. What do you think. I don't think Noah had to hunt around as to how he was going to kill time. (He lived in prayer) If you would be at the end of your longest voyage, before you know where you are going to walk with God on the deck of the vessel, you'd be like Noah. He was telling him about his children. He was telling him about their character. He was telling God about the fears that he had. And I think that Noah must have been spending that time very wisely.

To meet the emergency of that one family, God got the ear of that father and God ordered him to build that great ark. It was not going to sail to any other shore - it was even without a rutter. For no human hand was going to guide it. Just one family with one door that was shut. And as it swept across the great hills and the great valleys, and rode the crest of the flood, he prepared an ark for the saving of his family.

I. THE FATHER'S OBLIGATION

Now, we want to see here that here was a father who assumed his obligation. I thank God for good women, and good wives, and good mothers. This old world would be a sadder and a poorer place without them. But it is hard to get fathers and sons in the ark.

Jehovah God said the wickedness of man that was great in the earth - every imagination of the thought of his heart, was only evil continually. Gen (6:5) That statement is that every device thought of his heart. There was depravity all the day long. At this point, God's judgement was world wide. It was to sweep every man literally off the face of the earth. All living creatures of the land and of the earth itself. The means of destruction was going to be with the flood waters.

And the fountains of the deep were to give up.

However, God gave a time of mercy for repentance of 120 years. That they might repent. And Noah was God's man, one father, who went about the business of trying to do what God wanted him to do. And he built an ark 547 feet long, 91 feet wide, 54 feet high. And there was ample room for all of the occupants in this boat.

Noah was remarkable in character, life, faith, being a just man and a perfect man in his generation. And it was by faith and being warned of God concerning things not seen and yet moved with Godly fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house. Heb. 11:7.

It is hard to get fathers to listen today. Dr. George W. Truett, a fine lad, who had attended the revival meeting but he had lost interest and concern. Dr. Truett talked to him. And he said that he had made up his mind to follow his Daddy. My father is a man of great intellect and he is a good man. And I am going to follow him where he leads. Now his father was one of the leading surgeons of that city. He claimed to be a skeptic. The minister went to him and talked to him and related the story of his son. Much disturbed, the surgeon asked, what hour this evening will the service begin. When told he said, I thank you for your visit, I will be at your meeting. When the preacher delivered his sermon, the invitation was given, who would accept Christ as his Saviour to follow him and come forward. Dr. Truett said, here came the great Doctor and right behind him, the fine son. I took his hand and said, look behind you. When the Father saw the Son following him to the altar, he took him in his arms, it was a scene to make the angels rejoice.

It is the father's solemn obligation to shoulder the religious responsibility of the family. And to be the right kind of father, and he will be the ark of salvation for that home.

The father, first of all, is a counselor. His boys should be able to confide in him. There are pitfalls - physical, mental, and moral. In Louisville there was a man who had gone deep in sin. And the man's father had been an honored Deacon and he had been busy in his profession, and he had not taken time with his boys. This man said, to the preacher, my father left me \$50,000 but no kind words. I spent the money in sin. How much better off I would have been if he had not left me a dollar, but had taken up some time with me, played with me, been a pal - and left me some good sound counseling advice. It is a sad day for the boy when his father is more concerned about laying a foundation of the family fortune - than of laying a foundation of Christian character.

There is an old story of a dying young man who said, father, when I am dead, bury me by the path that leads to the horse lot. And when you pass it say, there lies the body of a boy who never heard his father pray.

Dr. Jenkins said, my father was a modest, timid man. He was the clerk of a little country church. His voice was faltering as he read the minutes of the conference. He never talked in the meetings or led in prayer. We children wondered about it, but near the later years, he said my brother came to me and said - I was down in the woods near the house and I heard Pa praying. And he was praying for you and for me. The impression on my young heart was an abiding one and one of the sweetest of my childhood days.

Noah tried to counsel his family as a father.

II. HE WAS A PROTECTOR

I think every father is concerned about protecting his child from harm - physical harm. He ought to be interested in protecting him from the spiritual harm, the immoral

filth and magazines, and things that come like a plague in our city. I think men will have to give an account because they are not protecting their children. Sow a thought, reap an act the old Arab proverb says. Sow and act and reap a habit. Sow a habit and reap a character. Sow a character and reap a destiny, //

The same thing may be said about the kind of pictures that your child sees. The company he keeps, the movies that he gets involved in. The evil companions that he keeps. And one movie can undo in one night what has been done in a whole year. One drinking party may give a boy or a girl a passport to Hell.

One young man who had gone astray said, I got with the wrong crowd.

People today say, well, times have changed. Yes, but sin has not changed. We may live in a scientific age, but still T. B. kills the body. Cancer troubles the human body as it has in every age. My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not. Proverbs 1:10.

III. THE FATHER SHOULD BE A LEADER AND EXAMPLE

The father is the biggest man in the world to his son. The son will act like him, talk like him, even walk like him.

A man came back from the Civil War broken in health. His body was badly stooped. His son later noticed that as a little six year old, he was endeavoring to walk in the same way, as that of his father. He would try to clear his throat like his father. Try to do everything as nearly as possible.

And his whole character is being shaped like the minister who tells of a little son following a mountain climber. He said when the climber came to a narrow, dangerous place,

he heard this son say, watch out where you are going Dad - I am stepping in your tracks.

At Chattanooga, a father took his two boys out for a swim in the Tennessee River. The father was a good swimmer, and he thought that he had trained his boys to swim. Farther and farther he went out - calling to his boys to come on and follow. We are coming Dad, they would answer. And soon they were in swift current. And he heard a cry and he looked back and they both were struggling. Before he could reach them, they both were down. Hours later, their bodies were recovered, and that night as they lay in their coffins, in their home - he walked the floor and cried - oh, I went out too far with my boys. Oh, I went out too far with my boys. As I read that, I thought of the fathers who have gone too far with their boys. And they will wake up to what they have done when sin has destroyed them. And it is too late for them to do anything about it. It is the most natural thing in the world for a boy to say, father drinks, father plays and gambles, father takes God's name in vain, father breaks the Sabbath day, father passes up the church and why shouldn't I.

Prodigal fathers make prodigal sons. I have adored many young men who have lived and died without Christ. And they died that way because their fathers were not Christians. *Lol Bottomly - A Father in Tree - Son Found - Problems -*

II. FATHER WHO BUILDS AN ARK

Why should Noah have been so concerned about an Ark. Why should he be concerned about his sons. About his wife being ready for a flood. Why should he and they come into an Ark at all.

And these questions are very pointed tonight. Why should a father tonight be concerned about being a Christian or being in the church. Why should he be concerned

about his sons. Concerned about his family being lost in Hell.

First, It is the only place of safety. The only place in this world that Noah had as a father, for safety for his family was in that ark. Rev. 6:12, 17. Listen to those words as they tell about the awful day that is coming, that is going to make Noah's flood look like an April shower.

Yes, if we are going to get our families faithfully and safely housed for eternity, if there is wisdom in getting our children well settled for life, there is great wisdom for getting them settled for eternity.

Once Noah and his family are in the ark they are safe.

No flood can swallow it. And so the ark of salvation rides the waves, of death and Hell.

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Heb. 13:8. The Bible says the Lord shut him in. Gen. Gen. 7:16. No burglar can pick the lock. No arm of Hell can push the bolt open. The seas, the lightning, the skies, the deep - but once they were in the ark, all was well. The hand that shut Noah in the ark, shut the flood out. Jesus declares that neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My father which gave them me is greater than all. And no man is able to pluck them out of my hand. John 10:28-29.

God does not say you aboard a failing craft. He does not say that the ship of zion is not a rescue vessel. He does not say it has a leaky hull. He doesn't say that the sail is bad or there is a lost rutter. And there will be no port in sight.

Where Christ leads it is by the right way, that they might go to a city of habitation.

All the way, my Saviour leads me
What have I to ask besides
Can I doubt his tender mercy
Who through life has been my guide.

Heavenly peace, divine comfort
Here by faith in him to dwell
For I know that er befalls me
Jesus doth all things well.

Second, ~~How~~ is the adequate protection that met their needs. As we think about the ark, and about the father leading his family in, it was a place that was adequate. There was no danger of over-crowding. It was the way that leads to eternal life. But it is wide enough for all who will come trusting in him. The blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sins. I John 1:7.

In the ark there was a door for entrance. There was one door and that was enough. Remember Jesus said, I am the door. John 10:7. And no man cometh unto the father but by me. The son of God who shed his blood on Calvary's tree. The door of life, through open wide, for you and me.

It is a door that swings both ways. It swings outward toward all of our sins and woes. And it swings to all the joys of Heaven above. When it shuts one in or out, it is done forever. And there shall go away into every lasting punishment - but the righteous into eternal life. Matt. 25:46.

How long he will hold that door open, all those that delay, it is not given us to know.

But we know that once it is closed, it is closed forever.

Whosoever cometh, need not to delay. Now the door is open, enter while you may. Jesus is the true, the only living way. Whosoever will may come.

Yes, the Father led them in the ark. And the ark above had one window. Had a door for entrance. And it had a window for vision. I call that the window of grace that they might look out upon God's universe. And have a vision of God. Behold, now we are sons of God. And it doth not yet appear what we shall do. But we shall know that when he shall appear, we shall be like him. For we shall see him like he is. I John 3:2.

This father led them in. How did he do it. What was his secret.

The first secret was he walked with God. V. 9. Chapter 6. I believe it tells us how he accomplished it - by the daily affairs. From the first day of his life, with God, he walked on with God. What a difference it would make for you if you walked with God at school, on dates, in the business world. Having walked with God, people go on to greater experiences.

The second thing, Noah obeyed God. He was willing to obey. When God told him to build the ark, to construct it - he went right to work on it. And there were two voices in Noah, just like there are in you. The voice that says, let's have fun - let's eat, drink, and be merry. For tomorrow we may die. But the voice of God, forget yourself, give up your life, think of others. And Noah lived above his day and was obedient unto God.

Thirdly, Noah worshipped God. When the waters receded - he was able to leave the ark. The first thing that he did was build an altar. That was the pattern and the conduct of this man's life. He drew his inspiration from worshipping God.

Noah had no church to attend. And this might be used - there are a lot of people today who stay outside of church but I doubt that the average person who spends Sunday morning on a fishing boat, golf course, or lake, or at the races actually does any worshipping. Now I have been on a golf course and a lake and on a fishing boat, and I know what you focus your attention on. And I can assure you it is not on God.

Listen to me - worshipping God is a necessity for every Father. And this is one of the secrets of Noah.

III. WHY HAVE FATHERS FAILED

Now Noah succeeded. Now why didn't all the Fathers of that time - why wasn't they as wise as he was, and why didn't they come on into the Ark. When the Ark was finished, and the orders were given, the food had been stored, the water stored, and the storm broke - and God called, and Noah went up with his family into the ark. One father went in. Why were there not others. Why did not more of them come in. Why are not more fathers tonight in church worshipping God. Some come in today. But others stay away.

Let me suggest two or three things.)

First, ~~(procrastination)~~ - which is the thief of time. Year after year it steals. And even the mercies and the moments are lost. No doubt there were some who meant to be found in the number that would be in the ark if the flood came.

Remember Noah had been preaching 120 years. Why the need of a hurry about it.

A man whose wife was a member of the church, was going to be a Christian sometimes. He was suddenly stricken down and his dying lament was, oh, I never thought I would die like this.

I talked to a Father just the other day who was bed-fast and he will be that way until he goes out of this world, and said, I never thought this would happen to me. Do I speak to some father's who on this Father's Day who intend to become Christians but keep on putting it off. You are getting farther away from God every-day. For example, you are leading your son and your daughter away.

But within your power in a material way, you would not do for your son or for your child. But is it worth it. The honor - the pleasures, and then to neglect the spiritual welfare is to rob them of the greatest treasure on earth. Or that Heaven can afford.

Second, ridicule is the next reason some of the father's failed. Just like some today. The talk of the country was Noah is building a big ship. It was sensational. There was no water to float it. People were suggesting that maybe the old man had lost his mind. But they said, he is a good man, but something has gone wrong with him.

There are people today who ridicule religion. Who ridicule the church. There are fathers today who will have nothing to do with the church. Because of one little thing maybe they have seen wrong or they thought they saw wrong about something in the church. And so they say and promise themselves that they will have nothing to do with the church anymore.

When the ark began to fill up with every beast and fowl, these men who ridiculed Noah, said well, he's put a spell over the fowl and the animals.

You remember even in the country in the wet weather, you can notice that even hogs runs around and picks up extra straw. And make a bed. You may be sure that cold weather is coming on. You see flights of birds in the winter time going South. You

can be sure that the cold weather is coming down. This is an instinct that a storm is approaching.

Now you notice here that as these animals went into the ark - they were absolutely correct. They had an instinct that something was going to take place. And this was the remarkable thing about Noah. The character of this man who had walked with God and who had all of this in his life. And the floods began to come. Some of these people who ridiculed probably said this is an unusual wet spell. We will visit our relatives up in the hill country. And soon this little flood will be over - but the flood kept rising. And dead bodies of men and beasts were floating every where. And they could catch a sight of the ark floating on the flood. And perhaps some of them called for Noah to come their way, but the answer would be coming back, too late - God has shut the door. And the flood came.

Somebody said Noah looked out of the window and he could see those people down there scrambling, scratching on the outside trying to get in. But the Bible doesn't say that. There was a window and that window was for Noah to look up - to get a vision of God.

Yes, there was ridicule, but at this point, you need to remember that in the midst of ridicule there is Jesus Christ, who is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Noah is a type of Christ, as you study this father. He is an anti-type really.

First, as to his name / he is a fore shadow of things to come. Noah's name means (rest) and rest giver. One who provides comfort and that is what our Lord is going to do. Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavily laden, and I will give you rest.

Second, here is the matter of grace - a contrast. Gen. 6:8. He found grace in the eyes of the Lord. All thee of flesh was corrupt, but God looked down and he found this man Noah, and he blessed him. So the first words of our Lord Jesus Christ as he commences his ministry, God says this is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased.

Third, Moses - or Noah was a just man. Gen. 6:9. As is well-known, the word just means righteous. So he found acceptance in God's life and he had been justified. He was just.

Fourth, He was perfect in his generation. Gen. 6:9. Noah and his family - he tried to walk before God as no other man had done. Of course when Jesus was here in the flesh, he was the perfect, unfaminated one - Heb. 7:26.

Fifth, He walked with God. Gen. 6:9. In this he was a type of Jesus - who for 33 years lived in unbroken communion with the Father and walked with God.

Sixth, He had an honorable work to do - he made an ark as God had directed him.

It is said of Jesus - I have finished the work that thou has given me to do. John 17:4.

Noah did his work and he worked alone as he carried out a God-given task.

And of course Jesus worked alone in the honorable work that he had to carry on.

Next, we discover that in a further type, that Noah was successful to the saving of his house. Heb. 11:7.

And we find that Noah's work was blessed and that he saved his house. And Jesus came to earth to save mankind from their sins.

Next we discover that Noah had complete obedience - it says of Noah in 6:22, that Noah did all according to all that God commanded him to do. Gen. 7:5 - that is repeated.

And of course Jesus said, that I have kept the father's commandments and became obedient unto death, even the cross. - Phil. 2:8.

It is said that Noah worshipped God - he built an altar, and he took time to worship God. And we know our Lord Jesus worshipped the father. And he looked up to him at all times.

God made a covenant with Noah and with his sons = Gen. 9:8-9.

And in Jesus Christ, an ever-lasting covenant, now the God of peace that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the everlasting covenant. Heb. 13:20. These contrasts help us to see that this father was the type that was like Christ. But the fathers that have failed are those who have procrastinated, and those who ridiculed.

Third, unconcern kept others away. I believe that is what Noah felt about these. And they said about Noah's preaching - it is foolishness - they had their farms and they had their merchandise, they have their professions and were always true, that some will be indifferent. And Hell awaits them. And judgement is on the way.

Come thou and all thy house into the ark. The invitation is to the head of the house. And to his household with him.

Fathers today let me ask you to become serious. Are you in the ark of salvation. What about your fine sons and your lovely daughters.

The Philippian jailer when told to believe on the Lord Jesus that he should be saved and that there was salvation for all of his household - no sooner confessed, his faith in the Lord Jesus - til he went off to his house to Paul and Silas to tell the good news. And they too were saved. It was the case of a father entering into the ark of safety, and leading his household with him.

Come in Noah, but do not forget Ham and Shem, and Japheth. The call of the Christian fatherhood is to bring his children to Jesus. Surely no father could covet a higher privilege and joy.

A young man was dying. Father, he said, you gave me an education. Good manners, and about everything in the world that a fellow could wish for. You never told me how to die and now my soul is going out in darkness.

How different that young man who had pride in his father, who had pride in his father, as his Daddy was in his old age - but he was giving up his boy. It was like tearing his heart out. Don't grieve for me Father, I'm alright, you have been one of the best Dad's God ever gave a boy. And as soon as I get to Heaven, I'll go straight to Jesus and thank him for giving you to me for a Father. And I will tell him it was you who led me to him.

We want to be in - but we want those who are dearer to us than life to also be in. It will be a pitiful sight to see the sight of Noah in the ark and his children left outside. To see them following their Father would be a scene of rejoicing. A lady with her children on a ship that was wrecked and sunk on a voyage to Australia, said a cable of two words to her husband - Saved alone.