

Message Notes
June 18, 2017
Best Dad Ever
Ted Cunningham

1. Jesus said in Matthew 5:48, "Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect." Ted stated the obvious to all dads on Sunday, that the perfect Father is not you. Yet, Jesus called us to be perfect as our perfect heavenly Father. Ted stated this in his own words by saying, "God does not lower the bar to accommodate our sinfulness."

What did Jesus mean by his command to be perfect? Answer: Earthly fathers are called to pursue the Heavenly Father. Jesus in Matthew 5:48 is speaking of completeness, not sinless perfection. Although we cannot fulfill the righteous requirements of the Law in human flesh, Jesus Christ **can** and **will** fulfill the Law in us through the Holy Spirit. Ted has often talked about finding the Lord as your 'source of life,' not looking to your spouse or other believers as your source of life (Romans 7:6; 8:1-6).

2. **Would anyone like to share an example of how you have experienced Christ as your source of life?** (Colossians 3:4, Romans 8:10) Answers could include a brother or sister sharing how Christ in the Spirit within you was patience, self-control, love, kindness, peace, or any other characteristic of the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5). This could be an example from parenting, marriage, church, or work relationships.
3. According to scripture (Deuteronomy 6:4-6), earthly fathers are called to point their children to the Heavenly Father. According to God's revelation in Deut. 6:4-6, **what is the prerequisite step to pointing children to our Heavenly Father?** Answer: The reality of a life lived unto God must *first* be on our hearts and be clearly evident to our children. We cannot expect to lead our children where we have not gone ourselves. Our professed love for the Lord results in a life lived in devotion and submission to Him and His will.

Can someone share a story or testimony of how Christ was visible in your life and as a result your child gained the inspiration to follow Him in their own life?

4. According to scripture (Deuteronomy 6:7), **what is the second step in pointing our children to the Heavenly Father?** Answer: Impress the truth of the knowledge of God upon your children's' hearts.

5. **How have you impressed the truth of a living and personal love relationship with the Lord upon your children** (Deuteronomy 6:7, Ephesians 6:4)? Would anyone like to share how the impression-making process practically works or worked out with your children?

6. **What challenge did Ted give children in the message on Sunday** (Proverbs 4:1, 29:3, 30:17)? Answer: Give your parents joy, not grief, by following the wise commands they have impressed upon you from the Lord.

7. **Would anyone like to share a story of how a child's eyes were open to the truth of the reality of God's wisdom and life, after they initially spurned such instruction from you as a parent(s)?**

8. Ted said in the message that good dads provide good gifts in small and hidden ways. **What are some ways that you as a dad or mom have given good gifts to your children which has created a hunger and thirst in them for a living and loving personal relationship with the Lord** (Matthew 7:9-11)?