

PRIESTING YOUR HOME (7/2/2015)

~It is hard to know whether the Man is made for the times, or the times are made for the man...but difficult times have always given rise to GREAT MEN.

~The ashes have always giving birth to the “greatness” that lies within the human Spirit, and that greatness is what pushes against the coming tide.

~And in a moment when the FAMILY has come under its most fierce attack in history—God must have great Men. (Great for their families, Church, cities, nation, World)

(J.T. Waresak)—“Great men are not born great. They are MADE great through the adversities and trials that they overcome for the sake of others.”

A. For the Christian man, true greatness always begins where “self” is lost and Christ is found.

~It is a driving force, that intangible part of a man that encompasses an undeniable MISSION that compels a man forward beyond the normalcy of his surrounding culture, beyond his biological constraints and beyond life’s circumstances that would seek to hold him captive.

~The greatness factor is bound within an unwavering commitment before God that awakens a man’s soul toward a life quest that surpasses his raw abilities.

B. In the realms of history there is one single man that takes precedence as the greatest man that ever walked this earth. That man was the God-Man, Jesus Christ.

~We know the “heart and soul” of greatness by the mission and life He pursued. He possessed the “greatness Variable.”

(Mark 10:44-45) “and whoever would be first among you must be slave to all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

~Every truly great Man, husband and dad must embody this greatness variable in some shape or form.

~The willingness to LAY DOWN so that he might be RAISED UP.

C. We are never really great within ourselves...we are only made great by God “for” the sake of others.

~Ultimately, this is what makes great men great: their HUMILITY before God and others.

~Like Christ, great men lead best when they love most and are willing to take on whatever sacrifice is necessary to achieve a greater good.

~In this way, any greatness that exudes from these men is reflected upward to the source of that greatness and glory.

D. When God considers “greatness” in a man He does not look at the man’s outer appearance.

~God looks at the heart of a man to determine his usefulness...a contrite heart that trembles at His Word (**Isaiah 66:2**).

~If the heart is right, good actions will follow. It is the same with greatness. If the heart and soul are anchored to Christ, God’s greatness and glory will be revealed in and through that life.

~God is not limited by who we are. In Christ Jesus, our lives are unlimited by who He is!

(Mark 10:27) “Jesus looked at them and said, ‘With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God.’”

THREE FOLD DYNAMIC:

1. Being a Godly Man

~What does it mean to be a man? (From childhood we hear the words “Man up.” “Don’t be a sissy.” “Don’t cry.” “Talk like a man.” “Act like a man.” “Be a man.”

~The reality is that we don’t really know what being a MAN means—which leaves us stuck being “boys.”

~Which plays out in the way we respond to life, to women, to difficulty, and to success.

~The old adage is that “Boys will be boys”....but if boys REMAIN as boys it leads to a life of destruction.

(1 Cor. 13:11) “When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a MAN, I put away childish things.”

~Paul speaks to the DIFFERENCE between being a BOY and being a MAN.

1. **Words** (Conversation,
2. **Understanding** (Interests, Feelings, Affections, and Opinion of one’s self)
3. **Thought’s** (Ability to estimate, calculate, and conclude) (Decision making ability)

~With societies shifting tides—Men have simply forgotten how to “be” and what it means to be a man, much less a man of God.

~Men have lost their way and have become confused about their role in the home, in the workplace, and in society....and even more strikingly in the Church.

~Being a MAN goes much deeper than biology. Being a man is a gift. It is a responsibility, and it is a PROCESS.

~You aren't born a MAN...you are born with the biology to BECOME one.

(Henry Ward Beecher)—“An acorn is not an oak when it is sprouted. It must go through long summers and fierce winters, and endure all that frost and snow, and thunders and storms, and what the side-striking winds can bring, before it is a full grown oak. So a man is not a man when he is created; he is only begun. His manhood must come with years. He who goes through life prosperous, and comes to his grave without a wrinkle, is not half a man. Difficulties are God's errands and trainers, and only through them can one come to fullness of manhood.”

~The fact of the matter is that we LEARN to be men from real FATHER'S...and when those are absent or lacking, we must look to our Heavenly Father.

~It is one thing to be a Man, and it is yet another to be a Man of God.

(Micah 6:8) Bundles what that means into its simplest form....”He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.”

2. Being a Godly Husband

3. Being a Godly Father

A. Our problem has been a LEADERSHIP problem.

~We haven't been able to become Leading Men because we haven't been properly LED.

(1 Cor. 4:15) “For though you have ten thousand instructors (Teachers) in Christ, yet have you not many FATHERS...”

(Father)—**(Patayr')**—the author of a family or society of persons animated by the same spirit as himself, the originator and transmitter of DNA.

(1 Corinthians 11:3) “But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.” (God, Christ, Man)

~Anything without a HEAD is dead...and anything with more than ONE head is a monster.

~If we have no FATHER—we have no HEAD...and we become lifeless.

~If we allow the CULTURE, SOCIETY, or the FLESH to Father our lives—we have many heads...and we become a monster.

B. A FATHER is one who provides a PLAN of PROVISION and PROTECTION. (Plan, Provision, Protection)

(1 Tim. 5:8) “But if any provide not for his own, and especially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.”

(Infidel)—one who is without Faith, one who makes decisions based on his physical senses, one who walks by “sight.”

~If we as Fathers walk by sight—we are WORSE than an infidel.

C. God has promised a revival of Fatherhood in the last days.

(Mal 4:5-6) “See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers; or else I will come and strike the land with a curse.”

(Eph 3:14-15) “For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom His whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name.”

~The Greek word “family” is (patria) and it is derived from the root (pater) which means “father.”

~To define a family in the biblical sense, therefore, is to call it “fatherhood.”

~Without a father, there is no family. The proof of this is that the family gets their name from the father.

~The biblical definition of an orphan is to be “fatherless.”

~It’s not to be without both parents, but to simply be without a father, and so we have a whole flock of children in our land who are orphans.

~Without fathers the family cannot grow to become all God intended for it. The father is the root of the family, and if the root is bad, the family will likely have trouble. On the other hand, where there is a Godly father, the children often are godly.

~Not only does the Bible define family in terms of the father, but Jesus revealed the most important title that God enjoys is “Father.”

~Jesus prayed to God in **(John 17:6)** “I have manifested your NAME to the men whom you have given Me out of the world.”

~They already knew the name Yahweh, but they were not accustomed to the name “Father.”

~Jesus called God Father more than any other title. In fact, He almost exclusively used the name Father in reference to God.

~Since Father is the greatest title we can ascribe to God, then it stands to reason that Father is the ultimate name we can obtain. Every man should be proud to be called father.

~Fatherhood should be exalted as the greatest job for man.

D. Jesus is the Example of Fatherhood

~Jesus says in **(John 14:9)** “Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.”

~As we study Christ—we are studying the Father....as we become “like” Christ, we are becoming like the Father.

~Isaiah prophesied the coming of Christ in **(Isa 9:6)** “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the GOVERNMENT will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, **Everlasting Father**, Prince of Peace.”

E. God displayed Government to His people in the role of the Prophet, the Priest and the King.

~Together these THREE became His method for leading, instructing, correcting, and relating to His people Israel.

~These three offices were never encapsulated within ONE MAN—they were three distinct offices held by three distinct men.

~In Christ, all three offices were embodied and the Government of the Kingdom became centralized in the person of Jesus Christ.

(Col. 2:9-10) “For in Him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. And you are COMPLETE in him, which is the HEAD of all principality and power.”

~In theology, Christ occupies the classic threefold office of Prophet, Priest and King.

~Christ embodied ALL THREE offices, and then transferred those offices to His BODY the CHURCH.

(1 John 4:17) “...As He is, so are we in this world.”

(Eph. 1:18-23) READ

~Our call is to “grow up in all aspects unto Him who is our head.” **(Eph. 4:15).**

~As Men chasing after the heart of God and being made “in his image,” we must learn to walk in these offices so that we may STEWARD our homes in the ways of God.

1. The role of a Prophet.

~**A prophet represents God to people.** In the Old Testament, a prophet would face the people and speak. Jesus was a prophet who spoke the Word of God to the people and was, in fact, the Word incarnate. A prophet speaks for God.

~A **Prophet** is a messenger sent by God, a person who speaks for God. He witnesses to God, calls people to conversion, and may also foretell the future.

~A husband is to be the family Prophet representing God to His family.

~He represents God to his wife (and, by extension, his family, the fruit of their union). When his wife reacts emotionally, he calms her with God's wisdom. He proclaims the gospel of faith to his family. He provides biblical instruction and training to his wife and children without becoming legalistic. He prepares family devotions and encourages private devotions. He is the arbiter of family values. He insists on regular church attendance. He is a messenger from God to his family.

2. The role of a priest.

~If a Prophet represents God to people, then a **Priest represents people to God.**

~In the Old Testament, a priest would turn his back to the people and mediate for them before God. Jesus is the High Priest who mediated between people and the Father by the sacrifice of His life. A priest mediates before God.

~A husband is to be the family priest. He represents his wife and children to God. He spends time in prayer each day remembering the needs and concerns of his wife. He prays for the salvation of his children. Like Job, he asks the Lord to forgive the sins of his children. He sets the spiritual temperature in the home. He sacrifices his life for theirs. He is a mediator to God for his family.

3. The role of a King.

~**A king takes responsibility for the welfare of his people.** He provides both justice and mercy for them. Jesus is a king from the line of David. A king provides for and offers protection and security for his people.

~A king is a shepherd, one who governs and uses his authority so that others may be brought to the fullness of their potential.

~NOTICE—the King was the ONLY office that God was hesitant to give to His people.

~ADAM had proven in the garden that Kings can misplace POWER.

~As Men we must be careful that we do not misplace the POWER that God has given to us. (From childhood we are taught that manhood is about POWER (sports, girls, physical strength, dominance, prowess, etc.). True power is the ability of CHOICE—Adam proved that all Garden Kings are not capable of making Godly choices.)

~A husband is to be the family King. He provides for the needs of his family. He works diligently to earn enough for food and shelter. He administers discipline with fairness. He quickly forgives and overlooks offenses. He acts in a manner worthy of receiving honor. He treats his wife with consideration and respect. He is careful not to be harsh with her. He is a provider for his family.

(NOTICE)—All of these offices were ANOINTED by God for service. Husbands are to be the anointed spiritual leaders of their homes.

PRIESTS

~Men have been “called” to be the priests in their home. As such, the Old Testament priest serves as an example of what we are to do.

~**Most men want to be the king of their castle, but until they are willing to serve as priest, and until they are Priests they are not worthy to be king.**

DUTIES OF PRIESTS:

A. A priest had to keep himself undefiled by sin.

~Since he had to make sacrifices for the people, he couldn't be in a place of sin himself.

~Every time a priest came on duty, the first thing he did was to make atonement for his own sin, before being in a place to intercede for the people.

~If the high priest was in sin when he went into the Holy of Holies, he would die.

~In our families, we must become the example of Christ. As our wives strive to submit to us, we should be so much like Jesus, that they are submitting to Him.

~Just as Jesus was without sin, we too must endeavor to be without sin.

B. Make Atonement

~In Old Testament worship, one of the main functions of the priesthood was to offer sacrifices for the people's "atonement" for their sins. They would collect the sacrifices and offerings of the people, and give them to God, keeping the portion for themselves that God had commanded.

~Fortunately for us, Jesus has made the one and only sacrifice for us. We no longer have to slaughter animals in order to bring the blood before the altar of God.

~All we have to do is repent and ask for forgiveness, it is already provided. Our children need to see us as willing vessels, quick to repent and ask for God's forgiveness.

~It is only through our example that they will learn to turn to God, instead of running away from him.

~Our offerings today are either financial offerings, or time offerings (spending time serving the Lord in the local church).

~When we neglect to give to God what belongs to God, we are robbing our families of the blessings that He has in store for them.

C. Prayer & Intercession

~Women tend to be more comfortable praying than men are. For some reason, men tend to leave this area to their wives.

~However, as priests, the man should be the number one prayer warrior in the family.

~As head, men are in a unique prayer position. They, and only they, can offer prayer protection and covering to their wives and children. Nobody else is in the unique position to offer that protection.

~**Satan desires to attack and destroy your family.**

(Mark 3:27, Matthew 12:29) “No man can enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he will first bind the strong man; and then he will spoil his house.”

~How does Satan bind you? By keeping you from praying.

(Ephesians 6:12) “For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”

~This battle is one that can only be won in prayer. No matter how strong a man is physically, no matter how good a fighter he is in the physical, he can't use that to protect his family. It is only by battling in prayer that men can truly protect their families.

D. Teaching

~Priests are required to become the experts on God's Word.

~When the people need instruction in God's ways, they are the ones to do it. When the “book of the law” was found in Ezra, it was Ezra, acting as high priest who read it to the people.

~In our families, it isn't the woman's responsibility to teach the children about God's ways, it's the man's.

~The woman can assist with the instruction, but if the man doesn't take the leading role, the children won't take it seriously.

~If they don't see their father reading the Bible, they won't read it either. Even if mom studies the Bible regularly, as long as dad doesn't, they will see that they don't have to either.

~In ancient Israel, it was the man who taught his family the Word of God. Even in more recent times, the Jewish people still have their family worship centered around the role of the father.

~All of the Jewish festivals, which God established, are celebrated in the home, directed and taught by the father.

E. MEN AS LEADERS

~God has given men the responsibility of being the head of the home. I stress the word “responsibility” there. It isn't that men have special privileges. It's that they have a job to do, which they will answer to God for.

~If one is more concerned about taking those advantages, than taking the responsibilities, they can't lead anyway, because nobody would follow them.

What is Leadership?

~Leadership is the process of inspiring people to accomplish a common goal.

~In the military, that common goal is the mission. Taking the next hill, defending their site, or destroying something that belongs to the enemy.

~In business, that goal may include making a profit, satisfying the customer, or having the best product in the market.

~In a family, the goal is serving God and raising our children to serve God.

~A true leader is a SERVANT.

~Jesus, while celebrating the last Passover meal with his 12 chosen disciples, took on the role of a servant, and washed their feet (**John 13:4-14**).

~Not only was He acting as a servant, but the job He chose to do as a servant was usually left for the lowest servant in the house.

There are four requirements to be a leader:

- 1. A leader must have a vision.**
- 2. A leader must make decisions.**
- 3. A leader must be responsible.**
- 4. A leader must be out in front.**

F. Direction and Guidance

~To lead, you must have a vision. Otherwise, all you are doing is leading your family into a pit.

(Proverbs 29:18) “Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.”

~God has a task for your family, something that He has called you to do, not just you as an individual, but your family as well.

~God also has a vision for how your family is to function. He's written that plan in his Word.

~A good leader will study the plan, making sure he understands it, before bringing the plan before his people.

~You must be sure of the plan, sure of every detail. Otherwise, you can't give adequate direction and guidance.

~A plan that isn't presented in a clear, definite form won't be followed. There is no reason to follow it, because the leader himself isn't sure where he is going.

G. Leadership and Responsibility

~As leaders, men are responsible to God for everything that happens in their families.

~Don't try telling God that you delegated it to your wife, He won't listen. You're the one He holds accountable.

~If your children end up in sin, because they haven't been taught to follow His ways, God won't ask your wife, He'll ask you. If you haven't taught them, their blood will be on your hands.

(Proverbs 22:6) “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”

~It doesn't say he might, it says he will. God has built a training mechanism into us that causes us to return to the ways we learn as a child.

~The interesting thing, is that Proverbs was written to men. Solomon, who was “wiser than all men” (1 Kings 4:31), wrote Proverbs as instruction to his sons.

(Proverbs 4: 10) “Hear, O my son, and receive my sayings; and the years of thy life shall be many.”

(Proverbs 23:19) “Hear thou, my son, and be wise, and guide thine heart in the way.”

~Training of children is the man's responsibility. He can have his wife help, but he is the one accountable to God.

~Everything that happens in the home falls under the responsibility of the man. When there is a problem, it is up to him to find out what the root cause for that problem is, and fix it.

H. Leaders in Front

~To lead requires being out in front. It is impossible to lead from behind. All you can do there is push.

~When you are trying to lead from behind, you can't maintain the vision or direction. Instead, you end up following those you've put in front.

~When you stay in front, you set the example. Your kids may not always listen to what you say, but you can be sure that they're watching what you do.

~The same goes for your wife. She has been designed by God to be a follower, and will follow in whatever direction you lead.

~When you are out in front, you earn respect. Those who are following will look up to you as an example, and desire to have what you have. This gives you the ability to mold and shape them, passing on the lessons that you have learned.

CHRIST WAS A SERVANT LEADER:

(Heb 2:17) “For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God...”

~Notice that Jesus main function for his brothers is to be a faithful Priest to God.

~A Priest represents his family to God. How God views the father is the way God will view the family.

~The main intercessor is the priest, and in this case, the father.

~Yet too often fathers vacate the office of priest and by default place the mothers as priests. This is not God's order or pattern.

~Just as fathers cannot take the place of mothers, mothers cannot take the place of fathers. Fathers are to be the priests in the home.

Offering Sacrifices

~One word describes the duty of a priest...SACRIFICE.

~The father should sacrifice for the family.

~The worse way a father does not sacrifice for his children is his unwillingness to keep a marriage alive.

~He often has selfish sensual needs, so if he is not happy with his wife, then never mind the need for the family to have both mother and father at home, he leaves the wife so he can enjoy his revelry. The children are the ones who suffer the most.

BOOKS:**Fathering Like the Father: Becoming the Dad God Wants You to Be**

By: Kenneth O. Gangel, Jeffrey S. Gangel
BAKER BOOKS / 2002 / PAPERBACK

The Exemplary Husband: A Biblical Perspective

by Stuart Scott (Author), John MacArthur (Foreword)

Disciplines of a Godly Man

January 10, 2006

by R. Kent Hughes (Author)

Point Man: How a Man Can Lead His Family

April 2, 2003

by Steve Farrar (Author)

Web Sites:

Focusonthefamily.com

Familylife.com