Abraham Was A Good Example As A Father

Intro: “Father’s Day” is a day to honor all fathers, but in particular those who have accepted their God-given responsibilities to their children. We want to pay special attention to Abraham and his example especially in light of what God says of him: Gen. 18:19 “19 For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment; that the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.” Abraham is a good example for all of us as he is called by God, “the father of the faithful.”

I. He Was Continually In The Presence Of His Family
   A. Many fathers spend little time with their children.
      1. Some pursue worldly careers to the point they never see their family.
      2. Some pursue extra marital affairs cutting themselves off from their family.
      3. Some abandon their family.
   B. Abraham never did any of those things.
      1. He was present for his family.
      2. Wherever he went, he took his family with him.
      3. A good father is present for his family.
         a. Noah, Isaac, Jacob, David, Solomon, and many others, while they had their faults, were present for their families.
         b. Yet, the average American father spends seven and one-half minutes each week alone with his teenager children.
         c. Eph. 6:4 “4 And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.”
   C. God, our heavenly Father promises to be present for His family as well; Heb. 13:5-6
      “5 Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. 6 So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.”

II. He Protected His Family
   A. In today’s world, fathers especially need to be mindful of protecting their family from all types of danger.
      1. Some so-called fathers actually abuse their children by physically harming them instead of protecting them.
      2. Some have been so perverted as to sexually violate their own children.
      3. Some allow their children to do anything they want, anytime they want; they provide no restraints.
   B. Abraham protected his family.
      1. Abraham’s nephew, Lot.
         a. Lot and his family were taken captive by a conquering king.
         b. Abraham took his servants and recued them.
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2. He provided Isaac a wife.
   a. Gen. 24:1-4 4 And Abraham was old, and well stricken in age: and the Lord had blessed Abraham in all things. 2 And Abraham said unto his eldest servant of his house, that ruled over all that he had, Put, I pray thee, thy hand under my thigh: 3 And I will make thee swear by the Lord, the God of heaven, and the God of the earth, that thou shalt not take a wife unto my son of the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell: 4 But thou shalt go unto my country, and to my kindred, and take a wife unto my son Isaac.”
   b. He sent a servant back to his homeland to protect Isaac from the evil influences of the pagan women in Canaan.

C. God the Father is also our great protector.
   1. Psa. 84:11 11 For the Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.”
   2. Pro. 30:5 5 Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.”

III. He Provided Well For His Family
   A. Some fathers fail to be providers.
      1. Some work but then use their money for selfish reasons: drinking, gambling, and other vices.
      2. Some fail to work, not providing anything for their children.
      3. Some simply do not know how to properly use the money they do make.
   B. Abraham was a good provider.
      1. Gen. 13:2 2 And Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold.”
      2. While we don’t know what his daily life was like, he must have spent a lot of time gaining his stock and attending to business matters.
      3. He maintained his wealth throughout his life by hard work and good business practices.
   C. Good fathers will provide for his children both physically and spiritually.
      1. 1 Tim. 5:8 8 But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.”
      2. Eph. 6:4 4 And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.”
   D. God the Father is our Great Provider.
      1. Acts 14:17 17 Nevertheless he left not himself without witness, in that he did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.”
      2. 1 Tim. 6:17 17 Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;”

IV. He Was A Good Example By Being Faithful To God
   A. Abraham was faithful to God.
      1. In offering Isaac.
      2. Jam. 2:21-23 21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? 22 Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? 23 And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.”
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3. Believed God could raise him from the dead; Heb. 11:17-19 “17 By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, 19 Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: 19 Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.”

B. We need fathers today who will be an example of faithfulness.
1. Children need to see an example of faithfulness in their fathers more than anything else.
2. Sadly, so many see a lack of faithfulness, hypocrisy, sinfulness.
3. Without a good example, the children often fall away.
4. When fathers set the proper example to their children, God is glorified.

V. GOD HONORED ABRAHAM BY CALLING HIM THE FATHER OF THE FAITHFUL.
A. Gen. 12:1-3 “1 Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: 2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: 3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.”

B. Those baptized into Christ are Abraham's seed.
1. Gal. 3:16, 26-29 “16 Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ…. 26 For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.”
2. Rom. 4:16 “16 Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all,”

VI. ULTIMATELY GOD IS OUR FATHER
A. We need to respect Him by listening to His Word.
1. John 5:39 “39 Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.”
2. 2 Tim. 2:15 “15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

B. We need to speak to Him in prayer.
1. 1 The. 5:17 “17 Pray without ceasing.”
2. 1 Pet. 5:7 “Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.”

Conclusion: We are thankful to godly fathers and mothers who do their best to bring up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. If you need to make changes in your life, do so today before it is too late.