

Father's Day Lessons from a Famous Father

2 Samuel 18:33

Miles of distance and centuries of time separate us from King David. He was a king and we are commoners. Still, despite the distance and the differences we can learn much about being fathers in this present day by looking at this father of long ago.

I. Here Is a Cry of Grief.

A. David loved him dearly, even though David had many sons.

B. David loved him dearly, even though Absalom had committed serious sins.

C. A father's love is never conditioned on the child's conduct.

II. Here Is a Cry of Failure.

A. David had been very successful in most of the things he had done.

1. He had been successful as a musician.

2. He had been successful as a soldier.

3. He had been successful as an administrator.

4. He had been successful as a politician.

B. David failed as a father and that showed more than his successes.

1. In fact, David would gladly have given up his other successes if he could have traded them for success as a father.

2. Many today give up success as a father and trade it for success in business or a profession.

C. David's failures, though, must be seen in true perspective.

1. Fathers must accept some responsibility for the character of their children. They have a responsibility to show a good example, and to teach good values.

2. Fathers must not accept full responsibility for the character of their children. There are other influences that enter every life. Also, it must be remembered that every person is an individual. Some fathers are carrying a load of guilt they do not need to carry.

III. Here Is a Cry of Futility.

A. David could not die for his son.

1. A father can die for his child in the sense that he can die to protect the child. Most fathers would willingly do that.

2. A father cannot die for his child in the sense that the father's dying will keep the child from ever facing death. All of us must die.

B. The Lord Jesus Christ could and did die for us.

1. Romans 5:6; 5:18; 1 Corinthians 15:3, 22;
Romans 6:8.
2. We still have to suffer physical death, but it has lost its sting (1 Corinthians 15:54-56).
3. We do not have to suffer the death that is the wages of sin (Romans 6:23; 8:1).

Conclusion While we learn much that is helpful from the example of David, we learn the most from the example of God. It is very important to remember that in the Bible God is described as a Father. God shows how to be a at its very best.