



A Father's Resolutions

Father's Day, June 21, 2015

Text: Deuteronomy 4:1-9 (very similar to Deut 6:-12)

A Different Sermon Today....

- Before we briefly expound upon the Text (Lord willing we'll be back in James next week), I'd like to note the differences for today's sermon.
- My heart today is to briefly take you back to an era in America where the *Doctrine of the Family*, and particularly, *Fatherhood*, was better understood.
- To help with this, twenty CRCC men will come up shortly to read from the resolutions of a Puritan minister named Cotton Mather, who lived from 1663 – 1728.
- To be sure, much has been written about the Puritan era, particularly as it relates to family and a certain view of Scripture. Please know that we are not idolizing these men; our faith in is Jesus Christ alone! However, we can learn a bit from their heart to see Scripture as **sufficient**.
- So first, let's look at our chosen text today to celebrate and honor the much needed and God-honoring work of fathers. Then...let's take a stroll through history, arriving at Brother Mather's Resolutions.
- I think you'll see why; we need this sort of heart today!

Our Text:

1. Moses, continuing to restate to Israel all that God commands, is casting a **dependent** vision for both the land God had promised, and longevity in the land. Upon what? Upon their **obedience**.
2. God's plan for His people was good! He had delivered them from Egypt, and despite their disobedience and subsequent wandering in the wilderness for forty years, He nevertheless would take the second generation into the Promised Land.
3. God, through Moses, commands the people to go in and "take possession." But He does so with warnings:
 - a. Verse 2: Do not add to the Word; rather keep it!
 - b. Verse 3: Remember the Baal Peor incident (Numbers 25:1-9), where over 20,000 people were killed by plague because of their idolatry.
4. The people who "held fast" to the Lord however, were saved! (v4)
 - a. Is it too obvious a point to encourage you, CRCC, to hold fast to the Lord? ☺
 - b. We know that Christ our Redeemer has taken the punishment for our idolatry and other sins, but there is still much at stake for our children.
 - c. Practical sin still has practical **consequences**.
5. In verses 5 and 6, Moses declares that the Word of God is clear and admonishes obedience.
 - a. Interestingly, he describes the effect such obedience would have on other peoples. They would give honor to Israel for their wisdom (v6b)!
 - b. The source of this honor, however, is the Lord God! (v7)
6. Saints, the nation of Israel would be called great, not because the people were great, but because the God of that people is great! (v7)
 - a. So much could be said here about America's continued fall away from God's commands. Although always sinful (um...slavery), there was also a blessing and favor upon us.
 - b. May the Lord help us to repent and turn again to His perfect precepts!
7. Verse 8 declares the Law of God righteous, and commends a nation that would keep them!

- a. *“Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!” (Psa 33:12 ESV)*
- 8. But our last verse, verse 9, is where the train derails...
 - a. The command is “take care.” Did they? No. Have we?
 - b. The command is not to forget? Did they? Yes. Have we?
 - c. Have the precepts of God departed from our “national heart?”
 - d. And if so, here might be the reason...

The command to “Make them known to your children and your children’s children” was given to fathers.

A Father’s Responsibility

1. This church has stated over and over again this unpopular truth: Father’s are responsible for what their children learn.
2. We find this truth in both the Old and New Testaments (Gen 18:19; Deut 6:1-13; Ps 78; Eph 6:4)
3. If you look in the *Reform the Family* chapter of our book, *The Playbook*, you’ll find many statistics that confirm a father’s spiritual authority.
4. Therefore, a father must be **resolute**. Last New Year’s Eve, we defined this word:
 - a. *Resolute*: Having a fixed purpose; determined; hence, bold; firm; steady; constant in pursuing a purpose.
 - b. *Resolved*: Determined in purpose.
 - c. *Resolution*: Fixed purpose or determination of mind; *as a resolution to reform our lives*.
5. Fathers, we encourage and exhort you on this Father’s Day to make up in your mind to be who God in Christ has called you to be!
6. **Because of the Providence of God, and through the Gospel of our Lord, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, we call you to not be ashamed of manhood and fatherhood, and to do your duty for your family in love and grace!**
7. There was a time in this nation this was VERY clearly understood...

Readings from *The Second Mayflower* by Kevin Swanson (a stroll through Puritan history): Selected readings from pages 18 -32

A Father’s Resolutions, by Cotton Mather and read by the men of CRCC

Closing Prayer

May our men be resolute in their commitment to Jesus and His Gospel. May we love our wives, train our children, and live holy and God-honoring lives in the midst of this perverse generation. May we train another generation to love the Lord their God with all their hearts, minds, souls, and strength, and their neighbors as themselves.

Amen.