

Introduction

Last Sunday morning and this morning we've been looking at Psalm 112 and seeing that what the world really needs today is more FAITHFUL, GODLY MEN!

The family unit needs the proper leadership of men. When men are fulfilling their God-given assignment as spiritual leaders in their homes, the home is stable, secure and satisfying. When men fail, the home falls apart and all of society feels the repercussions.

Our text is one of many passages that speak directly to the issue of **MEN BEING FAITHFUL, GODLY MEN! LET'S READ PSALM 112** again!

Tonight, as we wrap this up, I want to challenge the men here today in some specific areas that I believe will help us as we seek to become "Psalm 112" kind of men.

I. ACKNOWLEDGE THE POWER OF YOUR INFLUENCE!

Romans 14:7—"For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself."

A. You Can Have A Powerful Influence Upon Your Wife!
(Ephesians 5:23-29) With authority comes responsibility!

B. You Can Have A Powerful Influence On Your Children!
Ephesians 6:4)

We've seen how that Psalm 112:2 speaks of that influence as it relates to our children!

Now I shared with you some figures last Sunday morning in my introduction about the importance of fathers.

The statistics show that children raised in homes without a father do not fair as well as those who are raised in the home with a father.

Listen to this quote from a secular source:

"From relationships, to education, to mental instability, to crime, one factor looms as the most significant contributor: A home without a dad." (5 Lies, David T. Moore, Tyndale House Publishers, 1995, p.89-90)

Could I tell you that the statistics aren't much better for two parent homes when the dad isn't the spiritual leader he needs to be!

When you are not A FAITHFUL, GODLY MAN, you stand a chance of not only wrecking your own life, but also the lives of your wife and children also!

C. We Have A Powerful Influence Upon Others!

Think of the influence that Elijah had on the young Elisha!
Think of the influence that Paul had on the young Timothy!
I think of the powerful influence some other men have had in my life!

I. ACKNOWLEDGE THE POWER OF YOUR INFLUENCE!
WIFE...CHILDREN...OTHERS

II. AVOID THE PITFALLS OF YOUR MASCULINITY!

There are some hazards that come with just being a male! The fact that we were born with that old Adamic sin nature works against us! But praise God, if we're saved we've been given a NEW NATURE –God's Divine nature!

We DO NOT have a natural bent toward godliness! In fact, our natural bent is toward SINFULNESS and SELFISHNESS! And men have their own unique brand of sinfulness and selfishness!

Let me share with you 3 pitfalls that come with being a man that will be reflected in your family life if they are in your life.

A. There Is The Pitfall Of Being ARROGANT!

Proverbs 8:13—"The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate."

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1 Samuel 2:3–“Talk no more so exceeding proudly; let not arrogancy come out of your mouth: for the LORD is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed.”

Someone has said it this way, “Men are 90% ego wrapped in skin.”

Now, I don’t know about that percentage, but it is true, that we men have our own unique version of pride and arrogance. We have this ego-driven mentality!

Many men like to think they are Rambo, John Wayne, Clint Eastwood, Chuck Norris, and Albert Einstein all wrapped up into one person! But we’re not! In fact, we’re not even close!

Our **pride and arrogancy** is what drives most of the other common failures and mistakes we make as Husbands and Fathers!

B. There Is The Pitfall Of Being ABSENT or ALOOF!

We’ve already mentioned it, but I reiterate, one of the worse things a man can do is to walk out on his family.

Have you noticed how there are many men who are running away from their responsibilities in our culture?

- Millions of kids are growing up in homes without any father figure.
- 70% of men in prison grew up without a father in the home.

Some Dad’s are absent because they run out on their family. But some Dad’s are absent because they are disconnected from their family even though they may be living under the same roof.

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Kids need a Dad who is PRESENT for them, one who is FULLY CONCERNED about them and FULLY INVOLVED in their lives. They need a Dad who gives them a GOOD EXAMPLE to model their lives after!

C. There Is The Pitfall Of Being ANGRY or ABUSIVE!

Proverbs 29:22–“An angry man stirreth up strife, and a furious man aboundeth in transgression.”

Many men are angry and don’t even know what they are angry about, but they are angry and hostile in their personalities and temperaments.

Anger is revealed regularly through:

- violent and sharp tempers
- hostile, hateful words
- bitter, negative attitudes

The rate of men abusing their wives and children is astounding!

We are living in such stressful and demanding times that a lot of men are like a volcano that builds up pressure and then all of a sudden it explodes and causes mass casualties–wives and children are often caught in the wake!

A real man... a **FAITHFUL, GODLY MAN**, never abuses his wife or children. A male who is abusive, is not a man, he’s in reality, just a loser!!

By the way, one can be an abuser without ever using a fist, or inflicting physical pain. Verbal and emotional abuse can be just as damaging, if not more so, than physical abuse!

So,

*ACKNOWLEDGE THE POWER OF YOUR INFLUENCE!
AVOID THE PITFALLS OF YOUR MASCULINITY!*

III. **PROPERLY ARRANGE THE PRIORITIES OF YOUR LIFE!**

I believe one of the biggest problems with men (and women) today is that their priorities are all mixed up.

If we were to look at families that break apart, I believe we would find that the cause for break-up in most cases (if not every case) can be traced to priorities that are messed up.

If we don't get our priorities arranged the way they should be, we can just expect problems: Problems with our marriage...with our children...with our health...with our work...with most every important area of our life.

There is a scale of right-priorities implied here in Psalm 112.

A. **A Man's First Priority Must Be His God. (Psalm 112:1)**

In Revelation 2:4, Jesus said to the Church at Ephesus, *"Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy **first** love."*

The word "first" there means "foremost in time, place, or importance." **He then exhorted them to do three things:**

1. **Remember.** "from whence thou art fallen."
2. **Repent.** This is a change of mind that results in a change of direction.
3. **Repeat.** "do the first works."

In Matthew 6:33 Jesus said, *"But seek ye **first** the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."*

Is Jesus Christ your first love? Don't answer too quickly! Think about it!

• Do you have a hunger and a passion to know Him better?
Matthew 5:6—"Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled."

Philippians 3:10—"That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;"

• Are you pursuing the knowledge of Christ through prayer, the study of God's Word and faithfully submitting yourself to Bible teaching and preaching?

2 Peter 3:18—"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen."

• Is God first and foremost in your thoughts when you are making the decisions about your "secular" life?
(i.e. "Secular" meaning your life outside of Church—job, leisure activities or recreation, personal finances, education.)

Proverbs 3:5-6—"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. 6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

• Do you give the LORD first place in your time priorities?
What does your calendar reveal about the importance that you place on the things of God as opposed to the things of this world.

When you show up consistently on time for work or a ball game or anything else, but you can't be consistently on time for Church, what does that say about your priorities?

What does it say about you when you can be depended on at other places, but you can't be depended on at Church?

• Do you give the LORD first place in your finances?
What does your spending reveal about what is important to you. If someone dug up your financial records in the year 3000, what would they conclude about you and your life?

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PSALM 112**

The LORD may have a place in your life, but is it first place?

Matthew 22:37–“Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 38This is the first and great commandment.”

A Man’s First Priority Must Be His God!

B. A Man’s Second Priority Must Be His Family! (Vs 2)

1. Many men are failing when it comes to their families.
 - some are failing to spend enough time with their families.
 - some are failing to meet the needs of their wives.
 - some are failing to get in touch with their children. They are failing to express adequate affection and approval to their children.
 - some are failing to communicate godly values and spiritual truths to their families.
 - some are failing to lead their families into holiness and righteousness.
2. By nature, most men are “*task oriented*” and most men tend to find their identity in their work. It is the “*conquer*” or the “*Git ‘R Done*” mentality.

Consequently, they tend to take their jobs seriously but they neglect their families.

There is no career or hobby or anything else worth losing your marriage or your children over! By the way that goes for both men and women!

God first...Family second...

C. A Man’s Next Priority Must Be To Himself (But Not In A Selfish Way).

He must make a priority of developing inner CHARACTER and personal RIGHTEOUSNESS!

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PSALM 112**

Psalm 112 shows us the result of a man who has made a priority of developing his inner character and personal righteousness.

- He is “upright.” (Vs 2 and 4)
- He is righteous. (Vs 3, 4, 6, 9)
- He is gracious. (Vs 4)
- He is full of compassion. (Vs 4)
- He is a “good man.” (Vs 5)
- He is discreet. (Vs 5)
- He is fearless. (Vs 7-8)
- He is a reliable man of faith. (Vs 7)
- He is charitable. (Vs 9)
- He has power with honor. (Vs 9)

We need to make a priority of developing our inner character and our personal righteousness!

Unfortunately, too many men are more focused on selfishly fulfilling their lusts than they are on developing inner character.

Life is not all about US! It is about God! It is about His Person and His plan for us!

Let me challenge you all, especially you men to start giving as much attention to your inner character and your personal righteousness as you give to your careers and making money!

Your wife and children don’t need a RICH husband and father! What they need is a RIGHTEOUS husband and father! Think about your priorities. Are they where they should be?

So,

PROPERLY ARRANGE THE PRIORITIES IN OUR LIFE!

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IV. ASSUME THE PLACE OF YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES!

We've seen how that Psalm 112 describes a man who both fears the LORD and finds great delight in the LORD'S commands.

When we fear the LORD and find great delight in God's Word, we come to realize the various places of responsibility that God has given to us in this world and of the need to fulfill them by His grace!

We have responsibilities in our families!

(As husbands and as fathers!)

We have responsibilities in our society!

(As citizens and as business men or as employees!)

We have responsibilities in our Churches!

(As gifted members of the Body of Christ!)

Be responsible in the places where you have responsibilities!

Conclusion

We need to realize that some day we are going to give an account to God on how we conducted our life and how we fulfilled the various roles that God has given to us!

Do you need to make some serious changes in your life? Don't put it off!
Make the changes today!

Where does the power for real change come from? It comes from the LORD's help and it begins at the foot of the Cross! That is where we get a new nature! Christ's nature, that helps us become who God wants us to be!

From there we must take great delight in the Word of God because it contains all the principles we need for Godly living!