



#74

Theme: "Father's Day"

Scripture: Proverbs 10:9

*"The man of integrity walks securely; but he who takes crooked paths will be found out."*

A Thought: I wonder if most fathers enjoy the festive hoopla of Father's Day as well as the moms do on their special day? I don't know the answer. Something for you gents to contemplate while you wait for the first kiss, hug, phone call and or invite to a local eatery. On that special day our pastor invites all fathers to step forward to the podium. Obediently we step forward and in unison all face the congregation. We stand at attention...some smiling and others with somber faces while the audience of women and children look on. You better not leave the line or you'll miss the chocolate bar that will be placed in your hand. Once we have the heavy doze of calories safely in our pocket the pastor welcomes the women and children to greet their husbands and dads. A boisterous applause ensues and the families make a mad dash to embrace us....not really. But most of us do get a smile, hug and a peck on the cheek. A sermon follows and the pastor commences with a thematic Father's Day message. For many men it is the first time they have been acknowledged all year. "*Mass of men lead lives of quiet desperation*" philosopher Henry David Thoreau tells us in his book Walden and Civil Disobedience. Not unlike Jorge our neighborhood gardener. I broke bread with him not too long ago. While he was eating his pastrami and fries and telling me in his wonderful accent how proud he was of his family....a stay-home mother, a college and high school student and a deaf daughter who attends a local college. As he was talking I noticed his sun-drenched face, his cap garland with years of sweat, his dark "prieto" hands callused and his cracked fingernails oozed with dirt from the yards of the neighborhood. A tough life of toil displayed before me. He works six days a week sometimes seven to make ends meet. A man like many who confront the daily responsibilities without fanfare, no front page acknowledgements, no awards to hang on the wall...a man being a father. Jorge is a proud man. Every Sunday he attends church with his family. He tells me he loves our Lord and Savior. Now....what are your thoughts? Write them down.

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Talk to yourself:

- Do you feel as though you're not appreciated? Talk to a brother in Christ.
- Describe your relationship with your family. What does fatherhood mean to you?
- Audit your daily activities.. Who are you leaving out...God, your spouse, children?
- Don't shy away from talking about all three of the aforementioned with a pastor?

Scriptures to read: Genesis 18:19; Deu.6:6-9; Psalms 103:13, 127:3-5; 1Chron. 29:17; Joshua 24:15; Proverbs 4:1-9, 22:6:13: 22,24,14: 26,17: 24,27; Malachi 4:6; Ephesians 6:4; Colossians 3:21;

Quote: Reverend Theodore Hesburgh, President Emeritus, Univ., of Notre Dame  
*"The most important thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother."* (www.what will [matter.com](http://matter.com))

Bottom Line: Earlier I said that many men are not acknowledged...hold it! No, not really. God the Father, Father of all Fathers is aware of every second of our lives. He knows when we sin and when we go to him with a heartfelt contrition. ([Psalms 119:147a NIV](#)) *"I rise before dawn and I cry for help, I have put my hope in your word."* His presence has been with us from birth. In the early morn when the sun arises from east to west and in the early evening when it peeks over the horizon followed by the celestial beauty of stars twinkling as to say good night. Our Father God tells us to read the Truth and follow it's leadings. (Psalms 119:167 NIV *"I obey your statutes, for I love them greatly."*) He is aware of our love to each member of our family....those little love nuggets to our spouses, our children and other family members. In return we hear from the lips of our love ones....hey, love you dad! Dada ! Love you pop! Love you papa! Love you papi! Those precious expressions are jewels to our ears. Yes gents we are loved and more so from our mighty Father who loves you and will not forsake you (Deu.31:8 ESV) *"It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; He will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed."* Fathers and sons go to Jesus and express your love to Him. *"And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying Abba Father."* (Galatians 4:6 NIV)

NOW.....THAT'S THE BOTTOM LINE. Spiritual Dabbler, Your bro, Ray

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