

A Certain Man

Luke 15:11 *Then He said: "A certain man had two sons.*

- It takes a **certain kind of man** to be a father.
Notice that I did not say that it takes a special kind of man to father a child (biological law will qualify most for that role) – But it does take a **certain kind of man** to be a Good Father...a Dad!
- We live in a day when there is a diminishing strength being witnessed in the category of **fatherhood** as a whole.
Certain terminologies have found their way into mainstream vocabulary as a result: Terms like...
 - ~ **Single-parent households** (*reflecting usually the absence of a father figure*)
 - ~ **Absentee Father** (*One who is in the frame but still not in the picture*)
 - ~ **Deadbeat Dads** (*Those who abrogate their roles as "father" thru neglect and avoidance.*)
- Enough about the dads that are out of the scene, there are multiple problems with those that are there.
 - ~ Words like 'self-absorbed', 'work-a-holic', 'abusive', 'manipulative', & etc...come to mind!
Ours is a world where Stress is high and relief seems elusive!
 - ~ Fathers who's role models never taught **them** the value of *Love* and *Compassion* so that NOW they are unable to communicate these things to their children.
 - ~ Men who do not understand the value and importance of their place as high priest in their family to the things that pertains to God.

All of these factors and realities point to the fact that it takes a certain kind of man to be a Father... and it always has!

(NLV)Luke 15:11-(32) To illustrate the point further, Jesus told them this story: "A man had two sons

- As you read this story you will no doubt notice the *Gentle Consistency* with which the UNNAMED Father governed his dealings with his boys.
 - ~ So as to give our children proper bearing – we must remain **Gentle** and **Consistent** with them.
Leading them, Pointing them, Directing them, Giving them a faithful model by which to pattern themselves.

→ Dad--- You are the ultimate God-given role-model for your children!

They are learning at our feet whether or not we feel capable of teaching!

- † Why is it important to serve God, Why is it important to be governed by integrity, Why is it necessary to live conscientiously? ...
→ **Because we are home-schooling the next generation on how to parent and be good Fathers!**

➤ **What does it take to be a “certain man”?**

Already mentioned: *Gentleness* and *Consistency!*

~ But what else qualifies us as being those ‘Certain’ men?

(nkjv)Luke 15:11 *Then He said: "A certain man had two sons.*

12 *"And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.' So he divided to them his livelihood.*

➤ The Certain Father is a – **Listener!**

Don't just hear your children, listen to them!

I am certain that this father was prepared for this time because he had no doubt been listening for quite a while. (*This son didn't 'jerk' away he 'pulled' away*)

➤ The Certain Father is **Giving!**

He shared his wealth. Some work to buy toys only for themselves and all that that accomplishes is pushing the children farther back on the shelf

➤ The Certain Father **Loves** through the Hurt and Pain!

The son said: *"give me what I would get if you were dead!"*

Our children are going to cause anguish, but we must love them in spite of it!

13 *"And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living.*

➤ The Certain Father **Allows** the child to make his own mistakes.

You offer counsel, you show willingness to help, but ultimately the decisions are theirs to make – right or wrong!

(~ Story: My Dad and My Car)

14 *"But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want. 15 "Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. 16 "And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything. (Notice that life's realities had hit him in the gut! Reality check...Welcome to the real world)*

17 *"When he finally came to his senses, he said to himself, 'At home even the hired men have food enough to spare, and here I am, dying of hunger! 18 I will go home to my father and say, "Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, 19 and I am no longer worthy of being called your son. Please take me on as a hired man."*

➤ The **Certain Father** plants a lifetime seed of **Forgiveness** in the heart of their children.

~ In his heart this young man KNEW that his father would not reject him!

Oh how successful you have been in raising a child, when that child knows that no matter what, even when they have failed in living up to your expectations...you will always love them and receive them in.

- This young mans guilt and lack of self-worth had caused him to distort the expectations of his father.
- I thank God that even when I couldn't stand myself, God had better plans for me!

20 "And he arose and **came to his father**. But when he was still a great way off, **his father saw him** and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him.

- The Certain Father raised his kids in such a way that they know that they can always **"Come to Him"**
 - The Certain Father is constantly **Looking Out** for his children.
 - ~ What a beautiful picture of the loving father who is keeping a constant vigil over the horizon for the shadow of his child.
 - ~ I believe this speaks of a Prayer covering that is our responsibility to keep over our children –**When they are not under our care or under our roof!**
- WE must never quit carrying a burden for our kids!**

21 "And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

21 "**But the father** said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet.'

- The Certain Father **loves at all times w/o condition**.
He wasn't thinking about the way that they had parted, he was just glad to be reunited!
- The Certain Father has his **Priorities** in perspective!
 He didn't care about the **lost inheritance**; he was just concerned about the **lost son!**

23 'And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; 24 'for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry.

- The Certain Father strives to look for the **Positive side** of a negative situation!
 ~ He was gone but now he is home!
Don't dwell on what can't be changed, focus on what is good and can be enjoyed!

**One
More
Thing**

31 "And he said to him, '**Son, you are always with me**, and all that I have is yours. 32'It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.'"

→ The Certain Father **understands** the differences between siblings and will love and relate equally to all!

- So what makes up a Certain Man?
 - Loves at all times
 - Gentle
 - Consistent
 - Role model
 - Listens
 - Gives
 - Allows to make mistakes
 - Leads a life of Forgiveness
 - Approachable
 - Shoulders a Burden for his kids
 - Priorities are in perspective
 - Positive in a negative world
 - Understands differences

Fathers, Dads, Men ... If we will allow these qualities to exist and abound in our lives, we will see the fruit of our endeavors as they ripen in the lives of our sons and our daughters.

And they will know that at their Father's house they are always **Welcome** and **Loved!**