

DADDY
TRIED



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If you haven't yet, may I gently say to you that it's time to FORGIVE YOUR FATHER and move on to the task at hand? Soon enough your own sons will be working to forgive you. Don't worry so very much about your own children judging your fatherhood. God Himself is keeping perfect record of what we do right and wrong, the good we do and the good we fail to do. So will we step out by faith and give ourselves to the fatherhood we have been dignified with by the Father Almighty? Yes, we will fail. But wouldn't it be better to fail while trying?

Now we live in an evil day in an evil time. Everything is upside down and fatherhood is on life support. We think nothing of children being bastards—the word is almost dead. Single women and lesbians get artificially inseminated with not a care in the world about their child growing up without a father. Who needs a father? Isn't a mother enough? Can't the child take her mother's name, instead? What are fathers good for, anyway? They divorce your mother. They sit and watch television. They play video games through the evenings and weekends. They berate and hound your sons. They molest your daughters. WHO NEEDS A FATHER?

But it doesn't stop there. It continues inexorably on to God because fatherhood descends from Him and points back to Him. Who needs God? What's He done for me, anyhow? Did He give me a father who loved me? Did He give my mother a husband who was faithful to her and provided for her and their children? Did He protect me from my stepfather? Did He keep my father from walking out on my mother? What's He done for me, anyhow—in fact, what's He done for anyone? You expect me to believe in God the Father? Get serious. In lockstep solidarity with the first man Adam, we choose rebellion against our Father in heaven and we despise the calling of earthly fatherhood. Fathers who despise God's Fatherhood inevitably abdicate their responsibilities: they do not provide, they fail to protect, they do not lead their wives and children into the safety of righteousness, and what happens? Women pick up the pieces. Yet it's hard for woman to do the work and bear the responsibility God delegated to man. By divine design, woman is unsuited to the authority and responsibility God placed in man by His order of creation. Now where are we? Man is in rebellion, woman is deceived, and children—if not murdered in the womb—are left in a world of wolves, defenseless.

DON'T DIE A VICTIM Recently, I was exhorting a man in his late fifties. I pointed out that he'd spent his life being bitter about hurts suffered in the past, and that if he didn't repent of his bitterness, he'd die a victim. What a faithless thing that is, to die feeling sorry for ourselves because of our father's failures. Of course our fathers were failures. So were their fathers. And their fathers' fathers before them. Fact is, we can trace our own fathers' failures all the way back through history, then back through Scripture itself to the beginning of time. But if you are a believer in Jesus Christ, you are the adopted son of the Father from whom all fatherhood gets its name, so you have nothing to complain about, really. He is perfect.

HE NEVER FAILS US. He is not fickle. He doesn't avoid intimacy. He's a friend who sticks closer than any brother. And He knows our weakness. As you begin the work of growing in fatherhood, have this statement of our heavenly Father's character fixed firmly in your mind:

"The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. He will not always chide: neither will He keep his anger for ever. He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward them that fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our transgressions from us. Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him. For He knoweth our frame; He remembereth that we are dust. As for man, his days are as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth. For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more. But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear Him, and His righteousness unto children's children; To such as keep His covenant, and to those that remember His commandments to do them." - Psalm 103:8-18

Based on the book *Daddy Tried* by Tim Bayly. Edited into a tract by Joseph Spurgeon.

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