

“SPIRITUAL ENCOURAGEMENT FOR THE GODLY FATHER”

PSALM 78:1-8

INTRO: On this Fathers Day, as we honor our Fathers, particularly those who are GODLY FATHERS, we are going to consider from Psalm 78:1-8 SPIRITUAL ENCOURAGEMENT FOR THE GODLY FATHER. I suspect that one of the greatest ways we can honor Fathers today is to give BIBLICAL ENCOURAGEMENT on how they can be the GODLY FATHER OUR HEAVENLY FATHER DESIRES. Let’s observe the text.

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I. THE GODLY FATHER LISTENS TO DIVINE INSTRUCTION

VSS. 1-3

A. He will Listen to Divine Instruction from the Word of God – Vss. 1,2

1. “GIVE EAR TO MY LAW” is mentioned 32 times in the OT.

THE POINT: **LISTEN CAREFULLY TO GOD’S WORD.**

2. “INCLINE YOUR EARS TO THE WORDS OF MY MOUTH” is mentioned 21 times in the OT.

THE POINT: **LISTEN INTENTLY WITH THE DETERMINATION TO OBEY.**

NOTE: A GODLY FATHER MUST AND WILL ABSORB HIMSELF WITH THE WORD OF GOD AND DETERMINE TO APPLY IT TO HIS LIFE. **THAT IS THE FIRST STEP IN BEING A GODLY FATHER!**

B. He will Listen to Divine Instruction from His Godly Fathers – Vs. 3

NOTE: “FATHERS” in the OT does not just mean one’s DAD – But those who lived in generations before. It is significant to note that in scripture there is **THE PRINCIPLE OF 4 GENERATIONS FOR TEACHING:**

JOEL 1:3; PSALM 78:5,6

-The Great Grandfather – The Grandfather – The Father – The Son

A CHALLENGE: **For at least 4 generations in a row DIVINE INSTRUCTION IS A BIBLICAL PATTERN FOR US TODAY! IN MY LIFE I HAVE EXPERIENCED THAT QUITE A BIT.**

1. Grandpa Charlie – When I went of to Bible College he said to me, “DO YOU BEST WITH YOUR BOOKS”

2. Papa Mike – When he saw my first study he said to me, “THIS IS WHERE YOU MUST SPEND YOUR TIME IN GETTING TO KNOW WHO GOD AND HEAR FROM GOD.”

3. Dad – When growing up at home he often said, “ATTENDING CHURCH IS TO BE YOUR NUMBER ONE ACTIVITY.”

4. Me – To my three boys, “GOD EXPECTS YOU TO RESPONSIBLE AND TAKE RESPONSIBILITY.”

ILLUSTRATION: **HOW FATHERS RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD MAY BE THE WAY THE CHILDREN RESPOND AS WELL**

1 Kings 22:51-53

II. THE GODLY FATHER DECLARES DIVINE ACTIVITY – Vs. 4

NOTE: IT IS ADVISEABLE TO KEEP A DAILY DIARY/JOURNAL OF WHAT GOD HAS DONE AND IS DOING IN AND THROUGH YOU.

WHAT ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE DECLARED?

A. Those Activities that Have Brought Praise to God

1. For Israel – The Red Sea (Vss. 12,13)
2. For Us (FBC) – Rain provided in a drought through prayer.

B. Those Activities that Revealed God’s Strength

1. For Israel – The Defeat of Jericho – Joshua 6:6-25
2. For Us (FBC) – The 10 Commandment Project

C. Those Activities that Disclose God’s Works

1. For Israel – The Wilderness Wonderings
2. For Us (FBC) – The Development of our Campus

ILLUSTRATION:

III. THE GODLY FATHER TEACHES DIVINE TRUTH – VSS. 5-7

DEFINITIONS OF PHRASES:

1) “A Testimony in Jacob” – The Record of how God worked through keeping His Word.

2) “A Law in Israel” – The declaration of God’s Word and expectations from the 10 Commandments to the rest of the laws in the Pentateuch.

THE GODLY FATHER TEACHES HIS CHILDREN DIVINE TRUTH FOR 3 REASONS – VS. 7

A. That they will HOPE in the Promises of God

-Have confidence in God to work and fulfill all His promises from the Point of Salvation through all of eternity!

B. That they will REMEMBER the Works of God

-Recognize that as God has worked in the past for others He will work for the children too.

C. That they will OBEY the Commands of God

-To get to know the expectations, will and blessings of God.

ILLUSTRATION: **SURVEY ON WHY KIDS LEAVE CHURCH**

LESSONS TO LEARN:

- 1) The main teacher for children in God's eyes is the Father.
- 2) The main example for children in God's eyes is the Father.
- 3) The father can make an influence in the lives of their children that can last for generations.
- 4) The father will answer to God for the way he has taught his children's, children's, children.