

## Grieving Fathers Psalm 31:7-10

INTRO: The Bible gives us scenes of the good, the bad, and the ugly. Man in his depravity struggles to do that which is right. Even good men, righteous men, must strain to live holy lives: "...the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak" (Mt 26:44).

Yes, the Bible tells us about good dads, bad dads, and some dads who are just outright mean and ugly.

The Bible also tells us about grieving fathers. Some grief was brought on by bad decisions. Other fathers grieved because of the sins of their children. Still others faced grief because of doing right. This is true of Joseph, the son of Jacob.

### I. NOAH

- A. Noah is known for building the ark that saved him, his wife, and his three sons and their wives. He daily endured the ridicule of the godless who thought he was crazy for what he was doing. We too will be ridiculed when we live for God. It grieved Noah that folks rejected his God, Jehovah.
- B. The greatness of Noah:
  - 1. He walked with God although iniquity surrounded him (Gen 6:8-12).
  - 2. He was obedient in difficult times (Gen 7:5). He built the ark and gathered the animals into it.
  - 3. God remembered Noah and delivered him from death (Gen 8: 1, 4).
    - a. The saved rest in the Lord.
    - b. Romans 8:1, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus...." Christ is our ark of safety.
- C. Noah's grief came because of drunkenness (Gen 9:20-25).
  - 1. His being drunk brought grief to his family. Alcohol will make a fool out of a good man.
  - 2. Because of his drunken stupor, he did not know until he awoke what Ham had done to him. How sad. Father's control yourselves (Pro 16:32).

### II. ABRAHAM

- A. Abraham is known as the Father of the faithful (Gal 3:6-9; Gen

15:6).

- B. A brief history of Abraham's faithfulness:
  - 1. He was born in a heathen land, Ur of the Chaldees.
  - 2. He was chosen of God to be the first Hebrew.
  - 3. He is known as the friend of God. In Isaiah 41:8, God says: "Jacob.....the seed of Abraham my friend."
  - 4. Abraham offered up Isaac his son giving us a pure typ of God giving His Son, Jesus Christ, for our sins (Jn 3:16).
- C. Abraham's times of grief.
  - 1. Herbert Lockyer said of Abraham: "He was subject from his character, like the sun had its spots."
  - 2. Abraham yielded to Sarah's plan and went in to Hagar and a child of the flesh was born. What grief Abraham and Sarah bare (Gen 16:5-6). Twice Abraham sent Hagar away (Gen 21:14-18). What grief Ishmael has brought to Israel through the centuries.
  - 3. Much grief has come to so many because of the action of the flesh.

### III. LOT

- A. Lot was a man with a worldly mind. Consumed by the desire for more, he made terrible choices that cost him dearly and brought great grief to his soul.
- B. In Gen 13: 10-13, we find that Lord, under the pull of selfishness, made some very bad choices.
  - 1. One thing led to another and before long, Lot was not living outside of Sodom, he lived in Sodom (Gen 14:12).
  - 2. Because of his bad choices, Lot lost nearly everything he had.
    - a. His wife was turned into a pillar of salt.
    - b. He lost his wealth. It burned up in Sodom.
    - c. He lost what influence he had. The people of Sodom came to despise him.
    - d. Much of his family mocked him and died in Sodom, burned alive in the fire and brimstone.
    - e. His two unmarried daughters shamed him by getting him drunk and committing incest with him.
  - 3. Lot was so backslidden and away from God that he lost his concern for others. He did not lift up a prayer for Sodom, and it seems that he had no desire to see its inhabitants

- come to salvation. He only cared about his own safety.
4. His actions grieved his own soul (II Pet 2:7-8).

#### IV. SAMSON

- A. His parents spoiled him by giving him what he wanted (Jud 14:1-3, 7).
- B. Samson's life teaches us that lax morals, sexual promiscuity, and playing with temptation will bring you to grief. Samson's life not only brought grief to him, it grieved his mother and father. Much grief they suffered was due to their own lack of discipline in Samson's life.
- C. Samson's life of self-indulgence led to grief and:
  1. Self-ignorance and weakness– not knowing his strength was gone (Jud 16:20-21).
  2. Self-darkness– they put his eyes out (Jud 16:21).
  3. Self-bondage– bound in fetters (16:21).
  4. Self- drudgery– grinding in the prison house (Jud 16:21).
  5. Self-humiliation – they made fun of him (Jud 16:25).
  6. Self-destruction– (Jud 16:30).

#### V. ELI

- A. Eli was a preacher who allowed his sons to live ungodly lives while they were supposed to be serving God (I Sam 2:21; 3:13).
- B. Eli died in grief (I Sam 4:14-18).

**CONCLUSION:** We do not have to bring grief upon ourselves by misconduct. There will be enough grief without bringing the unnecessary upon yourself.

Dr. Cecil A Fayard, Jr.  
Father's Day Jun 15, 2008