

FATHER'S DAY

-Ryan Parsons-

Being a Dad is one of the greatest honors in life, but it's also one of the most difficult jobs out there. Culture's skewed expectations and diminishing view of fatherhood haven't made our work as dads any easier. We know the importance of providing, protecting and leading; but, how do we do that faithfully in today's world?

Thankfully God's word exists to encourage and lead us in the work of fathering. One place we find great encouragement is the Psalms.

Psalm 127

1 Unless the Lord builds the house,
 those who build it labor in vain.
Unless the Lord watches over the city,
 the watchman stays awake in vain.
2 It is in vain that you rise up early
 and go late to rest,
eating the bread of anxious toil;
 for he gives to his beloved sleep.
3 Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord,
 the fruit of the womb a reward.
4 Like arrows in the hand of a warrior
 are the children of one's youth.
5 Blessed is the man
 who fills his quiver with them!
He shall not be put to shame
 when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.

Here are four lessons that we can quickly take away from these words of wisdom.

Let the Lord BUILD your home (v. 1)

This isn't talking about nail guns and power tools (although those are cool!). He is raising the question, "Is God at the center of everything holding all things together?" If not, let him build beyond a dwelling and establish your home.

Accept the Lord's protection (v. 1)

As a father, we take security seriously. While we can check the locks at night and make sure our kids wear their seatbelt, here we are challenged to trust in the providence of almighty God and let him protect us eternally.

Let the Lord guide your work (v. 2)

The role of provider is not something most dads take lightly. However, we can easily become entangled in the grind and exhausted from the tempo. Remember, reliance upon God in all things leads to peace.

Enjoy the reward of children (v. 3-5)

Sometimes screaming babies, inquisitive toddlers, needy young ones, and temperamental teenagers can cloud our eyes to the blessings of our children. Don't forget to stop and enjoy the joy that they are now and will continue to be in the future.

Thanks for being a dad who puts God first!
Happy Father's Day