

**Introduction- A FATHER'S DAY MESSAGE FROM ACTS? WELL\* I CAN SHOW YOU THREE FATHERS\***

- 1. The Scriptures do not say a great deal about fatherhood- but what it says is powerful!
  - 2. There are many examples of fathers who did not do their job- Eli, David, Isaac, Ahab- & others
  - 3. I want to show you three fathers from Acts- 1st is good, 2nd is better- & 3rd is best!
- Scripture distribution are made, this - the home - the church - boys - We need MEN!*

**I.- A GOOD FATHER\* ACTS 16:1- THE FATHER OF TIMOTHY**

*Something you have to look at what is not said - I know of fathers who*

**A. HE WAS A GREEK** Timothy came from a mixed marriage- his mother was a Jewess- *Not because his Dad*

- 1. He must have been a good man- though v.2 applies to Timothy - nothing bad is said about *fathers*
- 2. Often in the Kings- OT- "He walked in the sins of his father"- and added a few of his own.
- 3. The life of the son so often is a picture of the father- so perhaps not saved- but good *Author*

**B. HE WAS THE HEAD OF HIS HOUSEHOLD** The Greeks honored women, but the men ruled- Eph 5:23

- 1. God made man to be the head of the home- to be in charge- and he is responsible.
- 2. Delegated authority to raise the children, manage the household- is given to the wife.
- 3. From the faithful teaching of the mother, & Grandmother Timothy had an unfeigned faith.

**C. HE PROVIDED FOR THE NEEDS OF HIS HOUSEHOLD** No record of Tim. or mother working I Tim 5:8

- 1. The man is responsible to God to provide for the needs of his own household- even before his *own*
- 2. Today- Divorce, desertion, and worse - by men trying to escape the responsibility- NOT SO.
- 3. To fail is to be worse than an infidel- and to deny the faith- Judgement from God. *culture*

Timothy's Father might not have been saved- but he took care of his family. - *Substantially - "only a Dad" - 4:17*

**II.- A BETTER FATHER \* ACTS 16:30-34 THE PHILIPPIAN JAILOR**

*This man is described only briefly - but he brought salvation to his house*

**A. HE WAS SAVED, AND THERE IS NO DOUBT ABOUT IT**

- 1. He asked plainly- "sir, what must I do to be saved?" A lot of fathers try to avoid this!
- 2. He was told- "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ" and he did- *not counting on wife's ch.*
- 3. Does your family know you are saved? *His father who died - wife said "I don't know"*

**B. HE BROUGHT THE GOSPEL TO HIS HOUSE** Some claim household salvation from Paul's promise to him

- 1. This man took the Gospel into his home- v.30, some fathers try to keep it out!
- 2. This man showed good deeds in his own household-v.33,34. Gospel meant something to him.
- 3. When the dad gets saved and acts like it- the family does too! - *"Lifts Eyes Upon you"*

**B. HIS ACTIONS LED TO HIS FAMILY BEING SAVED** - they all believed and were baptized.

- 1. Eph 6:4 "Provoke not your Children to wrath" Dad- don't be just a whipping boy- Mom help *in this.*
- 2. "But bring them up in the Nurture and Admonition of the Lord" Responsibility of dad!
- 3. All his house believed in God- and were baptized. - This was better than Tim's father.

We need Dad's who will do this for their family today - *father - example of holy living -*

**III.- THE BEST FATHER - ACTS 21:9 - Phillip- the evangelist had 4 daughters**

*This man lived a holy life - and reaped a natural reward - in his children*

**A. THIS MAN WAS AN EVANGELIST, AND ONE OF THE SEVEN!** - ~~Phillip~~

- 1. He was a deacon- one of the seven- - had to rule his children and Household well I Tim 3:12
- 2. As a good Deacon- he had a good degree and great boldness in faith- I Tim 3:13 - a help
- 3. As an Evangelist- he was faithful to God- and could claim more of God's blessing. *Sanctification*

**B. HE HAD FOUR DAUGHTERS\* ALL VIRGINS \*** /and probably claimed the leading of his own children

- 1. He raised them pure- no easier job in Caesarea than in Phoenix today /to the Lord
- 2. Today too many fathers lead their daughters to smoke, drink, even commit lustful incest.
- 3. A wise father lives a clean life, and teaches his children well - Prov 23:24 - he is a rejoicer *at his children's holiness*

**C. WHICH DID PROPHECY** - We don't read much of what a girl can do in the Bible - but look here!

- 1. Phillip gave his daughters to the Lord in service- Prophet inspired teachers - High office
- 2. Many today pick the best the world has to offer- clothe girls like prostitutes- give all over
- 3. But the wisest parent gives their children to the Lord- and gives them what is *"only a Dad"*

best for them in the Lord.

**Concl. WE NEED SOME REAL GOOD FATHERS TODAY\***

We read of the Church fathers- the Fathers of America, Today we see the fathers of treason and distraction.

- 1. If you are a dad- are you the kind of Christian that will commend Christ to your family?
- 2. If you are a son or daughter- the best father's day present is to cause your
- 3. father to rejoice because of your own righteousness- Prov 23:24

*"The Fathers of the Righteous shall Rejoice"*