

THEME: Marriage – Husband - Home and Family a Priority

The phenomenon of the “Distracted Father” is one of which I am all too familiar. I see it constantly in church, in the market place, at birthday parties, at school and at the seminars in which I teach. Whether the father is talking with friends, working on the computer, watching TV, doing office work at home, fellowshiping at church, at a party or event, the evidence is the same - a child or children running out of control and the father completely oblivious to it all. It is as if he were a single man or childless parent. Unfortunately this seemingly unnatural distracted behavior is symptomatic of his overall approach to parenting. Inevitably he will be a distracted and often for the most part non-resident father to his children. In fact it is my observation based on years as a Youth Minister, Adult Education Minister, College Minister, Pastor and Missionary that the children of distracted and/or non-resident fathers have the same character deficiencies irrespective of their father’s religious orientation or vocation. In other words the children of the distracted and/or non-resident pastor, missionary, church worker, deacon, elder or Christian father have the same character deficiencies as the children of pagan military, executive, or workaholic dad. It makes no difference, the fact that you are a Christian does not make up for the fact that you are distracted and/or gone all the time. This makes sense to men in all other areas of their lives. The fact that you are a Christian has no impact on your budget unless you are there to actually budget your finances, stay on top of the budget and follow-through on the budget. The fact that you are a Christian has no impact on the upkeep of your home unless you are aware of the home, you are there and willing to act on what you see. The fact that you are a Christian has no impact on your job unless you show up for work, are conscientious about your work and follow through on your responsibilities at work. In fact the non-Christian will who is conscientious with his budget, with the upkeep of his home and with his duties at work will be more successful than the distracted and/or non-resident Christian in all of these areas. Even though the logic of the above three illustrations is clear and readily admitted by Christian men, never-the-less they continue to think that their marriage, their family, their home, will somehow be an exception. That they can continue to be distracted and/or non-resident and yet not suffer decay and destruction in this one area. Nothing however could be further from the truth.

I remember my son Sam once asked me what the difference was in my parenting as a father from that which his friends experienced. He said now that he had a career, a family and friends at the same stage of life. He had begun to realize when talking to his friends how unique his experience was. I thought about this and then answered him that God gave me the grace to have always thought about my life responsibilities as having two jobs. As I drove to the office I would think about my coming responsibilities. I would organize my day in my mind and often show up a little early to make sure I was ready to begin the day strong. On my way home from work I did not listen to the radio, let my mind wander and look forward to the rest of the day and evening off. Rather I would be thinking about my second job – that of a husband and father. I would be thinking of his mom and her needs, the children, school, training and then the home and the chores needed to be done. I would arrive at home with the same determination and focus for this my second job as I would for my first. It was only after the responsibilities were fulfilled, the kids were all in bed and the house in order that I considered my workday as over.

In contrast far to many young husbands and fathers come home thinking about their computer games or fantasy leagues. They come home thinking about sporting events or their hobby. Their workshop, their hunting or fishing opportunities, their golf game or leisure activities. They come home thinking about continuing their work or about how tired they are and check out for the rest of the evening. When out with their children they often are so focused on their discussions and friendships that they are relatively unaware of the behavior of their children. When with their children in public they think of themselves as off duty. They never do this with work, only with family.

It is my hope that by meditation on the priority which the Holy Spirit places on the Husband in terms of the priority of the home and family will bring you to an understanding of it’s importance. By God’s grace and through the life changing power of the holy, eternal, inerrant written Word of God you will conform to His standard in this area.

Rev. John S. Mahon / Wednesday – June 20, 2012 / Wellingsborough, England

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: Marriage – Husband - Home and Family a Priority

TOPIC & PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: I Timothy 5:8; Proverbs 6:6 - 11

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

TOPIC & PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Ephesians 5:25 – 27; I Peter 3:7

How does this passage relate to the theme?

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TOPIC & PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Proverbs 4:1 – 4; Ephesians 6:4; Job 1:1 - 5

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TOPIC & PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: I Corinthians 7:32 – 34a

How does this passage relate to the theme?

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TOPIC & PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Proverbs 27:8, 23 – 27

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TOPIC & PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: I Timothy 3:4 & 5, 12

How does this passage relate to the theme?

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TOPIC & PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Proverbs 27:8; 7:19 & 20

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TOPIC & PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Proverbs 13:22; 19:14

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How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

TOPIC & PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Ecclesiastes 10:18; 14:11; 24:30 – 34

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

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TOPIC & PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Luke 15:11 – 32

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

TOPIC & PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Ephesians 5:28 & 29; Proverbs 31:21-23, 28-31

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

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TOPIC & PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Hebrews 12: 4 - 10

How does this passage relate to the theme?

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