

"JESUS- A MANLY MAN"

Matthew 9:35-37; II Corinthians 5:11-15

I don't know about you but I am a big fan of Paul Harvey. And since it is Father's Day I want read to you something Paul once said-see if it rings true for you. Quote, "A Father is a creature that is forced to endure childbirth without an anesthetic. A father growls when he feels good and laughs when scared half to death. A father never feels worthy of the worship in a child's eyes. He's never quite the hero his daughter thinks; never quite the man his son believes him to be, and this worries him—sometimes. So he works too hard to try to smooth the rough places in the road for those of his own who will follow him. A father gets very angry when the school grades aren't as good as he thinks they should be. So he scolds his son—though he knows it's the teacher's fault. A father gives his daughter away to another man who is not nearly good enough—so he can have grandchildren who are smarter than anybody's. A father makes bets with insurance companies about who will live the longest.

One day, he loses—and the bet is paid off to those he leaves behind.” (End quote) – Paul Harvey, quoted in Lloyd Cory, *Quote Inquote*

Here is a question for you to consider- **What defines a man?** Is it how much is in his bank account? What kind of a house he lives in? What he does for a living? How many “toys” he has amassed? Now let me put a theological twist to that question- **What defines a man of God?** Well here is the ultimate example of manhood and it is found in Philippians 2:5-8: “Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!”

When you think about it, being a man isn’t found in what you have or have not, it is not grounded on physical strength, athletic ability, Hollywood’s definition of a “hunk” or how attractive you are to girls.

Someone once said that a real man . . . serves others, shows kindness and compassion, walks with honor and integrity, pursues purity in word and deed, lives courageously for Christ, loves God with all his heart, mind and soul.

Today is Father's Day, 2008, and to all you fathers and to those who have been like fathers I say, "Happy Father's Day." I recently heard of a youngster trying to explain what Father's Day is and what it meant to him. He answered: "Well, it's just like Mother's Day, only you don't spend as much money for the present!"

I'm sure that there are those of us fathers who are in the congregation today who wish we could do some or many things over, that we could take back some things we have said or spoken up and said things that needed to be said to our wife or a child or other relative or friend. Oh, that we all could turn back the hands of time and do some things differently.

But we can't- not a one of us can. Yes, maybe we can mend some broken fences by reaching out in love and asking for forgiveness, apologizing, saying "I'm sorry." And maybe the best thing we can do is learn from our mistakes, try not to repeat them, not only talk about love but show love in what we do or don't do, and learn, and this is hard for some of us, learn to listen more than we speak.

As I was thinking about today and what I would preach on I thought about focusing on the great Teacher, the great healer, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, as it says in Hebrews 12:2, the one who came to redeem us and save us. He is none other than Jesus Christ. What a novel idea, you might say. And yet when I read the Bible and find out some of the things that Jesus did and said, I cannot but think, what a great role model for us all; what a great example for us all to emulate, especially us men.

For if you read the scriptures, I find it hard to believe that you could walk away and not say that Jesus, the son of Mary and Joseph; Jesus, the Son of God, was truly a, as the governor of the great state of California, and former body builder, Arnold Schwarzenegger once said, "A manly man." So let's look at some passages that highlight some, remember I said some, of the "manly" traits of Jesus that men, and women and children of all ages could emulate.

Turn with me and read Luke 19:41-44 and John 11:35. What did Jesus show? **Jesus showed emotions**. And the first emotion I want to hold up is **sadness**, and His sadness brought forth **tears**. Have you ever heard it said, or has it ever been said to you, now I'm talking to the men, "Big boys don't cry?" As a matter of fact many years ago a group called Frankie Valley and the 4 Seasons sang a song for the opposite sex that was entitled, "Big Girls don't cry." So maybe nobody should cry, right? Wrong. Emotions are a part of the way God made us and tears are for a reason.

I've been around some big, hulking men in my days and seen them cry at funerals, weddings, when their kid got an award, when they heard a touching story. Showing our emotions is not a bad thing; as a matter of fact it can be healthy. And Jesus was not afraid to wear his emotions on his sleeve and be "real" and not try to stuff the emotion or try to hide it.

Besides tears, there is another emotion. Please turn with me to John 19:26. What emotion did Jesus display? **A second emotion that Jesus showed was love.** Jesus was a very busy man who was easily caught up in all the things the Son of God was involved in. Why, there was one time when His disciples were bone tired that He tried to take His disciples away by themselves for a little retreat and those crazy people beat them to the other side of the lake and were waiting for Him/them when they arrived. There was no rest for the weary; He was always dealing with other people and their issues/problems. So I am sure that He had very little family life when He was engaged in His earthly ministry.

But at the end, He showed compassion for His dear mother and gave her into the care of His good friend John while He hung there dying from a cross.

And there is a lesson here for all of us, men and women- take good care of your family- make time with them, love them, and engage with them in what they are doing. And even if we haven't done a very good job of it, don't give up and in and say, "It's too late." Try, try and keep trying and let the little things over time become the big things. Look out for those you love because, more than likely, no one else will.

Besides tears and love I want to highlight another emotion that Jesus showed. Turn to John 10:11-18 and then Matthew 9:18-26. **A third emotion that Jesus displayed was compassion.** In the Matthew passage Jesus is going to heal the leader of the synagogue's daughter and He is interrupted by a woman who has been bleeding for 12 years. He doesn't look at her and say, "You've been bleeding for 12 years a few more minutes isn't going to matter."

No, he let her interrupt His journey, His mission and He ministered to her and then he went on His way to deal with the child, like He planned to in the first place. Jesus was always showing compassion for others and their issues and needs. I don't know about you but the lesson for me is to not get so caught up in my agenda, to not put off the interruptions of life- whether it is from our children, our spouse, our co-workers, a neighbor or a friend. Sometimes we need to do what it says in Philippians 2:4, "Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others." Me/Myself/and I, just doesn't cut it, folks, unless you don't want any friends, you don't want to alienate your family, you don't want to be ostracized by others.

Keeping with the emotions, read Matthew 21:12-14. **A fourth emotion that Jesus displayed, and some of you will like this more than others, but there is a catch- that emotion is anger-or righteous indignation, to put it into fancier terms.**

Jesus goes into the temple of God and the people had made it into a place that was cheating the poor and squeezing out the Gentiles. Did Jesus take out a whip and hit anyone? No. Did Jesus confront their actions forcefully? Yes. He was revolutionary and took decisive action and He challenged the economic, political, and religious powers of the Jewish leaders and He did so without hurting a single person, physically, but did He get their attention mentally and hopefully spiritually. Anger is good things if it is channeled the right way, something we all can benefit from. Right?

One last thing that I want to highlight that Jesus exhibited that is not an emotion but a way of life. Please turn with me to Matthew 28:20. We read that **He was Committed to those He loved and served- I will be with you always....** Jesus' word was His word. If He made a promise, a commitment to someone or to some people or to some thing He followed through. Are there times we are going to let people down? Yes. Are there times we are going to fail others? You bet.

But working to be consistent, conscientious, and committed, to the best of our ability, is crucial to being the kind of man, or woman that God wants us to be.

Today, there are way too many people who take their commitments too lightly- in marriage, to people, to their children, to their parents, to their work, to their team, to their board they serve on, to their church, you name it. And at times their word is nothing more than words and no follow-through, no consistency. Jesus was committed to those He loved. What an example to follow, what a novel idea to try and fulfill.

Jesus showed emotions that were pretty healthy, that are healthy and He showed forth commitment to those whom He loved.

I leave you with this story- A young boy lived with his grandfather on top of a mountain in the Swiss Alps. Often, just to hear the sound of his own voice echoing back to him, he would go outside, cup his hands around his mouth and shout, "HELLO!"

Up from the canyons the reply reverberated, "HELLO...HELLO...hello...hello...." Then he would call out, "I LOVE YOU...I LOVE YOU...I love you...love you...love you...." One day the boy seriously misbehaved and his grandfather disciplined him severely. Reacting violently, the child shook his fist and screamed, "I HATE YOU!" To his surprise, the rocks and the boulders across the mountainside responded in kind: "I HATE YOU...I HATE YOU... I hate you...hate you... hate you...." And so it is in a family [and in relationships]. We could call it one of the immutable laws of physical nature. More particularly, *human nature*. We get in return exactly what we give. It all comes back. Incredible echoes mirror our actions to an emphatic degree, sometimes in greater measure than we give. The results are often embarrassing... or tragic. Tennyson said: "Our echoes roll from soul to soul and grow forever and forever." (Charles R. Swindoll, *Standing Out*) People-let's give it our best shot- no regrets. Happy Fathers Day, Dads. Amen.

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Introduction: Paul Harvey- "A father is...."

What defines a man?

What defines a man of God? Phil. 2:5-8

Luke 19:41-44; John 11:35 What did Jesus show? **Emotions**
The first emotion is _____; it brought forth _____

John 19:26 A second emotion was _____

John 10:11-18 A third emotion was _____

Matthew 21:12-14 A fourth emotion is _____

Matthew 28:20 Jesus was _____ to those He loved and served- "I will be with you always"

Conclusion: Tennyson once said, "Our echoes roll from soul to soul and grow forever and forever."