

What Kind of Gifts Are You Giving Your Children?

Luke 11:11-13; Matthew 7:7-11

This is Father's Day, a time set aside to honor and remember those our dads. Good or bad, our dads have played a vital role in our lives.

Today many Dads will receive gifts from those who love him. However, in this message, I want us to consider, not the gifts children give their dads, but the gifts every father should be giving to his children.

Jesus uses this short parable on prayer to illustrate what we can expect from our heavenly Father when we ask compared to what earthly fathers give to their sons and daughters.

I. **A son's PETITION** (v. 11).

- Sometimes our children ask for things that would be harmful to them. A wise and careful father will withhold those things that are dangerous or would hurt his child.
- Each item the son requested in Jesus' parable was a food item. These things were all needful and good for him.
- A. **Bread** is a type of the Word of God that guides our lives (Ps. 119:105) and water that cleanses us (John 15:3; Eph. 5:26).
- B. **Fish** was a main food staple of Jesus and His disciples—a type of daily sustenance.
 - A source of omega-3 fatty acids—essential nutrients keep our heart and brain healthy (“brain food” — reduces Alzheimer's risk).
- C. **Eggs** from earliest times were symbols of life. I remember how fascinated I was the first time I watched a baby chick emerge from an egg shell.
 - Eggs are rich with nutrients like riboflavin, Vitamin B₁₂ and B₆, phosphorus, and lots of protein. Helps build muscles and keep you energized. This would make a son strong.

II. **A father's PROVISION** (vs. 11-12).

- A. These are things a wise father should provide for his children:

1. The **bread** of God's Word to guide and keep them clean.
 2. **Fish** to nourish their lives both physically and spiritually.
 3. **Eggs** to strengthen and keep their lives energized for God.
- B. What kind of a father would give his son a **STONE** when he asked for some bread... a **SERPENT** when he asked for a fish... a **SCORPION** when he asked for an egg?
1. A **STONE** — Worthless... Cold... lifeless... insensitive.
 2. A **SERPENT** in the Bible is used to portray the devil.
 3. A **SCORPION** can inflict great pain.
 - These things are **DEAD** (stone)... **DEVILISH** (serpent)... **DANGEROUS** (scorpion).
- C. Sadly, these are things too many fathers provide for their children—**Stony** things with no spiritual value. **Serpentine** items that are inherently Satanic. Items with the **sting** of poison like a scorpion.

III. A heavenly **PARALLEL** (v. 13).

- A. The nature of earthly fathers — evil. Who was Jesus speaking to? Not the Pharisees! He was talking to **HIS OWN DISCIPLES!**
1. Jesus' statement goes complete against the world's philosophy. The world says man is inherently good. Jesus says man is inherently evil. Who are you going to believe?
 2. The Bible teaches everyone is born with a depraved sinful nature. That is why people need to be born again! They need a new nature!
 - Yet, even with a sinful nature, fathers

- Gifts that help them and not hinder their spiritual growth.
 - Gifts that heal and not harm.
 - What kind of gifts are you giving your children? The good things they need to grow in the Lord? Or, worthless junk that will draw them away from the Lord? Are you giving them bread... fish... and eggs? Or, worthless stones, poisonous serpents, and hurtful scorpions?
2. The GENEROSITY of the heavenly Father. "***How much more***" emphasizes the fact that God is more generous than earthly fathers. How generous are you with your children.

SUMMATION: What are some good gifts a Dad can give his children:

1. A father who is in love with their mother. If you want your son to respect and honor women, you better demonstrate that respect by the way you treat their mother.
2. A living a vibrant faith worth following. Gen 18:19—"*For I know [Abraham], that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment.*"
3. An example of unquestioned loyalty to your local church. If you want your children to serve God at church and support it through thick and thin, you need to demonstrate that kind of attitude yourself.
4. A walk with the Lord. If you want your children to walk with God, you better be walking with God before them.

Dads, what are you wanting for your children? To live for God? Faithful to church? Students of the Scripture? You need to model those characteristics before them. They are looking at your actions and not your words.

➡What is the best gift our Heavenly father gives to his children? The gift of His presence in the Person of the Holy Spirit when you are saved!

Dispensationally, IF you've been born again, you already have the Holy Spirit residing in your body. You don't have to ask for the Holy Spirit.

It not a question of you having more of the Holy Spirit—The question is: Does the Holy Spirit have all of you?