

Honor, God's Way

Jack was a bright young man with a challenging life ahead. His mother died when he was only three and his only memories of her were those of her illness shortly before she passed. His father remarried and Jack had two step-brothers. He was very close to his grandmother, but she died when young Jack was away at the war.

Jack married and had children but his 20-year marriage ended in divorce and Jack was broken-hearted. Eventually he remarried his sweetheart, but they divorced again. Amazingly, 20 years after the second divorce, Jack married his sweetheart a third time and they remained married until Jack died after the turn of the century.

Why do I relate this story? Because after all the challenges life had thrown at Jack and Katherine, they gave their lives to Jesus, Katherine near retirement and Jack at age 79. "A lot of water under bridge," as Jack would often say, eventually lead to the waters of baptism.

This and every Father's Day I am reminded of this love story which took many turns before arriving at heaven's door, simply because Jack and Katherine were my parents. They taught me to love Jesus when I was a child, long before either of them really knew Him. In 1975 I baptized Mom into Christ and in 2001 I baptized Dad. They took their conversions seriously, and began to read God's word in earnest and learn of the great love He has for them.

"Honor your father and mother, which is the first commandment with a promise," Deuteronomy 5 and Ephesians 6. My mom and dad were far from perfect, but they were caring parents who loved and provided for us precious.

Some of you didn't have loving parents. Some of you never knew one or perhaps both of your parents, but God provided a path for you to arrive on planet earth. Perhaps your parents were not worthy of honor, some aren't. Perhaps your early years were more of a challenge than a blessing. *But one thing is for sure: our heavenly Father is worth of more honor than humans can even give.*

On this Father's Day, another thing is for sure: somewhere, perhaps in the present, perhaps in the past, perhaps in heaven there is an earthly father or a heavenly Father whom we can honor for all the blessings we have in life, practical and spiritual.

It is a wise person who gives honor where honor is due (Romans 13:7), and a happy person who takes that command seriously. Let's honor fathers where that honor is due and remember that honor to our heavenly Father is always due, for He is not only a Father to the fatherless (Psalm 68:5), but also a Father to us all.

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