

“Priest Sex Scandal!”

I. **INTRO:**

A. *Erma Bombeck* painted a portrait of a little girl who loved her dad but wasn't sure what **dads do**: **One** morning my father didn't get up and go to work. He went to the hospital and **died** the next day. I hadn't thought that much about him before. He was just someone who left and came home and seemed glad to see everyone at night. He opened the jar of pickles when no one else could. He was the only one in the house who wasn't afraid to go into the basement by himself. **He** cut himself shaving, but no one kissed it or got excited about it. It was understood when it rained, he got the car and brought it around to the door. When anyone was sick, he went out to get the prescription filled. He took lots of pictures...but he was never in them. **Whenever** I played house, the mother doll had a lot to do. I never knew what to do with the daddy doll, so I had him say, “*I'm going off to work now,*” and threw him under the bed. - **The** funeral was in our living room and a lot of people came and brought all kinds of good food and cakes. We had never had so much company before. **I** went to my room and felt under the bed for the daddy doll. When I found him, I dusted him off and put him on my bed. **He** never did anything. I didn't know his leaving would hurt so much.¹

1. This morning we're going to be talking about fathers & fatherhood.

B. Life is sometimes like the **cartoon** where the **boss** is grouchy toward a **worker**; **this employee**, in turn, comes home & is irritable with the **children**; **his son** then kicks the **dog**; **the dog** in turn runs down the street & bites the first person he sees...**THE BOSS!**

1. Fathers & mothers, we must never let *our pressures* drive us into this **unhappy & unhealthy** cycle. - **The costs are too high!**

II. **PRIEST SEX SCANDAL!**

A. **SINFUL SONS!** (12-17)

B. (12) PK's...Priests Kids! - **corrupt** (sons of belial)

1. **Q:** What s the **main problem** of our world? **A:** It is the **power** of **indwelling sin**.

a) **Not** politics; **not** personality; **not** calamities or catastrophes in your life; **not** the environment you grow up in. (these all add to it, but are not the main problem)

2. Sin is a **power** not a series of **free choices** [**Remember** We sin because we're sinners, **not**, we're sinners because we've sinned!"]

¹ Family—The Ties that Bind...and Gag! (New York: Fawcett Books, 1988), p. 2.

- a) It's a **bondage** that prevents free choices.
- b) The one *freedom destroying thing* in the world is **sin** & we're all enslaved to it, **until** a **mighty power** called **the Holy Spirit** liberates us!
- c) This **mighty power** of **the Holy Spirit** is the only Hope for the world, for parents, for children.

(1) They did not know the Lord! - was the issue.

C. (13-17) They took what they *wanted* rather than what was *offered*.

- 1. They insisted on receiving their raw portion, **before** the Lord's portion (i.e. the fat burnt on the altar).

D. **SAMUEL'S CHILDHOOD MINISTRY!** (18-21)

E. Like the *oscillation of a fan* we pass from the rehearsal of the sins of Eli's sons to a consideration of Samuel.

F. Ken Canfield, in *The Seven Secrets of Effective Fathers* said, *Effective Fathers Are: Committed to their children. Know their children. Are consistent in their attitudes and behavior. Protect and Provide for their children. Love their children's mother. Are active listeners to their children. Spiritually equip their children.*

G. Fathers fight dragons...almost daily. They hurry away from the breakfast table...off to the arena which is sometimes called an office or a workshop. There, with callused, practiced hands, they tackle the dragon with 3 heads: **weariness, work, and monotony**. They never quite win the fight, but they never give up. Knights in shining armor - fathers in shiny trousers: there is little difference, as they march away to each new workday.²

H. **SELFISH DISOBEDIENCE!** (22-26)

I. (22) I guess **priest sex scandals** are nothing new! :(

J. (24) Best we can tell Eli was a good man whose life was pure. He loved God & delighted in God's service. Probably insightful & a cool guy to hang around the tabernacle. But it was his parenting or lack-thereof was his undoing.

K. (25a) No longer are we perplexed by this proverb of old, **Who will intercede for him?**

- 1. It's Jesus the God/Man that's who!

² Source Unknown.

- L. (25b) **It was** the Lord's will to slay them for **disobedience**, **but not** the Lord's will that they **should be** disobedient.
1. I guess this is when enough is enough! God's patience runs out. When He says it is finished, or worse...you are finished. (Very rare we hear of this)
 2. **Reminder: This is a royal mess-up!** - God had sovereignly chosen the house of Aaron to be His priests, now on account of Eli's sons his descendants would be set aside. (Fulfilled in 1 Kings 2:27)
- M. (23-25) **2 little 2 late!** His **weak warning** was certainly no substitute for definite discipline
- N. **Men, how are you raising your children?**
1. "Raising children is like holding a **wet bar of soap: too firm** a grasp & it shoots from your hand, **too loose** a grip & it slides away. A **gentle** but **firm** hold keeps you in control."
- O. **Why are some fathers excessively strict?**
1. Some are trying to protect their children from an increasingly Babylonian culture. And **smothering rules** seem the best way to accomplish that.
 2. Others have **controlling personalities** who use rules, money, friendship, or clout to rule their children's lives.
 - a) When they read the bible they read it through a **controlling grid**, where they believe they have a license to **own & dominate**.
 3. Others wrongly understand their faith in terms of **law** rather than **grace**.
 4. Some men are overly strict because they are concerned about **what others will think**. (What will they think if...my child goes to that place...wears those clothes...are listening to that music...)
- P. **Dads we have to say "no" to many things. Thus we should try to say "yes" to as much as possible; & save our "no's" for the really important situations.**
1. **Be biblical in regards to your "no's"!**
- Q. **Some fathers are overly preachy? 3 kids bragging about fathers:**
First: My dad's so smart he can talk for **1 hour** on any subject.
Second: My dad's so smart he can talk for **2 hours** on any subject.
Third: My dad's so smart he can talk for **3 hours** *and doesn't even need a subject.*
- R. **Why are some fathers not strict at all?**
1. Some fathers are trying to be the child's **friend**, rather than a **parent**.
 2. Some fathers **don't understand their role**; or are just **lazy** in fulfilling it.
 3. Some are **pre-occupied** with self/hobby/friends/etc.
 4. Some fathers, own fathers, were excessively strict, thus swore they'd never be

5. Some fathers would just rather **leave all discipline to their wife** to deal with. A kind of, *good cop bad cop*, & they choose they'd be *good cop*.
- S. Can we start now if we were newly saved, & our kids are older? - Of course, just have a sit down w/your kids & a “*fresh start meeting*” w/them (**repent of past; explain your new biblical plan for the future**).
- T. You might say, but my father was a terrible dad. I didn't have a good example to follow!
1. **Boo hoo!** Suck it up & learn how to be a father!
 2. **Break the cycle. Start a legacy.** (in 2001 Steve Farrar did our men's retreat; great book *Point Man*, also deals with *Starting or Leaving a Legacy*)
- U. **SEVERE JUDGMENT!** (27-36)
- V. (29) **You honor your sons more than Me!** - This is idolatry. And it is still prevalent in 2010.
1. **Caution new parents** - don't bow down to the *baby god*.
 2. **Caution parents of adolescents** - don't bow down to the *kids-will-be-kids god*.
 3. **Caution parents of teens** - don't bow down to the *but-Johnny's-parents-let-him god*
 4. **Read** Micah 7:1-6
 - a) **Read** Mt.10:35-37 ...**And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.** (Eli's sin)
 5. **Read** Micah 7:7 (**look & wait & know**, God **will** hear you)
 - a) **Look** - **So where are you going to look?** - Look at your kids? Look in the mirror? (I thought I did alright!) Or, look to the Lord? :)
 - b) Then vs.8,9a - He knows he was sinned against(8), but look where he ends up(9a).
 - (1) **Broken hearted posture!** - This is how you **Parent w/Hope** in the worst of times & worst of cultures.
 - (2) **Have that broken hearted posture. Have lion hearted Hope.**
 - (3) Parents it may take along time for your children to walk into the light...have **patience!**
 - c) It's always true & always has been. **There is no easy time to raise kids.**
 6. **But he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.**
- W. Lk.1:17 (Gabriel to Zacharias re: John the Bap) **He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, 'to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,' and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.**
1. Men, **submit** to Christ - allow Him to **turn your hearts** to your children.
 2. Ask the H.S. for the **power** to practice the discipline of fatherhood.

3. Learn to hold their lives...with **God's pressure**.

4. **Sweat for your children's souls!** (Kent Hughes)

X. **Build me a son**, O Lord, who will be strong enough to know when he is weak, and brave enough to face himself when he is afraid; one who will be proud and unbending in honest defeat, and humble and gentle in victory.

Build me a son whose wishbone will not be where his backbone should be; a son who will know Thee and that to know himself is the foundation stone of knowledge. Lead him, I pray, not in the path of ease and comfort, but under the stress and spur of difficulties and challenge. Here let him learn to stand up in the storm; here let him learn compassion for those who fail.

Build me a son whose heart will be clean, whose goal will be high; a son who will master himself before he seeks to master other men; one who will learn to laugh, yet never forget how to weep; one who will reach into the future, yet never forget the past.

And after all these things are his, add, I pray, enough of a sense of humor, so that he may always be serious, yet never take himself too seriously. Give him humility, so that he may always remember the simplicity of greatness, the open mind of true wisdom, the meekness of true strength. Then I, his father, will dare to whisper, "I have not lived in vain." *General Douglas MacArthur*