

7 Attributes of a Great Father

Matthew 7:11

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Father's Day

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Matthew 7:11, If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!

Luke 15:11-32, ¹¹ Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.

¹³ "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. ¹⁴ After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

¹⁷ "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! ¹⁸ I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' ²⁰ So he got up and

went to his father.

"But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

²¹ "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

²² "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. ²⁴ For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

²⁵ "Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ²⁷ 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.'

²⁸ "The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!'

³¹ "'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'"

What Others Are Saying About Great Fathers

- "A good father is one of the most unsung, unpraised, unnoticed, and yet one of the most valuable assets in our society."
– Billy Graham
- "A Godly father is a man who so walks with God that his children want to walk with God too – not out of fear, but out of affection for the father they see in him."
– James Dobson

7 Sandtraps to Avoid

- 1. The Sandtrap of Absence** – being there in body, but not in heart.
- 2. The Sandtrap of Harshness** – using anger instead of instruction.
- 3. The Sandtrap of Inconsistency** – saying one thing and doing another.
- 4. The Sandtrap of Withholding Affection** – confusing strength as weakness.
- 5. The Sandtrap of Materialism** – giving things instead of time.
- 6. The Sandtrap of Spiritual Neglect** – leaving the soul to mom or the church.
- 7. The Sandtrap of Pride** – refusing to say, "I was wrong."

7 Attributes of a Great Father

1. Great fathers create an atmosphere of grace and growth.

2 Peter 3:18, *But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.*

- "My father gave me the greatest gift anyone could give another person; he believed in me."
– Jim Valvano

2. Great fathers forgive freely and model restoration.

Colossians 3:13, *Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.*

3. Great fathers discipline with love, not anger.

Proverbs 3:11-12, *My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline, and do not resent his rebuke, ¹² because the Lord disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in.*

- "A father's discipline should be like a compass, not a club."
– Dr. Denis Waitley

4. Great fathers encourage and speak life.

Ephesians 4:29, *Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.*

- “Encouragement is the oxygen of the soul.”
– George Madison Adams

5. Great fathers are consistent and dependable.

Malachi 3:6, *I the Lord do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed.*

6. Great fathers listen more and speak less.

James 1:19, *My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.*

- “Listening is a magnetic and strange thing, a creative force. The friends who listen to us are the ones we move toward.”
– Karl A. Menninger

7. Great fathers point their children to God, not just themselves.

Deuteronomy 6:6–7, *These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. ⁷Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.*