

6/19/11

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY Almighty and everlasting God, You revealed your glory to us in the mystery of your being, that You are One God who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Keep us steadfast in faith that we may know your power, believe your Word, and trust your mercy; for You, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, live and reign, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Genesis 1:1-2:4a

(God creates all things by His word, and creates people saying "Let US make man in OUR image.")

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. 3 And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. 4 God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning-- the first day.

6 And God said, "Let there be an expanse between the waters to separate water from water." 7 So God made the expanse and separated the water under the expanse from the water above it. And it was so. 8 God called the expanse "sky." And there was evening, and there was morning-- the second day.

9 And God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear." And it was so. 10 God called the dry ground "land," and the gathered waters he called "seas." And God saw that it was good. 11 Then God said, "Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds." And it was so. 12 The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. 13 And there was evening, and there was morning-- the third day.

14 And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark seasons and days and years, 15 and let them be lights in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth." And it was so. 16 God made two great lights-- the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. 17 God set them in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth, 18 to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. 19 And there was evening, and there was morning-- the fourth day.

20 And God said, "Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky." 21 So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living and moving thing with which the water teems, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. 22 God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth." 23 And there was evening, and there was morning-- the fifth day.

24 And God said, "Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: livestock, creatures that move along the ground, and wild animals, each according to its

kind." And it was so. 25 God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. 26 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. 28 God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground." 29 Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. 30 And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground-- everything that has the breath of life in it-- I give every green plant for food." And it was so. 31 God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning-- the sixth day.

Genesis 2:1 Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. 2 By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. 3 And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done. 4 This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created

THE GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 28:16-20

(In His last words to the disciples Jesus tells them to baptize in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He tells them to go make disciples baptizing and teaching.)

16 Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. 17 When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. 18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "**All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.** And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

NIV Ephesians 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

2 "Honor your father and mother"-- which is the first commandment with a promise--

3 "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." {3 Deut. 5:16}

4 **Fathers**, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

INTRO - This week I tried to set up an opportunity to go out with the family. I have this gift certificate to Tastee Freeze. I figured we'd all go out for Father's Day. I sent a text early this week. Yesterday we tried to find time on Father's day. If we go early Mary and Andy are working. If we go late, Josh and Erin can't make it. If we try Monday, Justine is working.

Thursday, Kathy is working. We gave up. Kathy and I decided we'd use the gift certificates the congregation gave us and go to the movies. Today is Father's Day. Being a dad can be a tough job.

I. Actually you know that trouble is insignificant for the trials A Father can face.

A. A Father is to love, to protect and provide for, and to teach.

1. Loving? Psalm 103 says, 13 As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him;
2. Protecting and Providing? - Do you remember the story of the man who brought his son to Jesus and the disciples? 17 A man in the crowd answered, "Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech.
3. Teaching - 4 Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

B. But, as Fathers love, protect and provide, and as they teach, there are a lot of disappointments, hurts, troubles. Think about the Fathers of the Bible.

1. Adams first son killed his second son.
2. Noah's son was cursed by God for dishonoring his father.
3. Abraham had two sons, but there was family discord, and he had to send one away.
4. Isaac's two sons constantly fought.
5. Jacob's son caused problem after problem, and his daughter was raped.
6. David's children lives were like a soap opera.
7. Even Joseph did not have an easy time as Jesus' dad, traveling to Bethlehem, escaping to Egypt, losing his son in Jerusalem.

C. Fathers today face struggles and disappointments as they seek to love their children

1. They may seek to teach, but be ignored.
2. They may give direction, and have a child choose another way.
3. They may teach Jesus, and have something else become more important to their children.
4. We could go on, YET - A Father's job may be difficult, but, a good father keeps loving their children.

II. Today's gospel lesson is God's call to perhaps the biggest if not the most difficult task he has given us. "Make disciples of all nations."

A. ALL NATIONS! That is quite a job

1. God not only tells us what to do, he also tells us *how* we are to make disciples.
2. **go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.**

B. But, our Lord Jesus does not send His disciples on this great job alone.

When they go HE is with them.

1. Why can God's children GO to make disciples? Because, "**All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go. . .**" God is with His children as they go to do His work.
2. How do we baptize? **in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,**
3. How can God's people teach about the teachings and commands of Jesus? Because Jesus says, **surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."**
4. When God sends His people to this great job of making disciples, He goes with them in His power, His almighty name, and His presence.

C. Do you realize the similarity between this task of making disciples which God gives and being a Father.

1. The disciples are to make disciples by TEACHING, and teaching is a job God gives Fathers.
2. The disciples are to make disciples by BAPTIZING, baptizing is providing for eternity and protecting? **16 Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.**
3. The disciples are to make disciples by GOING. When you look up the word 'going' it points to actions of Sacrificial love. In the New Testament people go to reconcile - to ask and offer forgiveness, a shepherd goes to find lost sheep. People go to others because they love them, even when going hurts.
4. When God sends Fathers to father in His way, He GOES WITH THEM!

III. Do you have any regrets in life? I've heard it said you never regret what you did, but rather what you didn't do. I have regrets. I'm sure all of us do. But on this Fathers' Day I remember my dad giving me godly direction, and I not only rejected his direction, I rebelled, willing to fight. How that must have hurt him as he sought in his way to do what God Gave Him to do. I remember his tears. But, on this Father's Day, instead of regrets, I have thanks.

- A. On this Fathers' Day, I am thankful for my Father, who continued teaching and loving and protecting as God directs, in spite of my lack of loving response.
- B. Today, on Fathers' Day, I am thankful that when Fathers Love and protect and teach, God is with them, Father Son, and Holy Spirit, in all authority, until the end of the age. The God who sends us loves us by sending His Son, and protects us by the victory of Jesus and the gift of the Spirit, and teaches us by His own sacrificial love.
- C. Today I pray that Fathers continue to do the difficult task, knowing it is really God's task, and He loved us first, and forgave us first, and sent His Son.

CONCLUSION - Yesterday my oldest son called me back on our attempt to all get together and said, "When we go to Florida, why don't you drive us in, and then we can all go to the restaurant before we leave?" As I thought about schedules, that works.

As a son, I am thankful for me father. As a Father, I am thankful for my children, and for the help of my loving Lord, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, who goes with me on the difficult tasks of life.