

June 21, 2020 – Father’s Day
Willerup United Methodist Church
Sermon Notes
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What are you feeding to your children?
Luke 11:11-13

11 “Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? 12 Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? 13 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 the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

Our heavenly Father expects the earthly father to give the best food to their children.

Today’s text: What are you feeding your children?

Bread, fish or egg or the replicas such as stone, snake or scorpion?

1. Let us examine how we feed our children?

Let us analyze the twenty-four hours, or a week. When we examine, we will come to know what we are feeding to our children.

If we take a day, how much time does a child spend in school? In sports and at home?

So in conscious state (if we allot eight hours for sleep). The child has sixteen hours in conscious state - half of the time will be in school classroom, four hours at sports ground, rest washing, eating at home and with the family. On a weekend the schedule is different.

a. School – To some of our children the school is the only source of authority and information. The school expects the child to give them total attention and time. On Sunday the school organizes important games and now even on Wednesday evening (which was earlier allotted to church activities) the games or music practices. It is organized to wean the children away from the spiritual activities.

b. Friends – who sit and play with them in their respective acceptance group. They want to be accepted, so they give in to the peer group. The language and the

thoughts they are fed become their lifestyle. The peer group pressure is so much that it is difficult to discard it, willingly or unwillingly. It could be good or can be a bad influence or food.

c. Media – which includes social media, takes away lot of their time and attention and feeds them constantly whatever is “trending” in the society.

d. Society – ideas, values and concepts. ‘Get what you can in any way you can.’ They allot little priority to spiritual values or to the church life.

e. Home – What is the culture at home. How much is the father at home with the kids. Father is usually a role model for the children. What do you talk about at your table? The words spoken at the table are a source which shapes our children. Do we talk about negative aspects of people whom we don’t like or who do not look like us, their economic and educational status? How and what do we talk about our neighbors, people of the church (if we are a church-going family). What do we talk about our own family members? Children are fed by parents at home, and they try to follow it when they grow up.

How do we feed our children?

Let us go to the Old Testament

In our home, the WORD of God should be read and explained. It should be followed as an example. The children will not go by just the instructions, but by what they observe in you and your family.

a. Deuteronomy 4:9-10

Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them slip from your hearts as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them.

Remember the day you stood before the Lord your God at Horeb, when he said to me, ‘Assemble the people before me to hear my words so that they may learn to revere me as long as they live in the land and may teach them to their children.’

b. Job as a father. Job 1:-1-5

In the land of Uz there lived a man whose name was Job. This man was blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil. ² He had seven sons and three daughters, ³ and he owned seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen and five hundred donkeys, and had a large number of servants. He was the greatest man among all the people of the East.

⁴ His sons used to hold feasts in their homes on their birthdays, and they would invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. ⁵ When a period of feasting had run its course, Job would make arrangements for them to be purified. Early in the morning he would sacrifice a burnt offering for each of them, thinking, “Perhaps my children have sinned and cursed God in their hearts.” This was Job’s regular custom.

- Father is a man of repute – blameless and upright
- Close family unit – meeting every day at one of the sibling’s houses.
- Praying father – Job would pray and sanctify them, would rise up early in the morning and offer burnt offerings according to the number of them all. He did it regularly.

c. The Book of Proverbs is written by a father to his son

The key thoughts:

(i). Acknowledge God

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. Proverbs 1:7, 9:10.

1:7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge,
but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

9:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom,
and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

This is a reverential fear, fear of respect, acknowledging the presence of God always. Joseph told Mrs. Potiphar when she tried to seduce him, “...How then I could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?” Genesis 39:19

David says “I have hidden your word in my heart so I might not sin against you.”
Psalm 119:11 Acts 13:22, “...I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart...”

How do you get this understanding?

Proverbs 2:2-6

² turning your ear to wisdom

and applying your heart to understanding—

³ indeed, if you call out for insight

and cry aloud for understanding,

⁴ and if you look for it as for silver

and search for it as for hidden treasure,

⁵ then you will understand the fear of the LORD

and find the knowledge of God.

⁶ For the LORD gives wisdom;

from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.

“For the Lord gives wisdom and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.” If you call and cry out for understanding, and apply your heart, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find knowledge of God.

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.” Proverbs 3:6

(ii). “Listen” – this word has come again and again, and also “give ear.” The scriptures says again and again, Proverbs 1:5, 1:8, 2:2, 4:1, 4:10, 5:1

(iii) Remember- do not forget Proverbs 3:1, 5:1 the words of the father and teaching of your mother.

1:8 Listen, my son, to your father’s instruction
and do not forsake your mother’s teaching.

6:20 My son, keep your father’s command
and do not forsake your mother’s teaching.

In the New Testament

a. The Prodigal Father- 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.’”

(Definition of prodigal: wastefully extravagant)

Father never lost hope. Kept looking for children to change and come back to live as a child of that home. Praying, waiting for him, and when he returns, restore him. Feeding them the love and compassion.

b. Feeding them with Christian values. We must teach our children that:

(i). What we have received is from the Lord. Acknowledge it.

(ii). What we have, we must share with the people who do not have.

(iii). We should not limit ourselves to feeding only material, social, recreational, and educational values, but also spiritual values.

Taking part in the church, developing their gifts and graces, and praying, sharing and caring for other.

c. Introduce them to the Bread of Life.

“Families who talk *about* Christ in the home and who talk *with* him in the home can expect his presence and help. He should be made as familiar and easy to talk with as any other person we know well. Our embarrassment and awkward in talking about Christ is an admission of our lack of acquaintance with him. We demonstrate that we do not feel at home with Christ.

If we know about Christ at home, we will share Christ with others too.

d. The Heavenly Father

He gave us His Son, and the Holy Spirit.

(i). He was concerned about us and sent His son to deliver us from sin.

(ii). While we were yet sinners, He loved us and had compassion on us.

(iii). He does not wish any soul to go to hell.

(iv). He gave us the resource of His Holy Spirit, Word, Name and Presence to continue feed us.