**June 11, 2017 “A Father’s Day Address” Deuteronomy 6:1-3**

When Alexander Solzhenitsyn addressed the graduation class of Harvard in 1978, he contained within his address the following statement, “The West has finally achieved the rights of man, and even to excess, but man’s sense of responsibility to God and society has grown dimmer and dimmer”. I am reminded of this quote whenever I hear “rights” being discussed; gay rights, abortion rights, the right to clean air, to clean water, to quality health care, to an education, to a living wage and on and on it goes. Yet, in all those discussions, I do not recall ever hearing the second part of that statement, which concerns man’s responsibility to God and society ever mentioned or discussed.

Solzhenitsyn clarified that while the West was materially well off, it had become “spiritually exhausted” due to its loss of civic courage exemplified by the lack of responsibility to God and society. One need only to look at the issue of fatherhood to how it had been and now is portrayed in our society to see how true Solzhenitsyn’s prediction has played out.

Consider the caricatures of fathers on television as they have “progressed” through the years. Robert Young, in Father Knows Best, was a loving caring man who was involved in the very fabric of his family. Ward Cleaver, was portrayed as a man who wanted to help his sons grow into the type of men who accepted responsibility and consequences for their own actions. Shows like My Three Sons, the Rifleman, Bonanza, Andy Griffith and Little House on the Prairie all portrayed fatherhood in a quality light.

Consider now these various portrayals… Homer Simpson, the Family Guy, American Dad, Bob’s Burgers and others where fathers are often shown as being intolerant, bumbling, stumbling, bigoted Neanderthals by their families. Is it any wonder why many women are opting for artificial insemination rather than dealing with another child in the form of a man? How many men do we know who wander from one relationship to another, never being able to commit themselves to the responsibility required to keep a job or a relationship intact? How is it that we have come to view a man and women getting married and raising their own children as an abnormality?

Is this the result of our so called “free society” without any responsibility to God or society? If you doubt the impact of the responsibility of fathers on our society, here are some facts which should shock all of us.

1. The United States is the richest nation on earth and yet we have a poverty rate twice that of any other industrialized nation
2. The United States is the world leader in child poverty
   1. #1 cause of child poverty… divorce
3. 4 out of 10 children will go to bed tonight with their biological father absent
4. 1 in 2 children in the United States will live with only one of their biological parents at some time before they reach the age of 18
5. 60% of America’s rapists are from fatherless homes
6. 72% of adolescent murderers are from fatherless homes
7. 70% of long term prison inmates grew up in a home without a father
8. The United States is the world leader in child homicides… children killing children

What will we do? Maybe we will ask Congress to form a study committee to get to root of this problem. Maybe we will pour more money into Aid for Dependent Children. Maybe we will place blame on the President or the Governor especially if he or she is a Republican or a Democrat? Could it be that what we really need are men who will commit to being godly fathers for the good of their families and our society?

1. Deuteronomy 6:1-3
   1. Commandment and promise given by God to Israel
   2. “that you and your son and your grandson might fear the Lord your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I commanded you, all the days of your life… and that your days may be prolonged.” (Deuteronomy 6:2)
      1. Concerns you
         1. You son
            1. Your grandson
   3. Exodus 20:1-6
      1. Two side coin
      2. Visiting iniquity
      3. Showing kindness
2. Visiting iniquity
   1. David
      1. Acts 13:22… man after
         1. Here we have a man chosen by God
      2. Typical life
         1. Struggles
            1. Saul
            2. Michal
         2. Victories
            1. Goliath
            2. Saul has slain his thousands… David his ten thousands
         3. Failures
   2. II Samuel 11:1-3
      1. Notice the progression
         1. David is bored with life
         2. Armies are out
            1. Can’t sleep
            2. Thinks there has to be something more to life
            3. Begins to look around

He begins to search the web to see what he could see

What does he see?

A woman bathing

Not just any woman

A knock out

A 12 on the scale of 1-10

* + 1. Question… does anyone see an issue here?
       1. Why is this woman taking a bath on the roof?
       2. Who carries all this water up to the roof?
          1. Story of taking a bath when water has to be heated and carried
       3. Who is not at home?
          1. Her husband
          2. From whom is she trying to gain notice?

From the guy who has everything any man could want

* 1. David is warned
     1. Is not this “the wife of Uriah the Hittite?”
     2. Every single man or woman you see on the web
        1. Is someone’s son or daughter
        2. How would like your son or daughter to star on the web?
  2. Absalom
     1. II Samuel 16:21-22
        1. What do you think was going through David’s mind?
           1. On the roof
           2. With someone else’s wife
           3. Where everyone could see
           4. So everyone would know

This is what the king does

1. Proverbs 5:15-23
   1. “For the ways of a man are before the eyes of the Lord”
      1. No man sins to himself
         1. He sins against God
         2. He sins against his family
         3. He sins against himself