



Midweek Meditation



"Honor your father and your mother." Exodus 20:12

It's always an eye-opening realization when a child first becomes aware that his father is not the superhero he thought he was. Perhaps Dad is too weak to lift a heavy item by himself, or he becomes stumped by a question on Jeopardy. Whatever may be the cause of it, every child, sooner or later figures out that dads have the same weaknesses and make the same mistakes as everybody else. It's the wise father who is willing to admit to his children that he is not perfect; that he is a sinner too and needs God's forgiveness and theirs as well.

Father's Day should not be about idolizing Dad and putting him up on a pedestal, but about giving honor to God and thanking Him that He takes weak, sinful fathers and through them nurtures children in the fear and love of the Lord. St. Paul puts it this way: "But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the surpassing greatness of the power may be of God and not from ourselves." (2 Cor. 4:7) He is speaking about spiritual fathers in this verse – those God calls to preach the treasure of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. But we can apply it also to earthly fathers because God instructs Christian fathers and mothers to proclaim Christ to their families.

Millions of fathers will be receiving cards and gifts on Sunday, but the father that is truly honored by God is he who holds in his heart the treasure of Christ and gives that treasure to his children.

Our Father, by whose name, all fatherhood is known, Who dost in love proclaim each family Thine own. Bless Thou all parents, guarding well, with constant love as sentinel, the homes in which Thy people dwell. Amen.