

## SERMON NOTES

### Like Father, Like Son

*The Journey of Fatherhood in Representing Jesus*

#### I. INTRODUCTION: THE MIRROR EFFECT

- The Cultural Phrase: We say 'Like father, like son' to describe inherited traits. Kids are natural imitators. They watch where we step.
- The Spiritual Plot Twist: But for Christian dads, the phrase goes backward before it goes forward. To be a father who leads well, we must first be sons who follow well. If our kids are going to look like Jesus, we have to look like Jesus first.
- **Big Idea: Our children will have an easier time following Jesus if they see Jesus when they look at us.**

#### John 5:19

*“Jesus gave them this answer: ‘Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.’ ”*

#### II. POINT 1: THE BLUEPRINT (LOOKING TO THE SON)

- The Problem: Many men try to father based on what their own fathers did (or didn't) do. We either copy our dads or try to do the exact opposite.
- The Truth: Jesus is the only perfect representation of God's father heart.
- The Action: To represent Jesus on the journey of fatherhood, we have to study how He loved, sacrificed, corrected, and showed grace.
- Jesus didn't just rule; He served with humility.
- Jesus didn't just demand obedience; He offered relationship.

#### Hebrews 1:3

*“The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.”*

#### Ephesians 5:1-2

*“Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”*

### III. POINT 2: THE JOURNEY OF REPRESENTATION (WALKING THE LINE)

- The Reality Check: Fatherhood is a journey, not a destination. You don't get it all right on day one. It requires daily, intentional steps.

- **Three Ways We Represent Jesus to Our Kids:**

1. In Grace: How do we react when our kids mess up? Do they experience Christ's forgiveness or our condemnation?

2. In Presence: Jesus is Immanuel—God with us. Being a Christ-like dad means being physically, emotionally, and spiritually present.

3. In Humility: A Christ-like father isn't a man who never messes up; he is a man who is quick to apologize and ask his kids for forgiveness when he does.

#### **1 Corinthians 11:1**

*“Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.”*

#### **Colossians 3:21**

*“Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.”*

### IV. POINT 3: THE RIPPLE EFFECT (PASSING IT DOWN)

- The Vision: When we mimic the Son, our kids learn what God the Father is truly like.

- The Challenge: Your children's first concept of God is often formed by their concept of you. If you are harsh, they think God is harsh. If you are loving and faithful, they find it easy to believe God is loving and faithful.

- **The Goal: That one day, our kids will look back at our lives and say, 'I know what Jesus looks like because I saw Him in my dad.'**

#### **Psalm 78:5-6**

*“He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which he commanded our ancestors to teach their children, so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children.”*