

6-21-26 Message

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SPEAKERS

Pastor Dow Boyer

Thank you, Phil. He is all that we need, and thankful for that, especially as a father, knowing that it's hard sometimes, and so knowing that he is all that we need. Hopefully, we'll encourage the fathers today. So, happy Father's Day, and that goes for fathers, both biological and those who've stepped in and been father figures, and hopefully it's good training for the future fathers of America over here as well. And that what we're going to talk about today, hopefully, is an encouragement to all the fathers, so I wanted to do a traditional Father's Day message today, and I think that was important to me. I remember how weird it was for me when someone first told me, "Happy Father's Day. There's always those points in time where you're just like, "I don't feel old, I don't feel old, and then people say, "Happy Father's Day, and recently it's, "Well, congratulations, Grandpa. And so it's those things kind of that make you start feeling older, and you're progressing through life. I remember right after we got married, when it was like verbatim, it was like, well, how's it feel to be married, right? I got asked that all the time, and I got wondered, wondering. I was like, do we really expect an honest answer when people ask that question? I mean, does anybody ever like say terrible? Please save me. I mean, no. I mean, everybody, it's the same answer. It's like things are going good, and, and so I don't know. I just, when you say happy Father's Day, are we really are we saying it? We are we are we wanting there to be happy fathers, or is this is a day we're like, all right, we recognize the men, the fathers, the father figures, right? One time a year, and it's it's trying to kind of wrap our brains around fatherhood being a 24/7 I guess operation, I guess, is the best way to put it. I know, for me, that you know, times, you know, I've been.. I still keep a lot of the cards from the kids. In fact, just the other day, I mean, I was, I was kind of tearing up and crying in the kitchen, and Livy came up and kind of wrapped her arms around me, and she caught me crying, which doesn't happen very often, and and she whispered in my ear, and she's like, "Is it because you're fat? Now I'm crying for two reasons, but I have to get a gym membership too. That is not true. Libby did not say that, but I think when having Chase, I think kind of got my brain thinking again, is like, man, what? I lost all those years when my kids were young, and, and you always think about regret and things you wish would have done better, and I viewed Chase kind of as a, as a way to maybe put into practice some of the things I've learned. Now, most time parents get to do that with their grandchildren, but when I have a child, when I should have been having a grandchild, then I still have a child that I get to put these things into practice, and I think with Chase, it was like early on, when he could understand, it was like I'm just start giving him some basic commands. I was like, man, I probably learned a lot from Cole, and as far as I wish I would have done things a lot different, but I have a lot of years now. So, for Chase, it was like, all right, we always obey, you know, and get him to repeat that, and you know, we always tell the truth.

I'd start adding a little bit to it, my version of the 10 commandments of adding little commands, and then I'd always ask him, like, okay, so what happens if we don't, and so I was introducing him to this idea of consequences and things like that, and so I'm like, hey, I'm already off to a better start, and then wasn't too long ago when I was playing Monopoly Go on my phone and Chase says Dad is always on his phone playing this game and I'm like my four year old is teaching me so I deleted the app got rid of the game and I'm like I don't want him to think I'm disengaged I can't make time for him and I'm always playing a game on my phone, right? For me, it was like, hey, here's a break from the news cycles and everything else like that, and just kind of some brain rot, just to do something. But it's funny that you know Chase notices things like that, and so my heart sank. I deleted the game, and I didn't want to be 10 years down the road and regret not setting an example through those times. So I was thinking about dealing with this idea of regret today, for fathers, and I think that a lot of us have things that we regret, and I do think that probably one of the best examples in scripture from a father regretting things is probably David, specifically with how he handled Absalom. So that's what we're going to look at today. We're going to look a lot at Second Samuel. Handled the situation. When King David heard of all these things, he was very wroth. That's it. You see nothing else in scripture of how he handled the situation, except for he was very wroth. That was it. So, what had happened was two years had passed, and Absalom dealt with these feelings, these emotions. He began to plot. It said he had nothing to do with Amnon. He waited and waited patiently for two years to get his revenge. Finally, there's an opportunity for all the sons to go to the sheep shears, and Absalom goes into David and says, Please let all of them go, even Amnon. And David should have, at that moment, thought, man, this doesn't sound good. Instead, he just says to Absalom, "Why did.. why do you need Amnon to go? Wasn't much conversation. Finally, David says, "Okay, he can go. They got him drunk, and they killed him. This is all happening in David's household. Then Absalom flees for three years, David goes through this mourning period, but then eventually he starts longing for Absalom again. We see us in Second Samuel 1339 says the soul of King David longed to go forth unto Absalom, for he was comforted concerning Amnon, seeing he was dead, and Joab sees this, and Joab starts coming up with this idea, how to get Absalom to come back. I would say that there become a time where Joab probably regrets this decision. So, Joab works all this out. He uses, he uses a woman who, who dresses, who dresses up like one who's in mourning. She, he tries to kind of trick David a little bit. David realizes what's going on. Eventually, Absalom comes back. In Second Samuel 1423 through 24 it came to pass after two full years, Absalom had sheep shears in Bel Hazor, which is beside Ephraim. And Absalom invited all the king's sons, and Absalom came to the king and said, "Behold, now thy servant hath sheep shears. Let the king, I beseech thee, and his servants go with thy servant. Here's the thing, he comes back, and what scripture teaches us in the next few verses is that for two years David didn't talk to him. They still have never addressed the trauma. There was never any discussion. The king would not see Absalom's face. Second Samuel 1620 through 23 I'm sorry, I skipped some things. Let's just back up a second here.

All right, Second Samuel 14:23 through 24 we just read, so two years happens, and this is a situation where Absalom is like, I want to talk to my dad, so he burns Joab's fields on, I mean, they're on fire, and Joab is like, what is this, and then the whole point of him doing that is to get the attention, so he can talk to David, so then he finally gets to talk to David, and after he talks to David a little bit, there's some things that start happening. In verse six of chapter 15, it says, "On this manner did Absalom to all Israel that came to the king for judgment. So Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel. We got to the point where David still was on the sidelines. Absalom starts acting in judgment, giving counsel to the people. It says that he literally stole the hearts of all Israel from David, and as he does this, there gets to a point where he then leaves to go to Hebron. So, in verse 12, after he's in Hebron, he starts getting some counsel. 15:12, says Absalom sent for Ethiel, the Gilonite, David's counselor, so David's people with Israel, now David's counselor. So, where a couple of the Psalms, David is lamenting about Ahithophel going against him, it says, from the city, even from Gil, while he offered sacrifices, and the conspiracy was strong, for the people increased continually with Absalom. It got to the point where, as he's coming back from Hebron, David has to flee. He has now gained the hearts of the people. It says the conspiracy is strong. He's now getting counsel from Ahithophel. It's going to be even worse counsel here in a moment. When you look at Second Samuel, verses 16:20 through 23 going on to the next chapter, listen to this counsel from Ahithophel. It says, Then said Absalom to Ahithophel, give counsel among you what we shall do. Two, and he hit the fell. Ahithophel, I cannot say this. Ahithophel said unto Absalom, 'Go in unto thy father's concubines, which she had left to keep the house, and all Israel shall hear that thou art abhorred of thy father. Then shall the hands of all that are with thee be strong. So they spread Absalom a tent upon the top of the house, and Absalom and his concubines went in unto his father's concubines in the sight of all Israel, and the council of Ahithophel, which he counseled in those days, was this: if a man had inquired of the oracle of God, so was all the counsel of Ahithophel, both with David and with Absalom. Now, before we move on, here there should be some things, as fathers, we should be thinking about here. Both these sons, Amnon and Absalom, sought counsel outside of their parent. Look at the look at the results. It was horrendous. One ends up raping his sister, and the other says, I think this is a good idea. Let me sleep with all my father's concubines out in the open and show who the real King of Israel is. Where was David during all this, at this point he was forced to have to flee, but I'm sure that he could have stepped back into the very beginning and just had some conversations with Absalom, maybe even some justice with Amnon, right? And would Absalom become the monster that he became, and I think there's something here for us today. It says, as fathers, not only people, but what are we allowing to influence our sons and our daughters? Is it, is it the iPads, right? Is it? Is it the television shows? Where are they getting their answers from? Where are they getting their counsel from? You don't get to go back. David didn't get a reset button. He had to deal with the fact that he was not present, he was not engaged, he was not actively involved in his children's lives, and now the wheels were falling off. Second Samuel 18:5. It says the king commanded Joab and Abishai and Ittai, saying, 'Deal gently for my sake with the young man, even with Absalom.'

And all the people heard when the king gave all the captains charge concerning Absalom, so this gets to a point where there's going to be a war, and David wanted to be involved in the war, but that, but Joab said, "You can't, you have to stay back, David, we can't let anything happen to you, and that's when David says, "Well, deal gently with Absalom, but I think what was going on in Joab's mind was this wouldn't be the first time with Joab, but this could be a time for revenge for him. Remember, Absalom burned his fields, and Absalom ended up finding him hanging in a tree by his hair. Joab wasn't thinking about the king's message at that point. I think Joab was thinking about revenge, and then all that, all that Absalom had done. So it was just a few verses after this, where, where David is saying, "Oh, my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom, would God I had died for thee. Oh Absalom, my son, my son. Reminds me of the movie Gladiator, and there is a really terrible moment, kind of earlier in the film, where Emperor Marcus Aurelius, he admits to his son Commodus. At this point, Commodus was like, "I'm going to be handed the reins, I'm going to be Caesar, but then the father is telling him it's going to be Maximus. It was at this point that that Commodus says that I've done all these things for you, and then Marcus Aurelius has to look him in the eyes and says these words, your faults as a son are my failure as a father, you He was saying that yes, Communist was responsible for his own actions, but the constant being out on campaigns, the not dealing with the young man, with the problems and the issues he was having, not being engaged, he now sees this son of his, now a man, not being fit to be Caesar. At this point, he says, "Your faults as a son are my failure as a father. It's a moment of devastating self-awareness, where the emperor realizes his emotional distance and unachievable standards created the monster. His son became, and I think it's worth thinking about today. Do we do the same things as parents? Do we set these unachievable standards? You know, it's hard sometimes as parents, right? We're, we are, we are trying to create perfect little beings out of sinners when we are imperfect, you know, and sometimes a son feels like, like, like, if I don't do everything exactly right, Dad will not be proud of me. I'm glad that our relationship with our Heavenly Father isn't that way. Do we teach them grace or just obedience to a set of rules? Because there is a pretty big dividing line in scripture that transfers all of that into a new era, if you will, where today we are under this dispensation of grace and not under the dispensation of the law. I wonder, as parents, do we do the same thing to our sons and daughters? Do we distance ourselves because we have all of our hobbies, we're connected with everything except for them, and what's going on, you know. It's kind of awesome. During Covid, there was times that families were actually connecting, and they're like, "We haven't done this for years, you know. Our family was like going on Facebook Live, every felt like almost every night, we were like singing and doing things, and we loved that time, even if it's only like two or three weeks, but we'd realize that we're pretty distant, and I know the demands of this position. You know, it's one of the things that Rachel and I talked about at the beginning. Do I do I want to do this because I know what it do to the family? It's something we have to watch, right? And it's something I need to do better at, but, but I don't want to be sitting crying one day, like David was about Absalom, because I was emotionally distanced from my children for years when they needed me, and because they needed something, they went and got it elsewhere, away from God, away from the right doctrine, and then we're trying to go back and fix it, and by the grace of God, sometimes it does, but it's really hard to get that time back.

David would have died for Absalom, he loved him, but where was he when Absalom needed him? He was crying out for attention, and David wouldn't even look at him for two years. It took burning fields to even get a meeting with his father. David wouldn't address anything with Absalom, and now it was too late. In Philippians, chapter three, we'll transition a little bit here. I think this is good for parents, because I think a lot of us in here are probably playing things in our mind, and we have some regret in the room. We really do. We're carrying around a lot of that baggage. I do this right. I'm sure that my father did before me, right? But there are some of you in the room who it's not too late, and even if you have blown it, there are opportunities for you to still be a father figure and do the right thing and pour into kids in the right way, specifically grandkids as they come. But Paul, in Philippians chapter 3:13 through 14, I find this interesting because the chapter starts out with Paul talking about all these things he did that were from the Jewish standpoint would have been considered religious positive type things. He starts talking about how he's circumcised on the eighth day at the tribe of Benjamin, right? He says he's kept the law blameless. He's going through all these things, but then he says all this is dung. I consider it all but dung that I may know Christ. He gets to verse 13 and 14. He says, 'Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended. He says, 'But this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forth unto those things which are before. I says, 'I press towards the mark of the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. See, it is, it is my fear that it's not just that there are regrets, but there's a lot of men who are failing to lead because they sit in the regret, they're still sitting in the past, they still keep replaying things over and over again in their head, meanwhile, time keeps moving, and they're not leading because they can't get past their past. See, you can sit and regret, or you can do something about it. You can learn from something, and you can redeem the time that you have left, or you can sit in yourself wondering what if, and I love what scripture even teaches in this dispensation of grace about our relationship with God, and how God has treated our sins, since we seem to not be able to forgive ourselves. We keep living in the past. Here's what the Bible says about our sins. And condition today, if we have placed our faith in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and the shed blood of Jesus to wash away our sins. The Bible says that we are saved, and we are sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise. And as a result, here's what it says about our sin, Colossians 1:14 and whom we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins, Colossians 2:13 you being dead in your sins, in this uncircumcision of your flesh, hath He quickened together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses. What a time to be alive. Ephesians one seven, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace, Ephesians 4:32 Be kind one to another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God, for Christ's sake, hath forgiven you. A Romans 3:25 whom God has set forth to be a propitiation through faith in His blood to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are passed through the forbearance of God. We've all blown it as fathers and father figures. God has forgiven us our sins. It's time to get back up, learn from them, and get back in the race. There's still work to be done. There's still relationships that can be mended that will impact the grandchildren, will impact the relationships around them.

I love when Paul says reaching forth to those things that are before the action point in the verse is about reaching forth unto what's coming before, but it's about forgetting in the mind those things which are behind, but the action, the thing to exert energy on, is going forward, not going behind, when you can't change it, you can't fix it, you can't alter it. It is what it is. And Paul knew something about having a past. He was found in Romans nine on his way to being able to have children and families condemned for following Christ, people being put to death by Paul, and he carried that around with him, and that's why he would be able to say, "I'm the chief sinner, I'm the least of all the apostles, I'm the least of all the saints, but he knew who he was in Christ, and it didn't stop him from moving forward and doing what's right, moving forward, and I think this is the encouraging thing, he ends this by saying, I press towards the mark of the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. The thing that is in front of you has to be bigger than what was behind you, and I can think of no bigger purpose than doing God's will and moving forward for His glory in the days that we have to come, instead of sitting and stewing in the regret of what we didn't do or what we didn't do right. We're even told in First Corinthians 9:24 Know ye not that they which run in a race run all but one receiveth the prize. So run that you may obtain. If you're sitting, then you're not running, you're not reaching, you're not moving, you're just sitting, and you're stewing on all the regret. It has immobilized you. It's what you think about day in and day out. And my encouragement to you is, you've got to move on, you've got to reach forward, you've got to know who you are in Christ. And then it's time to start living in accordance to that. The word of God is right in front of us. It teaches us how to be able to live in this dispensation of grace. The object in front of us has to be bigger than the obstacle that was behind us. There's still work to be done now. What's crazy is, as David sits in reflection of the reality of Absalom, Israel is waiting to be led. In fact, Joab has to come to David and listen to what he says in 19 five through seven. As we get ready to wrap this up, it says, Joab came into the house of the king and said, Thou hast shamed this day the faces of all thy servants, which this day have saved thy life, and the lives of thy sons, and of thy daughters, and the lives of thy wives, and the lives of thy concubines, and that thou lovest thine enemies, and hatest thy friends, for thou hast declared this day that thou regardest neither princes nor servants, for this day I perceive that if Absalom had lived and all we had died this day, then it would have pleased thee well. He says, "Now, therefore, arise, David, get up, David, quit sitting and stewing on the past, arise. David, and go forth, speak comfortably unto thy servants, for I swear by the Lord, if thou go not forth, there will there will not tarry one with thee this night, and that, and that will be worse unto thee than all the evil that befell thee from thy youth until now will you men arise and go forth and reach forward to what is in front of you, but we just keep sitting in regret about all the things you wish you could have done better as a father, as the time just keeps on clicking, as the days keep on passing, the calendar keeps turning, and you sit and regret beating yourself up over the things you wish you would have done different. Your family is waiting for you to get up, and if you need to humble yourself to your wife and your kids, and apologize for what you've done, then do that. That's the start.

If you need to put away the childish things and commit to your family, then do that, but don't just sit, set the standard. Let your kids see you reading the Bible, that's where it all starts. Explain the Bible to your family. Make sure that they are in church. It doesn't matter if they've never been before. Start now. Show them how to get back up. Show them what it means to keep going for the Lord. Even when you have failed, you have a chance to be a real-life example of what that looks like right now. Don't allow others to guide and lead your family, because I promise you, if you won't do it, other people will, other influencers will, and you're going to have to live with that. You're going to have to live with that regret and shame. If you don't know how to do it, then get a mentor. There's plenty in this church that would love to tell you what they've learned and help you not to repeat the same things that they did, and they figured some things out along the way. Do something for the Lord. Keep reaching forth, quit living in regret. Redeem the time that is in front of you, and that is my message for the men today. Do not live in regret, own what you've done, humble yourselves, and start doing the right thing. Then it may take time, but be consistent doing the right things, and people will see it. I know this from personal experience. You can change, you can still have an impact, and you can move past your past, but the church needs men to step up, and I think most of them are probably on the sidelines, sitting in regret. And then it gets easier to go hunting every Sunday and go boating every Sunday, right? And do all these other things, rather than go to church, remind themselves of how they're not leading, distract themselves with everything the world has, so they don't have to face the fact that it's their responsibility to lead, so fathers, future farmers, future fathers of America, former fathers of America, men, will you step up? Will you lead your families? Will you quit living in your past? Quit making excuses. Get up, get in the fight. Your family is waiting on you. I'm going to have you all to stand at this time. If you'd like to come and get involved, or get more answers about what it means to get involved at Grace Point. We'd love to invite you at this time. If you want to slip out, even before we sing, we'll have workers up front. If you've been praying about joining us, we'd love to, we'd love to be able to help you in that, in that regard as well. We'd love to have you come and be a part of what we're doing here for you men today. If you don't like this, I apologize, but the gift we're giving you as you leave today is a back scratcher. You know why? Because this is about forgetting those things which are behind. It's about reaching forward, and you know what the other part of it is a shoe horn, so you can get busy getting back up and walking and moving. So let it be a reminder of what we talked about today. Let the past be the past, and get up and get moving. You all ready for that? Men, you ready to accept that challenge? Yes. All right, let's pray. Dear Heavenly Father, we thank you for this day. We thank you for the men of Grace Point, and for those visiting today. I pray that we would all be challenged today by your word, Lord. We would learn from the example in scripture from David, and we would not want to repeat those things, Lord. If we faltered, Lord, I pray that we would get back up if we have to look our family in the eyes and apologize and try to commit to doing things differently moving forward, Lord, that we would do that. Let our family see us be humble. People let them see what true humility looks like, but also let our families have a front row seat of what it means to get back up and get in the race.

May we be the voices our children are hearing, our grandchildren are hearing. We're not leaving it up to everyone else to influence them, and may we raise a generation of people who have learned a lot from the examples that we've led. Lord, I pray that the men, Lord, would understand the task today, put the past behind them, and reach forward to those things that are before. We love you and praise you in Jesus' name. Amen.