SuperDads

Sunday, June 10, 2018

10:30 AM

Have you every wished you could have super powers?

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If you could have a super power, what would it be?

If you could choose to be a superhero, which one would you choose to be?

Today I want to talk about a special kind of super hero and while my comments are directly targeted to the men of our church today, the principles I want to share relate to all of us

VIDEO: SuperDads

That’s right, I want to be a Super Dad…

Now before I begin, I want to address some sensitive issues that seem to come to the surface whenever I talk about Dads

Some of you had great Dads and for you this message will bring good memories to the surface as you say that was my Dad

Others may experience feelings of sorrow, regret or even anger because you didn’t have a great Dad. To you I say, please stick with me to the end. Don’t ignore those feelings but don’t allow them to block out the spiritual truths that I want to share with you today

Remember that this is not just a message about what we may have had, but what we can become

**Luke 15:11-32 New International Version (NIV)**

The Parable of the Lost Son

**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.’”

1. **SuperDads know the source of their power**

This particular passage doesn't give us a lot of detail about the father, but I think that it gives us enough to know that He was a Godly man. The point of the parable is, of course to show us the heart of God. And from what we see of this man's reactions, I would have to believe that he, as was spoke of King David, was a man after God's own heart.

SuperDads know the source of their power is a real relationship with God the Father, God The Son and God The Holy Spirit. Until we have this, we have no power to be SuperDads.

The DC Comic Superhero, Superman illustrates this point beautifully.

Born on planet Krypton, he had no superpowers. But when he was introduced to a new planet with a yellow sun, suddenly he was given incredible powers.

So it is with us. In the state we are born we have no superpowers; but when we are born again and given new life, the Son of God fills us with incredible power.

None of this can happen, though until we admit our need of a savior, repent of our sins and ask him to come into our lives and make us new. Moreover, that power is maintained as we stay close to our power source through prayer, study of His Word and an ongoing relationship with The Holy Spirit.

Some of you may have seen the movie I Can Only Imagine which is about MercyMe's Bart Millard. Bart definitely didn’t have a SuperDad. He was an alcoholic, mean and abusive. But Bart saw Jesus change his dad's life and out of that experience wrote the triple platinum song "I Can Only Imagine"

I didn't have a superdad growing up because my parents got divorced when I was very little, but I am so thankful that later on in life I had a dad who loved the Lord and whose life was changed because of the power of Christ's love. He passed away, in November of 2016 and I miss him very much.

My point is any of us came become Superdads, not because of who we are but because of who Christs will empower us to become.

**Philippians 2:13 New Century Version (NCV)**

**13**because God is working in you to help you want to do and be able to do what pleases him.

**Philippians 2:13 New Living Translation (NLT)**

**13**For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.

1. **SuperDads avoid the dangers of kryptonite**

Like superman's kryptonite (pieces of his home planet), sin has to power to damage and destroy our lives.

**James 1:14-15 New International Version (NIV)**

**14**but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. **15**Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

The story of the prodigal son reminds us of the power of sin to destroy. Unfortunately, he to learn this the hard way. One of the things the son learned was the foolishness of his choices and they consequences those choices bought to his life. He came to his senses and began the journey back home. A journey in which he realized that his father had been right all along. A journey in which he said, I don't want my sin any more, I want to live like my father

I believe there is a great picture here of our salvation (our home with God where we have everything we need, our inheritance) and our willingness to destroy all of that because we desire our sin (pieces of our old life if you will).

There is forgiveness… There is restoration… but how much better it would be if we learned to avoid the dangers of the kryptonite of sin all together.

1. **SuperDads are just Clark Kent’s in disguise**

Notice that in this parable, the father is not named. Superdads are just ordinary guys. They may never have a name that is known around the world or for generations to come. There is nothing special about them per say. But they do incredible things day in and day out.

They provide,

They guide,

They love,

They play,

They fix,

They, teach

They protect,

They work hard

They sacrifice,

They tell dad jokes

What I am saying is that anyone can be a Superdad

1. **SuperDads are super approachable**

One of the important keys to being a Superdad is being approachable. Something about this father in Jesus Parable must have left the impression with his son that He was approachable.

First of all, I can't believe that this son would have even asked such a question (give me my inheritance) if he didn't feel like he could go to his father and ask for anything. Yes, he asked for the wrong thing for purposes of misusing it, but what gave him the impression he could even ask.

Secondly, and more powerfully, was the sons conclusion that after all he had done, he could still go home.

If his father had only been tough, or mean or controlling or uninterested or unapproachable, then this would have happened.

Again we don't know the particulars… But we do know the particulars of our heavenly father especially as demonstrated though Jesus Christ.

**Psalm 103:13 New International Version (NIV)**

**13**As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him;

Jesus' compassion was evident in all he did and demonstrated the approachability of God. God is not a being who is far removed from us but one who wants to be involved with his creation.

**Hebrews 12:18-24 New International Version (NIV)**

The Mountain of Fear and the Mountain of Joy

**18**You have not come to a mountain that can be touched and that is burning with fire; to darkness, gloom and storm; **19**to a trumpet blast or to such a voice speaking words that those who heard it begged that no further word be spoken to them, **20**because they could not bear what was commanded: “If even an animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned to death.” **21**The sight was so terrifying that Moses said, “I am trembling with fear.”

**22**But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, **23**to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the Judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, **24**to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

Jesus was so approachable that he was labeled a glutton and a drunkard because he was a friend of tax collectors and sinners.

Dads, we need to be approachable, loving, welcoming…

We need to learn to laugh and have fun…

We need to hold our kids in our arms and tell them we love them…

We need to be able to get down on their level and see things from their perspective.

I don't know about you when you were a kid, but one of my frustrations, was that adults just didn't get it. They didn't see things from a kids perspective. I vowed to never lose that insight; but I am afraid that many times I have.

**Hebrews 4:14-15 New International Version (NIV)**

Jesus the Great High Priest

**14**Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. **15**For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.

1. **SuperDads fight for truth and justice with compassion, grace, mercy and forgiveness.**

Sometimes we are tempted to respond with judgment and condemnation. Can you imagine how this story would have been different if this father had reacted that way with his son.

I believe he had been praying for him to come home. Praying for him to be kept safe in spite of his choices. Longing for him, looking for him.

And yes, it is important to take a stand for truth and yes it is important to use discipline in a Godly way. But sometimes we forget that the greatest tools in our arsenal are compassion, grace, mercy and forgiveness.

1. **SuperDads are not Invincible**

I am sure that there are those who would analyze this particular father and suggest that he was to blame for his sons actions. He was too soft, he didn't discipline his son correctly, he played favorites (an attitude displayed by the older brother), he should have carried out harsh punishment rather than throw a party.

The fact of the matter is, none of us are perfect, nor will we ever get to the point that we are beyond making mistakes. The best of dads will still do things wrong. But that doesn't mean we can't strive to be superdads. Almost every superhero I am familiar with has done some things wrong.

There are many dads that we could look to in the scripture for examples of how to be superdads; but what we won't find is one who was perfect.

That's why it's important that we stay humble before God and seek to grow closer to him everyday. That's why when we do fail, we need to be quick to admit out failures and ask for forgiveness from God and those whom we have hurt

I want the be a Super Dad…. In fact we all should of strive to be Super and can be by inviting Jesus to fill our lives with his powerful presence. All we have to do is ask

So for my altar call I want to address several things….

If you are hear today and you say, I want to be a Super Dad, or even a Super Mom or Super Person; I invite you to come to an altar of prayer and ask again to be transformed by the power of a relationship with Jesus Christ.

If you’re here and you had A SuperDad, I want you to come and give thanks to God for him and then consider how you can reach out to him and say thank you, even if he is no longer here

Maybe you didn’t have a SuperDad biologically speaking. but God blessed you with one or more Spiritual Fathers who blessed your life, then I want you to do the same

But If you are here and you say, “I didn’t have any of that.” Then first of all I want to share this thought with you… You had the best Dad of all because there is a promise in God’s Word that says…

**Psalm 68:4-5 New International Version (NIV)**

**4**Sing to God, sing in praise of his name, extol him who rides on the clouds; rejoice before him—his name is the Lord. **5**A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows,

is God in his holy dwelling.

To you I invite you to come and thank your Heavenly Father for always being there for you and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you the specific ways God has fulfilled this role in your life.

Let’s come