

Introduction:

This is "Father's Day" and normally I try to give a lesson dealing with fathers and what fathers do. We know as children and learn later on that our children learn from us in different ways. As children we learn by instruction which involves discipline. But even more powerful, we learn by example and daily living. So this lesson is a personal lesson in which I am going to tell you some lessons I learned from my pop.

I) Don't Look At The Outside But The Inside

A) **Outward appearances can be misleading.**

1. My papa was about 5 feet 5 inches, not an imposing figure in height.
2. I remember him as a balding old man but saw pictures of him as a young man with a full head of hair and slim.
3. However, my dad had this way of getting attention when he wanted it and people listening. Why? How?
4. It was based on his inward persona.

B) **God does not look at the outward but the inward.**

1 Samuel 16:7 *But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have refused him. For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."*

Acts 13:22 *"And when He had removed him, He raised up for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said, 'I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will.'*

1. God is not impressed by the outward, the height, beauty, physical strength, even the outward ability.
2. There is something we cannot see directly but we know is there, the heart of a person.

3. Zacchaeus is an example of this.

Luke 19:2 *Now behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. 3 And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature. 4 So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that way. 5 And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house."*

4. Character and heart is more important than outward appearances.

II) It Does Not Matter Where You Came From But The Direction You Are Headed

A) My papa came from rough and tough circumstances.

1. He came from a poor family, grew up during the Great Depression
2. He came from an uneducated childhood, did not get out of the second grade.
3. He came from an abusive family.
4. Who among us will say "White privilege" applied to him?
5. I will say he broke the cycle – provided well for his family, made sure his children received an education, while he practiced discipline, he was never abusive.

B) Many Christians came from sinful circumstances but headed in the right direction.

1. Going back to Zacchaeus.

Luke 19:6 *So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. 7 But when they saw it, they all complained, saying, "He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner." 8 Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold." 9 And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has*

come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham;

2. Jesus came for the sinners of this world. He had harlots, tax collectors, and just plain sinners following Him.

Mark 2:17 *When Jesus heard it, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."*

3. If I am not a Christian it does not matter what I am now but who I am willing to follow.

Matthew 11:28 *"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 "For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."*

III) The Value of Hard Work

A) Anybody who knew my dad, knew he was a hard worker.

1. He believed in working until the job was done. On the farm from sunup to past sundown.
2. He believed in doing your best. He did not say "I guess that is good enough."
3. He worked at his relationships, often going the extra mile.

B) The Bible tells us to be workers.

1. Providing for our families.

1 Timothy 5:8 *But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.*

2 Thessalonians 3:10 NKJV 10 *For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.*

2. Work in order to help others.

1 Timothy 6:18 *Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share,*

3. To be workers in the kingdom of God.

John 6:29 *Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent."*

Colossians 1:9 *For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; 10 that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;*

4. The church is a place for workers not just observers.

IV) Your Soul is Worth Being Inconvenienced

A) He obeyed the Gospel at an inconvenient time.

1. He was in his mid-40's.
2. Had to change some work habits.
3. Had to learn more about the Bible.
4. He placed upon himself the need to be a song leader.
5. He had to go to Gospel Meetings.

B) There will be inconveniences in following Christ.

Acts 24:24 *And after some days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish, he sent for Paul and heard him concerning the faith in Christ. 25 Now as he reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and answered, "Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you." 26 Meanwhile he also hoped that money would be given him by Paul, that he might release him. Therefore he sent for him more often and conversed with him. 27 But after two years Porcius Festus succeeded Felix; and Felix, wanting to do the Jews a favor, left Paul*

bound.

1. Convenient means wait till later, till it is easier, till I have spare time.
2. I wonder how many will be lost because they just never got “around to it.”
3. How many good works were never done because we waited for a more convenient time.
4. How many visits were never done.

James 1:27 Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

5. Your soul is worth being inconvenienced about.

V) How To Go On Without Him

A) There is the natural progression of life where the dad leaves behind his family.

1. Sometimes this is not true as children may die first, but as a general rule the parents do not outlive their children.
2. My papa went through a downward cycle. Whether intentional or unintentional us children learned to be at the farm without him.
3. On the day of his funeral I told Mike and Sharon there was one more lesson he was teaching us. To say good bye and go onward.
4. Parents give their children wings so as to go onward.

B) We need to go forward in our lives

Philippians 3:13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead,

1. Teach your children to not look at the outward but the inward.

2. To make sure they are going in the right direction.
3. The value of work.
4. To be willing to be inconvenienced when it comes to serving God.
5. To go onward without you.