

Baggage (part 4)

Redeeming Father

- **Opening**
 - *“A lot of my baggage that I have carried around in my life has come from negative experiences with my father figures.”*
 - **FACEBOOK POST**
 - “If you had to describe your father in one word what would you say?”
 - Results: Great words
 - Provider
 - Kind
 - Godly
 - Gifted
 - One person said G.O.A.T.
 - Results: Not so great words
 - Distant
 - Alcoholic
 - Nonexistent
 - Addict
 - Junky
 - Selfish
 - I wonder what your answer would be?
 - Some have great dads
 - Some have bad experiences with your dads
 - **WHATEVER THE CASE**
 - We all have a story...we all have a father
 - **I believe that there is a longing in the deepest parts of us to have a Father who loves us fully, is always there for us, and whose arms we feel safe in.**
 - Jesus came to reveal the Father to us.
 - *It is nearly impossible for a son or a daughter to not superimpose their own earthly father over their heavenly Father.*
 - God wants to **redeem** (which means rescue) and **redefine** the word **Father** for us so that we can have a relationship with Him the way He intends.
 - I believe that many of us in the room know God, but we have a misunderstanding of who He truly is as Father.

- ***Today God is gonna give us a correct understanding of who He truly is as Father... and by His grace some of the things we have had in our bags...will start to fall away.***
- **Point 1: A Loving Father**
 - *“18 Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that we have not fully experienced his perfect love. 19 We love each other because **he loved us first.**” 1 John 4:18-19*
 - Parents can understand this a little better because of their love towards their kids when they are born.
 - **THEY DID NOTHING TO EARN OUR LOVE!**
 - In fact they do the opposite...
 - God is not in love with a future version of you.
 - Doesn't love the more put together version of you better.
 - On the best of best days...He loves you...worst of worst days...darkest, most sinful, bad attitude, rebellious days... God still loves you.
 - Failure to lean in to this truth results in a **performance based** relationship with God.
 - Maybe you felt this way with your dad. Had to do well for him to really love you.
 - **THIS IS THE BAGGAGE GOD WANTS TO REMOVE AND FREE YOU FROM THIS MENTALITY!**
 - He is proud to be your Father simply because He loves you... not because of your achievements.
 - ***I believe there is a longing in our heart to have a Father who knows every part of who we are, the deepest parts of our heart, the good and the bad, and yet still love us fully.***
 - ***Church! We have one....we have that Father. God the Father is a loving Father.***
- **Point 2: A Present Father**
 - He is present with you every step of the way through life.
 - *“Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” Isaiah 41:10*

- He is even present with you in your darkest places.
 - *“11 I could ask the darkness to hide me and the light around me to become night— 12 but **even in darkness I cannot hide from you.** To you the night shines as bright as day. Darkness and light are the same to you.” Psalm 139:11-12*
- Failure to lean in to this truth results in a **fear based** outlook on life.
 - Maybe your dad wasn't present for you like you wanted him to be.
 - Maybe he was there but not there!
 - Counselors & Psychologist today say that absent fathers are *“the most destructive trend of our generation” & “the most critical social issue of our time.”*
 - This Results in:
 - Lack of confidence.
 - Lack of trust with others.
 - Anxiety
 - Fear
 - **There is a longing in our heart for a Father who is always present...always with us...someone who isn't afraid to come and rescue us in our darkest places...someone who will walk with us and carry us through the darkest times...someone who will celebrate with us and see the highlights of our life.**
 - There is a Father who is always present. We have one....God the Father is always present.
- **Point 3: A Protective Father**
 - *“15 So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God’s Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, “**Abba, Father.**” Romans 8:15*
 - “Abba” defined further: “my daddy who is bigger and better than yours...A protective dad...who is bigger and better than yours.”
 - **You only protect what is valuable to you.**
 - There is not a **wall** that God the Father wont break down to get to you because He protects His children.
 - There is not a **mountain** he wont climb up just to get to us because He protects His kids.

- You may be caught in some **addiction or struggle** and you see no way out but today my friend God is coming after you in that place to rescue you because God the Father protects His kids.
- Failure to lean in to this truth results in **insecurity**.
 - **There is a longing in our heart for a Father who's arms we feel safe in. A place of safety. We have that in our Heavenly Father.**
- **2 Corinthians 6:18. God says to us... *"I will be your Father, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."***