

Foundations 16
How to prepare your family for
the second coming
June 21 Fathers Day
Matthew 24:36-41

Introduction: Dads are different than Moms. They parent differently. They protect differently. They teach differently. Moms buy bumper pads. Dads buy Band-Aids. Moms schedule "play days." Dads encourage "throw-downs." Some of you are not going to be happy about this, and of course there are lots of exceptions, but overall there just do seem to be different styles inherent between Moms and Dads. Moms like to invest in lots of protective gear. Bike helmets, knee pads, water wings. Dads tend to be both hands on and hands off. Swimming

lessons, but then a white water raft trip. Bike-pushing, followed by a mondo mountain bike trail. Bigger knee pads, then diving into the deepest drop at the skate park. Moms say, "You worried me so much!" Dads tend to say, "Don't worry too much!"

Kids need both kinds of parenting. That is the most difficult challenge for single parents, a challenge that can be met in this church. But it's a challenge nonetheless: to find a way, or a person, to bring in all the possibilities and probabilities that are part of the richness of having both a Mom and a Dad to engage the lives of children.

I thank God Dads are optimists. Dads take chances based upon skills and knowledge they

know they possess and they trust they have taught to the next generation. I thank God for all Dads who offer this gift of confidence. A gift of conviction. A gift of risk and courage based on trust. It is a gift every child needs from someone. In the context of the culture of his day, Jesus loved like a mother, and taught like a father. He didn't have his disciples sit in a yeshiva learning Torah tidbits. Jesus took his disciples to "work" with him, to apprentice with him, so they could learn by doing. Like all children, the disciples got it "wrong" a lot of the time. That's why in Matthew's gospel the disciples are often called the "Duh-sciples."

Dad's to prepare your family for the second coming takes your mindset of Don't worry-but

be prepared! Today's text is Matthew 24:36-41 let's stand as the gospel is read. The Skill dad's must pass on to the next generation is to hold onto this life loosely! The knowledge we must live before our children is there is no guarantee of a tomorrow!

Matthew 24:36 Reads: No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son,^[1] but only the Father. ³⁷As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; ³⁹and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the

coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left.

⁴¹Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.

Explain Matthew 24:36-41

So, what does Jesus tell us about when He will return? He will come...**1. At a time unknown to all but the Father (v. 36)**Not only does verse 36 stand as warning against speculation on Christ's return, but it also gives us a remarkable picture of the Incarnation. Not even Michael or Gabriel around the throne knows the day that has been established by the Father before the creation of the world for the culmination of redemption. Do

not think that these angels would have enough disrespect to dare ask the Father to disclose to them that great day. They simply trust the Father's timing, knowing that it is perfectly established in order for His great will to come to pass. But the staggering phrase in this verse \ centers on "**nor the Son.**" We can imagine that such delicate information belongs to the Godhead and not to angels. Yet Jesus tells us that at that point, He did not know the day of His return. He, who is 'very God of very God,' co-equal with the Father, co-eternal with the Godhead, co-existent with the Father from all

eternity, even He did not know. Now that is puzzling. Yet here we learn something more of the wonder of what took place in the Incarnation.

In the incarnation Jesus was both God and Man. So, while He has never, *not* been God, He was not always man. As man he became sleepy, hungry, tired, thirsty, angry, grieved; He laughed, cried, talked, prayed, and entered into the depth of human relationships. But, *He did not stop being God*. At one and the same time, He sustained the universe by His power while in His humanity grew tired from a day of ministering to needy people. He kept the infinite solar

systems in their revolutions while crying to the Father as a human being with needs. And was not privileged to the knowledge to the date of the second coming. So, if Jesus Christ, in His humanity, did not need to know when He would return, then neither do we need that kind of precise knowledge. He will come again When it's time.

So what dad's and mom's must teach their kids is to live one day at a time. How you start and end Fathers day, must be good enough so we could stand before our maker and give and account of our life. So we model for children a

short list before God: When we are wrong we admit it! When we obsessed with things instead of love we cut it out of life-knowing all we are promised is today.

At a time when everything seems normal (vv. 37-39)

These verses picture plain old day to day living. That is just the point that Christ makes. At a time when everything seems to be normal for most of humanity, Jesus Christ will return. You remember that the people around Noah continued living life the way they had always

lived, in spite of the strange man building a huge ship nowhere near water. Noah preached, warning of God's judgment and calling for righteousness, but everyone just kept living normally-no anxiety, no concern for how the old man's ship would float, no thought of divine judgment. Even the terminology in the verse describes the casual munching of food and drinking, men marrying and women being given in marriage-just normal life. Jesus will catch people unaware not because of their evil-but because of the distractions of this life!

The Skill set our children need is to see in

our life as adults always putting eternity ahead of the short term unimportant demands of this life. Family more important than the never ending demands of work! Fellowshiping with God and his people more important than a day at the lake.

At a time unexpected (vv. 40-41)

Therefore, it is an unexpected time when Christ returns. Our Lord explains it with two simple pictures of life. **"Then there will be two men in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one will be left."** Two men,

maybe brothers, maybe a father and a son, or maybe lifelong friends go to work in their field.

One is a believer; the other is not. Two women grinding at a mill, pulling and pushing the mill stone in its trough; maybe they were sisters or mother and daughter or slaves of the same

master or best friends. One is a believer; the other is not. The return of Jesus Christ is a time unknown to us, a time when the world seems to be operating on normalcy, and a time that is unexpected. So in light of this, how do you prepare for His return? That is really what Christ aimed for in His sermon. How you prepare your

family is by spending this life, helping each one of them know Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

Illustrate Matthew 24 with Two Sets of Jones'

In this video it is so clear Which set of jonses' was prepared for Jesus

Return

Demonstrate with a jar of life

We ready our family, for the second coming by putting the rock of Christ in first!

Apply: So moms and dads we prepare our families for the second coming by mom's bumper pads off fearing God before he strikes you dead. Dad your band aides are also

needed: yea missing with sin really tears a person up-but His grace covers all our stupid mistakes! Our children need mom's love of worship and dad's angry questions of things that are just not right! Our kids need the conviction that Jesus could come today and it is healthy for us all to fear the Judgment of God. Our children need to risk their temporary lives for God's eternal glory. Children of Christians should be fearless of creation, because they are safe in the arms of Jesus. There is only one way our children can get this lifestyle: It is never taught-only Caught by adults living out their faith! Are you ready? Dad's more importantly is your family ready for Christ's return?

Conclusion: Praise team come up front! We

ready our family for the second coming if we live today like we are either dying or Jesus is coming back today! Instead, just like Noah's generation we far too often become obsessed with the details of this life thinking it will last forever!

Accepting Jesus death on the cross as payment of your sins, is the best step in readying yourself for His return!