

value

Look at the birds
of the air; they do
not sow or reap
or store away in
barns, and yet
your heavenly
Father feeds them.
Are you not much
more valuable
than they?

Matthew 6:26

*Great Swamp Baptist Church
June 23, 2024*

Great Swamp Baptist Church

Sunday Morning Worship

10:30 AM

Announcements

Pastor Ralph Lee

Call to Worship

Invocation

Bjo Mills

Praise & Worship

Lord's Supper

Pastoral and Offertory Prayer

Pastor Ralph Lee

Worship by Giving

Offertory Special

Message

Pastor Ralph Lee

Invitation

Benediction Prayer

Sunday Mornings
Following The Song Service:



Nursery



Teacher:
Olivia Stanley



Greeters for Today:
Juliette & Mike W

Next Sunday 6/30:
Latrell & Mike D

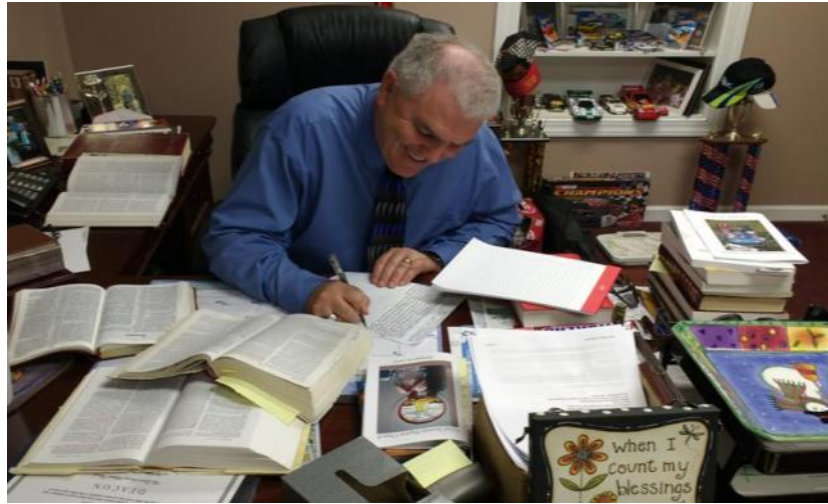
DEACON OF THE WEEK:

Bjo Mills



Phone: 803-943-6312

*From
Pastor
Ralph's
Desk:*



What Fathers Need to Know
about the Father to be
a Better Father

(Matt 5:43-6:34)

Introduction:

There are many wonderful examples of dads that we could look up to as great examples to help us be good fathers. However if we are to look at the greatest and perfect example then we need to look at the example of our Heavenly Father. It's His example that we need to emulate above all others, and that's the example that we will examine in this message to help us become the kind of fathers we need to become.

Therefore I entitled this message what fathers need to know about the Father to be better fathers. In the verses I've chosen for this message, Heavenly Father is referenced 13 times which makes it a good place to draw our theme from. So let's discover some truths about our Heavenly Father that will help us to be better fathers.

I. First, let's notice that fathers need to know about the Father to be better fathers is that our Heavenly Father is a perfect father (vs 43-48)

"Be perfect, therefore, as your Heavenly Father is perfect." (vs 48). So because our Heavenly Father is a perfect Father then there's no greater example for us to look to. Now of course we are not perfect ourselves and will never be until we go to heaven.

However we are called to striving for perfection which our Heavenly Father is and that includes be as perfect of a father as we possibly can be. Thus we seek to be the kind of father that our Heavenly Father is.

Now it's important to note that within the verses chosen for this particular point, the context in which we discover that our Heavenly Father is perfect, Jesus is discussing about the issue of love. He reveals that a greater love is not just loving your neighbor as God commands but rather instead also loving your enemies just as our Heavenly Father's gracious love has shown grace to even the unlovely.

So as fathers we need to show our children and our families that we love them, but through the power of the Lord we also love those who are unlovely by our willingness to be gracious to them just as our Father in heaven is. Thus we are showing our families that we are striving for perfection and are thus encouraging them to do the same.

II. Second, let's notice what fathers need to know about the Father to be better fathers is that the Heavenly Father is a rewarding father (vs 6:1-4, 5-6, 16-18)

Now in all of the verses used for this point begins with the wrong way to do certain things. Jesus shows that there's a wrong way to give your alms to the needy. A wrong way to pray, and a wrong way to fast.

Now in each of these verses he says that if you can do these things in the wrong way then our Father in heaven will not grant to you any reward, but if you give, pray and fast in the right manner then our Father in heaven will indeed reward you, and truthfully that's what our Heavenly Father wants to do.

Now as fathers we need to seek to reward our children but only when they do the right things. And to do the right things we need to teach them what Christ says is the right way to do the things in life. That's how we do the right things.

Sadly in our present world fathers are rewarding their children for the wrong things. For the words they say and the actions they do that the world has decided it is okay to say and do. But may our Lord help us to reward a word only the right things they do as are Heavenly Father does.

III. Third, let's notice what fathers need to know about the Father to be better fathers is that our Heavenly Father is a knowing father (v5-8)

"Do not be like them, for your father knows what you need before you ask him." (v8). So this section is about the right way to pray which Jesus said was to pray in secret and to not ramble on and on because God already knows what you have need of. So our Heavenly Father, because he knows us, then he knows what's best to give us.

So we as fathers need to take time to get to know our children. We need to take time to understand who they are so that we can make the best decision helping them, guiding them, and giving what will be best for them to make them better servants of God. Therefore do you know who your children are?

IV. Fourth, let's notice what fathers need to know about the Father to be better fathers is that our Heavenly Father is a caring father (vs 8, 11, 25-34)

Now all of the verses that I'm using for this point is that our Heavenly Father genuinely cares for his children by providing them the necessary things that they need to get along in this life and of course the one to come.

As a matter of fact our Heavenly Father goes out of his way to show that His children mean more to him than anyone else in this world. We mean more to him than the birds of the air, the flowers of the field, and the water of the rivers. All of which he indeed cares for but he shows us that above all he cares for us the most.

So as fathers we need to make sure that our children know and understand that to us they are special and in the wisdom and strength of the Lord we will take care of them. Oh, what security this will give to our children.

V. Fifth, let's notice what fathers need to know about the Father to be better fathers is that our Heavenly Father is an open father (v5-9)

Now the point I'm making here is that our Heavenly Father has an open door policy for his children. You can never interrupt our Father in heaven. He desires for his children to seek him and he makes himself available for them on a 24 hour basis. This is what Christianity is all about anyways a personal relationship with God where communication is available and encouraged.

The writer of Hebrews reveals the fact that our Father in heaven wants us to come to him boldly and confidently. "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. 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. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. (Hebrews 4:14-16).

So if we are going to be like our Heavenly Father then we need to have an open door policy with our children and family. They need to know that it's our desire to hear from them, to listen to them and spend time with them. They need to know that we are there for them as our Father in heaven is for us.

VI. Sixth, let's notice what fathers need to know about the Father to be better fathers is that our Heavenly Father is in heaven (vs 9,10)

Well, throughout these verses God is called our Heavenly Father or our Father in heaven. But most clear to everyone is the start of the Lord's prayer which says, " Our Father in heaven..." And because He's our Father in heaven His name is to be hallowed or honored and this will to be done both in heaven and here on earth.

Now the point I'm making here is that as fathers we need to help our children understand that because our Heavenly Father is in heaven then our focus in life should be more heavenly driven than worldly driven. The saying used to be that we are so heavenly minded that we are no earthly good. However the fact of the matter is that we are so earthly minded that we are no heavenly good. A good father helps his family to look heavenwardly.

VII. Seventh, let's notice what fathers need to know about the Father to be better fathers is that our Heavenly Father is a forgiving father (v12-15)

It's quite straightforward in these verses that clearly there's one thing we know beyond any doubt whatsoever and it's the fact that our Heavenly Father is a forgiving Father. Praise His holy name. "And forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one. For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive you." (vs 12-15)

The forgiveness of sins is a very important matter to our Heavenly Father. So much of course that He sent His only begotten Son into the world to go to the cross to die for the forgiveness of our sins. So because He's willing to forgive our sins He expects for us to be willing to do the same.

Thus we as fathers need to demonstrate the importance of forgiving others beginning with our children themselves and then others. we are never more like our Heavenly Father then when we are forgiving others. It's only as we fathers forgive others that are children understand their own need for the Heavenly Father's forgiveness.

Conclusion:

As we begin this message we took note that the only father that is perfect is our Heavenly Father. So once again let us His fathers here on earth seek to be the perfect kind of dad by seeking the follow the example of our Heavenly Father. Then and only then will you be a better father.

Jesus Loves You,

Ralph Lee



Operation Christmas Child



Items below are the items being collected for the month of June. Beside the items are the amounts still needed to fill 600 boxes in the age groups. You can also give a monetary donation. Any questions please ask Dorthie.

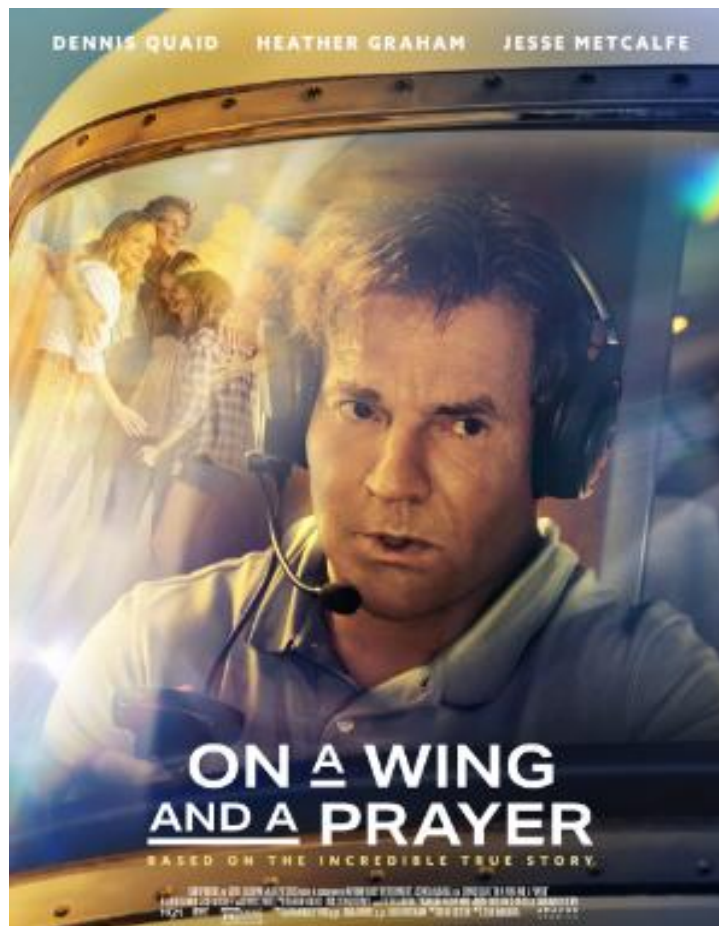
Boys	Girls
<u>Ages 2-4</u> Socks - 39 Toys - 75	<u>Ages 2-4</u> Socks - 69 Toys - 84 Baby dolls - 45
<u>Ages 5-9</u> Toys - 50 Socks - 52	<u>Ages 5-9</u> Toys - 46 Socks - 57 Dolls/stuffed animals - 89
<u>Ages 10-14</u> Socks - 64 Toys - 68 Matchbox cars - 200 Stuffed animals - 187 Toothbrushes - 414	<u>Ages 10-14</u> Socks - 74 Toys - 62



<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>26th</i>	<i>Natalie Amason</i>
<i>Thursday</i>	<i>27th</i>	<i>Olivia Stanley</i>
<i>Friday</i>	<i>28th</i>	<i>Mack Pope</i>



Jennifer will be out of the office Monday, June 24th through Thursday, June 27th. Please note, she will not have good cell phone service so please text instead of call if you need something.



MOVIE NIGHT!!



**Showing: On A Wing & A Prayer
TONIGHT Sunday, June 23rd
Concessions at 6:00 p.m.
Movie starts at 6:30 p.m.**



**Please bring finger foods for your family and more to
share with all!
Tea and Popcorn provided.**

**Come watch an amazing movie with us!
It's even a true story!!!**

W O M E N

O N

M I S S I O

(formerly Grandmothers' Group)



When: July 8th at 11:30 a.m.

Where: the Youth House

Bring: A Covered Dish or Dessert

**ALL LADIES
WELCOME!!**

**YOU'RE
INVITED**

ANNOUNCEMENT

Any man 18 years and older who has been a member of Great Swamp for a year or more and does **NOT** want their name on the Deacon Election List, please contact the church Jennifer at 843-726-3631 to have it removed. Otherwise, it will remain on the list.

This is the covenant that our Deacons adopted for their ministry at Great Swamp Baptist Church. Read it, encourage your Deacons, and vigilantly pray for them.

The Deacon Covenant

We will be accountable to God and to each other. We will ask the hard questions about faith and ministry to this church and will provide honest answers.

We must be men of peace. We will strive to allow the Spirit of Christ to rule in our relationships with our families, with each other, and with the members of our church.

We will be shepherds of the Family of God that worships at Great Swamp Baptist Church. We will be servants in the model of Jesus who tenderly watched over his sheep.

We will be vigilant in our personal life. We will put on the whole armor of God as a necessity to help guard against the attacks of Satan.

We will seek an intimate relationship with God through His Son Jesus. We will try to live a life that is above reproach in speech, love, faith, and purity.

We will support the ministries of this church with our finances, our influence, and with our prayers.

We will partner with the pastor of this good church to meet the spiritual needs of all of our members, our guests, and the community as God leads us.

GSBC Prayer Page

Church Leadership

Sunday School
SFCA-Donna Carter
Child Development
Ministries
Ralph Lee, Jr. - Pastor
Richard Waitt- Music Director
Deacons

Leadership

President / Vice President of
the United States of America

Bereavement

Unspoken

Hospitals

Surgery/Recovery

Chyleen Mock
Bill Carter

Cancer/Treatments

Revel Crosby - 4 years old
(Leukemia)
Ken Lawler
Barry DeMay
Rachel Vaughn
Bertha Kinard (stage 4
lung cancer)

Other Health Needs

Mary Kay Cade
Julia Rushing
Pinky Rushing
Amy Hannah
Kathy Breland
Grace Hetrick
Arthur Pearson
Rodney Malphrus, Jr.
Mark Mingledorff
Mike Wall
Sage Lanier (2 week old
baby with seizures)
Buzz Bonds
Dean Daley
Earl Dean Pope
Cindy Price (Vicki
Archuleta's sister)

Nursing Centers

Byron Vaigneur - Legacy at South Pointe
Tommy & Erma Cooler - Ridgeland Nursing Home
David Sauls - Morrell Nursing Center
Doby Cleland - Life Care Center of HHI
Shirley Malphrus - Resorts at Beaufort (D wing)

Please Continue To Remember

Homebound

Rose Boyles
Judy Smith
Vera Floyd
Barbara Mills
Kenny Smith
Tom Hinely
Ann Blocker
Red & Helen Malphrus
Diane Hannah
Ann Long

Pray For Our Military

Sgt. Jared Blanton - Deployed
Matthew Mills - US Marines -
Okinawa, Japan
Jericho Malphrus - Sp. Agent/Air Force -
Pinehurst, NC.
Michael Sottile - Ret.
Tristan Blanton - Louisiana
Andrea C. Daring - Charleston, SC

Church Staff

Pastor: **Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr**jehu27@gmail.com

Music Director: **Richard Waitt**.....

Sunday School Director: **Mike Davis**.....

Pianist: **Michelle Waitt**..... waittfamily83@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant: **Jennifer Meador**.....greatswampbc@gmail.com
843-726-3631

School Administrator: **Donna Carter**.....dcarter@sfcaweb.org

Stewardship

Tithes	This Week	Weekly Budget	Surplus/Deficit + / -
	\$4,919.00	\$4,923.33	\$-4.33
Online Offerings	\$50.00		
Designated Funds			Acct. Balances
VBS	\$120.00	*****	\$1,935.13
OCC	\$143.00	*****	\$301.00
Dot Lee Scholarship	\$50.00	*****	\$500.00



Great Swamp Baptist Church
9009 Tarboro Rd.
PO Box 446
Ridgeland, SC 29936

Sunday School.....9:15AM
Morning Worship.....10:30AM
Wednesday Night Service.....7:00PM

Email: greatswampbc@gmail.com
Website: greatswampbaptistchurch.com
Church Office: (843) 726-3631