

You Are Important (June 21, 2020 by Rev. Anthony Menzel)

Before we do anything else today, I want to wish all the biological and spiritual fathers, including the first persons of the Holy Trinity, a Happy Father's Day...

It is clear that God the Father is our father and should thus receive a Father's Day greeting....

So Happy Father's Day, Heavenly Father!

The Lord Jesus is also a spiritual father to us, according to passages like Isaiah 9:6-7

For unto us a Child is born,

Unto us a Son is given;

And the government will be upon His shoulder.

And His name will be called

Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

7

Of the increase of *His* government and peace

There will be no end,

Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom,

To order it and establish it with judgment and justice

From that time forward, even forever.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

So Happy Father's Day, Lord Jesus!!!

The title of today's message is "You Are Important."

And I want to start off by saying that fathers are important...

Maybe you think that you are an unknown, insignificant man...

However, you have an important role to play in God's plan...

A perfect example is that of fathers...

According to 2019 statistics, households headed by single mothers have a poverty rate in the U.S. of 25%, approximately 5 times the poverty rate of married couples, which is 4.7%. Thus, as men with children, one of the most

important ministries we have to help raise up the next generation is simply to be the husbands and fathers the Lord Jesus has called us to be... Husbands who love their lives as Christ loved the church and therefore fight for their marriages, praying with and for their wives even when things get tough...

Ephesians 5:25-29

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, ²⁶ that He might [g]sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷ that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. ²⁸ So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord *does* the church.

One of our most important ministries is to be fathers who are present in the lives of our children...

Fathers who pray for and with our children...

Fathers who are good providers and kind so that our children will not have trouble relating to a loving Heavenly Father because their earthly father has been physically and/or emotionally absent from their lives...

Some of us may have made mistakes in our romantic relationships in the past and therefore have children with more than one woman...

For those fathers, remember to be a good husband to your current wife...

If you are not married to the woman you are currently with, honor the Lord Jesus by either formalizing your relationship with her, either through marriage or by separating from her if you do not want to be married to her...

At the same time, be a father to all of your children...

Not just by sending child support but by calling them, going to their special events, spending time with them whenever you can...

Let them know that just like our Heavenly Father, you never forget them.

You always pray for them and carry them in your heart...

1 Timothy 5:8

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.

Hebrews 13:3-4

³ Remember the prisoners as if chained with them—those who are mistreated—since you yourselves are in the body also.

⁴ Marriage *is* honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

If we are to remember prisoners that we don't know, how much more should we remember and be there for our children, who came from our bodies...

I am blessed to have a wonderful father who to this day tries his best to support me...

Today I am singing our first song in his honor...

In the midst of COVID, cases of police brutality, gun violence, abortion, and other societal issues, this hymn gives us one of the most important keys to having victory in the midst of instability and upheaval...

Spending time alone with the Lord Jesus...

"In the Garden..."

Now I am going to continue to honor the biological and spiritual fathers by having my mother come and give a testimony about her earthly father, my grandfather Rafael Chávez...

After your testimony, Mom, I would like you to pray for fathers in general so that the Lord Jesus would bless us to carry out our God-given ministry, which is the very important ministry of being fathers and husbands...

***Today we continue to have a lot to pray about...

I feel very strongly that the church should not just be following societal norms; instead, the church, as the representative of Jesus Christ on the earth, should be society's moral compass, setting the norms according to God's Word instead of following them...

Jeremiah 6:14-15

“Because from the least of them even to the greatest of them,
Everyone *is* given to covetousness;
And from the prophet even to the priest,
Everyone deals falsely.

¹⁴They have also healed the [c]hurt of My people [d]slightly,
Saying, ‘Peace, peace!’
When *there is* no peace.

Today I am wearing black to honor George Floyd,
Italia Kelly...

David McAtee...

David Dorn...

Breonna Taylor...

Eric Garner

Byron Lee Williams

Derrick Scott

Rayshard Brooks

And all those who have been harmed by and even died from police brutality
and corruption, including my grandmother Carmen Chávez

I am wearing black for them, and I am wearing black because there is so
much wrong with this country...

I am wearing black for the people who have died in the over 200 school
shootings that have occurred in the U.S. since 1999...

I am wearing black for the 62 million babies and counting killed by
abortion...

All of these people who have been killed are important to the Lord Jesus, so
we will collectively lift up a prayer for spiritual awakening in their
remembrance...

My prayer is that not one of these people will die in vain...

In today’s prayer, I will also praise the Lord Jesus for Juneteenth...

Today’s message is “You Are Important.”

The Lord Jesus loves everyone the same...

Galatians 3:26-28

²⁶ For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁷ For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you *are* Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

According to The Vox, "Juneteenth marks the day in 1865 when a group of enslaved people in Galveston, Texas finally learned that they were free..." It took more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863 for slavery to end in all of the United States.

The Lord Jesus is happy that legal slavery has ended in the Americas... He loves all of us the same, so in addition to praying for spiritual awakening, we will praise the Lord Jesus for setting the slaves free...

It is right for June 19, 1865 to be commemorated in the United States...

Doing so is similar to what the Jews do when they commemorate the Passover, the time when God end the slavery of their ancestors in Egypt...

***You Are Important

Each one of us, whether other people recognize as important, is important to the Lord Jesus...

Matthew 10:27-31

27 "Whatever I tell you in the dark, speak in the light; and what you hear in the ear, preach on the housetops. **28** And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in [h]hell. **29** Are not two sparrows sold for a [i]copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father's will. **30** But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. **31** Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

When God was going to destroy the city of Sodom, He was willing to save the city even for the sake of 10 people...

That is why it is so important that we keep praying for spiritual awakening and that we keep doing whatever else we can to promote it...

We can be those few people who make the difference for many other people...

We may even be the people that God looks at to save the lives of our whole nation and/or nation of origin...

Genesis 18.16-33

16 Then the men rose from there and looked toward Sodom, and Abraham went with them to send them on the way. **17** And the Lord said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing, **18** since Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? **19** For I have known him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the Lord, to do righteousness and justice, that the Lord may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him." **20** And the Lord said, "Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grave, **21** I will go down now and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry against it that has come to Me; and if not, I will know."

22 Then the men turned away from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham still stood before the Lord. **23** And Abraham came near and said, "Would You also destroy the righteous with the wicked? **24** Suppose there were fifty righteous within the city; would You also destroy the place and not spare *it* for the fifty righteous that were in it? **25** Far be it from You to do such a thing as this, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous should be as the wicked; far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?"

26 So the Lord said, "If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes."

27 Then Abraham answered and said, "Indeed now, I who *am but* dust and ashes have taken it upon myself to speak to the Lord: **28** Suppose there were five less than the fifty righteous; would You destroy all of the city for *lack of five*?"

So He said, "If I find there forty-five, I will not destroy *it*."

29 And he spoke to Him yet again and said, "Suppose there should be forty found there?"

So He said, "I will not do *it* for the sake of forty."

30 Then he said, "Let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak: Suppose thirty should be found there?"

So He said, "I will not do *it* if I find thirty there."

31 And he said, “Indeed now, I have taken it upon myself to speak to the Lord: Suppose twenty should be found there?”

So He said, “I will not destroy *it* for the sake of twenty.”

32 Then he said, “Let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak but once more: Suppose ten should be found there?”

And He said, “I will not destroy *it* for the sake of ten.” **33** So the Lord went His way as soon as He had finished speaking with Abraham; and Abraham returned to his place.

One person can take away the curse over a whole group of people...
We see from the following passage that the Moabites were cursed...

Exodus 23:3-6

3 “An Ammonite or Moabite shall not enter the assembly of the Lord; even to the tenth generation none of his *descendants* shall enter the assembly of the Lord forever, **4** because they did not meet you with bread and water on the road when you came out of Egypt, and because they hired against you Balaam the son of Beor from Pethor of [a]Mesopotamia, to curse you. **5** Nevertheless the Lord your God would not listen to Balaam, but the Lord your God turned the curse into a blessing for you, because the Lord your God loves you. **6** You shall not seek their peace nor their prosperity all your days forever.

However, because of Ruth, one woman, God brought blessings to the Moabites...

Ruth 1:1-17

1 Now it came to pass, in the days when the judges [a]ruled, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Bethlehem, Judah, went to [b]dwell in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons. **2** The name of the man was Elimelech, the name of his wife was Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion—Ephrathites of Bethlehem, Judah. And they went to the country of Moab and remained there. **3** Then Elimelech, Naomi’s husband, died; and she was left, and her two sons. **4** Now they took wives of the women of Moab: the name of the one was Orpah, and the name of the other Ruth. And they [c]dwelt there about ten years. **5** Then both Mahlon and Chilion also died; so the woman survived her two sons and her husband.

Naomi Returns with Ruth

6 Then she arose with her daughters-in-law that she might return from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the Lord had visited[d] His people by giving them bread. **7** Therefore she went out from the place where she was, and her two daughters-in-law with her; and they went on the way to return to the land of Judah. **8** And Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, “Go, return each to her mother’s house. The Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. **9** The Lord grant that you may find rest, each in the house of her husband.”

So she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept. **10** And they said to her, “Surely we will return with you to your people.”

11 But Naomi said, “Turn back, my daughters; why will you go with me? *Are there still sons in my womb, that they may be your husbands?* **12** Turn back, my daughters, go—for I am too old to have a husband. If I should say I have hope, *if I should have a husband tonight and should also bear sons,* **13** would you wait for them till they were grown? Would you restrain yourselves from having husbands? No, my daughters; for it grieves me very much for your sakes that the hand of the Lord has gone out against me!”

14 Then they lifted up their voices and wept again; and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

15 And she said, “Look, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.”

16 But Ruth said:

“Entreat[e] me not to leave you,
Or to turn back from following after you;
For wherever you go, I will go;
And wherever you lodge, I will lodge;
Your people *shall be* my people,
And your God, my God.

17

Where you die, I will die,
And there will I be buried.
The Lord do so to me, and more also,
If *anything but* death parts you and me.”

18 When she saw that she [f]was determined to go with her, she stopped speaking to her.

19 Now the two of them went until they came to Bethlehem. And it happened, when they had come to Bethlehem, that all the city was excited because of them; and the women said, “/s this Naomi?”

20 But she said to them, “Do not call me [g]Naomi; call me [h]Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me. **21** I went out full, and the Lord has brought me home again empty. Why do you call me Naomi, since the Lord has testified against me, and [i]the Almighty has afflicted me?”

22 So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabite her daughter-in-law with her, who returned from the country of Moab. Now they came to Bethlehem at the beginning of barley harvest.

Ruth 2:2-12 (Especially v. 2-3, 5-6, 8, 10-12)

2 There was a relative of Naomi’s husband, a man of great wealth, of the family of Elimelech. His name was Boaz. **2** So Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, “Please let me go to the field, and glean heads of grain after *him* in whose sight I may find favor.”

And she said to her, “Go, my daughter.”

3 Then she left, and went and gleaned in the field after the reapers. And she happened to come to the part of the field *belonging* to Boaz, who was of the family of Elimelech.

4 Now behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem, and said to the reapers, “The Lord *be* with you!”

And they answered him, “The Lord bless you!”

5 Then Boaz said to his servant who was in charge of the reapers, “Whose young woman *is* this?”

6 So the servant who was in charge of the reapers answered and said, “It *is* the young Moabite woman who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab. **7** And she said, ‘Please let me glean and gather after the reapers among the sheaves.’ So she came and has continued from morning until now, though she rested a little in the house.”

8 Then Boaz said to Ruth, “You will listen, my daughter, will you not? Do not go to glean in another field, nor go from here, but stay close by my young women. **9** *Let* your eyes *be* on the field which they reap, and go after them. Have I not commanded the young men not to touch you? And when you are thirsty, go to the vessels and drink from what the young men have drawn.”

10 So she fell on her face, bowed down to the ground, and said to him, “Why have I found favor in your eyes, that you should take notice of me, since I *am* a foreigner?”

11 And Boaz answered and said to her, “It has been fully reported to me, all that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband, and *how* you have left your father and your mother and the land of your birth, and have come to a people whom you did not know before. **12** The Lord repay your work, and a full reward be given you by the Lord God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge.”)))

Ruth 4:13-22

13 So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife; and when he went in to her, the Lord gave her conception, and she bore a son. **14** Then the women said to Naomi, “Blessed *be* the Lord, who has not left you this day without a [f]close relative; and may his name be famous in Israel! **15** And may he be to you a restorer of life and a [g]nourisher of your old age; for your daughter-in-law, who loves you, who is better to you than seven sons, has borne him.” **16** Then Naomi took the child and laid him on her bosom, and became a nurse to him. **17** Also the neighbor women gave him a name, saying, “There is a son born to Naomi.” And they called his name Obed. He *is* the father of Jesse, the father of David.

18 Now this *is* the genealogy of Perez: Perez begot Hezron; **19** Hezron begot Ram, and Ram begot Amminadab; **20** Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon;[h] **21** Salmon begot Boaz, and Boaz begot Obed; **22** Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David.

Ruth shows how the Lord Jesus can redeem anyone, regardless of their background.

She shows how humility and meekness attract prosperity and safety.

Matthew 5:5

Blessed *are* the meek,
For they shall inherit the [a]earth.

This passage is part of the Beatitudes, a passage of Scripture in which the Lord Jesus lists blessings that come from attitudes of believers.

This particular Beatitude reflects a beautiful verse in Psalm 37

Psalm 37:11

But the meek shall inherit the earth,
And shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.

1 Samuel 22:1-4

22 David therefore departed from there and escaped to the cave of Adullam. So when his brothers and all his father's house heard *it*, they went down there to him. **2** And everyone *who was* in distress, everyone who was in debt, and everyone *who was* [a]discontented gathered to him. So he became captain over them. And there were about four hundred men with him.

3 Then David went from there to Mizpah of Moab; and he said to the king of Moab, "Please let my father and mother come here with you, till I know what God will do for me." **4** So he brought them before the king of Moab, and they dwelt with him all the time that David was in the stronghold.

Why could David leave his parents in Moab?

His father's grandmother was Ruth the Moabitess...

His father was $\frac{1}{4}$ Moabite

David was $\frac{1}{8}$ Moabite...

The Lord Jesus loves everyone the same...

He accepts everyone, as long as we follow His ways...

Acts 10:34-35, 44-48

34 Then Peter opened *his* mouth and said: "In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. **35** But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him.

44 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. **45** And [o]those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. **46** For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God.

Then Peter answered, **47** "Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we *have*?" **48** And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay a few days.