

Let’s take a look at some statistics showing the effect an absent father has on more than 22% of American children in fatherless households:

- 63% of youth suicides are from fatherless homes (Source: U.S. D.H.H.S., Bureau of the Census)
- 90% of all homeless and runaway children are from fatherless homes
- 85% of all children that exhibit behavioral disorders come from fatherless homes (Source: Center for Disease Control)
- 80% of rapists motivated with displaced anger come from fatherless homes (Source: Criminal Justice & Behavior, Vol 14, p. 403-26, 1978.)
- 71% of all high school dropouts come from fatherless homes (Source: National Principals Association Report on the State of High Schools.)
- 75% of all adolescent patients in chemical abuse centers come from fatherless homes (Source: Rainbows for all God’s Children.)
- 70% of juveniles in state-operated institutions come from fatherless homes (Source: U.S. Dept. of Justice, Special Report, Sept 1988)
- 85% of all youths sitting in prisons grew up in a fatherless home (Source: Fulton Co. Georgia jail populations, Texas Dept. of Corrections 1992)

These statistics translate to mean that children from a fatherless home are:

- 5 times more likely to commit suicide.
- 32 times more likely to run away.
- 20 times more likely to have behavioral disorders.
- 14 times more likely to commit rape: This applies to boys of course.
- 9 times more likely to drop out of high school.
- 10 times more likely to abuse chemical substances.
- 9 times more likely to end up in a state-operated institution.
- 20 times more like to end up in prison.

I am not just referring to the absence of a father due to divorce or separation; these statistics also prove to be true for children born out of wedlock.

Dads are charged with demonstrating to their children the love of God the Father. When children miss this lesson, they have difficulty relating to the God of Heaven.

But the effects of a broken father/child relationship...like many of the other circumstances in life that have been distorted and tainted by sin...can be softened and healed by the grace of God. God’s grace compensates for our weaknesses. His grace covers our sins and helps us not to look at “what was” or “what is” but “what can be.”

God says in Psalm 68:5 that He is, “*a father of the fatherless....*” and because of this truth, the “fatherless” can go to the Bible and discover what a real father is like—this is what we are going to do today.

The Great Love of our Heavenly Father

(1 John 3:1 NKJV) Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

Behold - Not translated in the NIV. It is the Greek word *idete* which means "behold, look at."

This word means, "*behold you.*" The writer wants everyone to take notice. Another way to put it is "Behold, all of you."

What manner of love – The kind of love that John is talking about is a strange kind of love, an unusual kind of love, a kind of love to which we are not accustomed to experiencing.

We normally look to 1 Corinthians chapter 13 to read "the love passage" that lists the characteristics of divine love the Christian is to aspire toward:

1 Cor 13:4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.

1 Cor 13:5 It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

1 Cor 13:6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.

1 Cor 13:7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

1 Cor 13:8 Love never fails.

These are the characteristics of love that Christians are supposed to strive to live out. They are to make it their aim each and every day to walk this way—patiently, kind; avoiding envy and pride—being those who are not rude and self-seeking. and so on.

The Christian makes it his or her aim to model and exemplify this kind of love. But what we need to know is that these characteristics of love are what our Heavenly Father is intrinsically, essentially, fundamentally and basically. The Scripture says, "God is love."

The word "manner" or "great" speaks of something foreign. The first part of verse one could also be translated, "*Behold, what foreign kind of love...*" The love that John is writing about is "out of this world"—literally speaking. It is not of this life or from this place, i.e., it is an *unearthly* love.

Your earthly father may not have lived up to your expectations of a "father" and that is because he was human; he was a sinner—he made decisions from the frailties of his flesh—he was of this earth.

But our Heavenly Father is love personified! God is love! (1 John 4:8, 16). You and I learn to love God's way only as we come to know Him and experience His love.

... the Father has bestowed on us

Bestowed – We don't use this word that often in how we talk today. If someone used this word today you would think that he or she was being highfalutin or pompous—we would say in our African-American culture, "They were being "siditty."

When I was a boy attending church, I would hear the older folk using the word "bestow" in their prayers. "*Father we thank Thee for the bountiful blessings Thou has bestowed upon us...*"

Today we don't use that word much. When you "bestow", you are giving something to someone.

John tells us in our text that God has “bestowed” on us....*love*....a unique, out of the world love....His love! In Romans 5:5 Paul tells us that “ ... *the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.* ”

The NIV renders 1 John 3:1 this way: “*How great is the love the Father has lavished on us...*” Rather than use the word “bestowed,” they translated it, *lavished*.

The word “bestow” is in the perfect tense, indicating this gift of “lavished” love becomes a permanent possession of the one who receives it.

This is why in Jeremiah 31:3 God says, “*...I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.*” And in Romans 8:39 the Apostle Paul writes, “*Nothing... shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*”

God has “bestowed” on us a unique, out of the world kind of love! It is an everlasting love—once given to the believer it is not taken away. It doesn’t fade with time or use. It is lavished upon the believer!

(1 John 3:1 NKJV) Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! ...

...that we should be called children of God.

The lavishing of God’s love is responsible for the sinner becoming a child of God. It is not the act of doing a good deed that transforms one into a child of God. It is not going through some religious ceremony or ritual like baptism or confirmation that makes one into a child of God.

It is God’s love that draws the sinner to Himself and washes the sinner clean. If you are a Christian, you did not start off that way. You did not become a Christian by being born into a Christian family. You did not become a Christian by choosing the Christian religion from a smorgasbord of other religions.

There is a line of demarcation that separates the sinner from the saint; the believer from the unbeliever; the child of God from the child of the devil. Listen to how the Bible shows how one crosses over the line:

1 Cor 6:9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites,

1 Cor 6:10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.

1 Cor 6:11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

It is the love of God that carries the unbeliever across that line, transforming the person into a Christian. This is why John exclaims, “*Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!*”

The word, “children” in this verse is *teknia*. It is tender word that means, "born ones." God has called us His “*born ones*,” His children.

- As King, He could have referred to us as merely His subjects.
- As Master, He could have confined us to the realm of servitude as His slaves.
- As Lord of heaven, He could have related to us as only His tenants
- As Creator, He could have associated with us as simply His creation.
- As our Savior, He could have referred to us primarily as His debtors.

BUT! Because He is Father, He chooses to call us His little “born ones”—His children.

There are many who view God as the stern Father who throws thunderbolts from heaven upon anyone who dares to defy his authority. Where did they get this picture of God? The Bible? A Hollywood movie? Their parents?

Make no mistake about it; God is holy and can not wink at or ignore our sin. His justice demands that He must judge sin. But, while He is a holy, righteous and just God, He is still *Father*.

I have come home from work and discover that something important to me or something that cost me some money has been broken or lost by one of my kids—like many parents I have “flown off the handle.”

But then there are the times when I am tempted to fuss, scold and holler but the Spirit of God gives me an infusion of His grace and I am moved to pity them. This response is characteristic of our Heavenly Father who calls the believer His little “born one.”

Psa 103:9 He will not always strive with us, Nor will He keep His anger forever.

Psa 103:10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor punished us according to our iniquities.

Psa 103:11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him;

Psa 103:12 As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.

Psa 103:13 As a father pities his children, So the LORD pities those who fear Him.

Psa 103:14 For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.

God calls the believer and follower of Jesus Christ His “born one” and this is proof that His love is a unique, foreign and “out of this world” kind of love.

John writes in verse one of our text: “*Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God*” then he goes on and says in the last part of verse one:

...and such we are!

The KJV and NKJV omit the last part of verse one. But other translations have the expression, “*and such we are!*” This means that John is not saying, we are only *called* children of God---he is saying, *we are* children of God.

Not only does a Christian carry the name “child of God,” we have the *character* or essence of sonship.

The child of God can say emphatically, “I *am* a child of God through faith in Jesus Christ.” We don’t hope to be... We don’t expect to be...but every believer can rejoice and constantly thank and praise God that he or she *is* God’s child.

Marvin Winans and the Perfected Praise Choir used to sing a song in the early 90’s called, *Now Are We*.

*Oh what a privilege to be related and called a son
Of the Righteous one, the Holy One, the Father and the King.
He's the Prince of Peace (Prince of Peace), ranks and royalty,
Many treasures now belong to us we're the children of a King.*

*You may not feel like it nor may not look like it,
But I am, I am, right now, right now His son.
So move in power and talk of victory,
Our Father is the Lord of all and now are we His sons.*

*What manner of love is this, that He would chose a wretch like me,
He chose me...chose me...to be His son.
He picked me up and made me new,
A vessel made for Him to use,
He chose me, chose me, to be His son*

But we don’t boast not in ourselves as “King’s Kids;” we boast in the wonderful God that we have who would make us His children.

Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

The word “world” is *kosmos* and refers to the people of this world system of evil. The word, “know” is *ginosko* and means, “to know experientially.”

John writes, “*Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.*” What John is communicating here is so profound. He is saying that the people of this world system of evil cannot come to an understanding and appreciation of the nature of the person we are, since unsaved people never have a saving relationship with God and an understanding of God.

Simply put, “*the world can’t get into us because it did not get into Him.*” John is saying that Christians are foreign to the world because God is foreign to them.

When it comes to Christianity, there are dozens of *paradoxes* that confuse the unbeliever. The word "paradox" is defined as "A seemingly contradictory statement that may nonetheless be true." A paradox involves two statements that are contradictory yet true.

1. We must die to live (MT 16:24-26; ROM 6:3-4; GAL 2:20).
2. We must mourn to be happy (MT 5:4; James 4:7-9).
3. We must surrender to be victorious (MT 19:16-22; ROM 12:1-2).
4. We must hate to love (1 JN 2:15-17; Luke 14:26).
5. We must be followers in order to be leaders (MT 4:19).
6. We must become poor to become rich (MT 5:3; 2 Cor. 8:9).
7. We must become the least to become the greatest (MT 20:25-28).
8. We must be blind in order to see (2 COR 5:7).
9. We must work to obtain rest (MT 11:28FF; REV 14:13; EPH 2:10).

10. We must be homeless to have a home (PHIL 3:20).

Not only are many of the truths of the Christian faith paradoxical, they are considered as *foolishness* to those who do not know God.

- We give our money to a God we cannot see.
- We raise our children to follow the Creator when scientists say we evolved from microbes.
- We worship on Sunday when we could be sleeping in, cutting our grass or washing our cars.
- We don't kill our babies in the womb, even if giving birth to them cramps our lifestyle.
- There are TV shows and movies we don't watch because they blaspheme the Name of our Great God and treat things that are precious to Him, like marriage, with contempt.

The world can't get into us because it does not get into Him.

Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be (vs. 2)

What John is saying here is that both our present and future conditions are certain, being rooted in the fact that we are children of God.

Now we are children of God – The believer's present situation is secure. It is secure not as a result of what he or she has done but because what God in Christ has done.

...it has not yet appeared – Means it has not yet been made manifest—it has not happened yet. You and I are still living in these sin-cursed bodies.

...what we shall be – This refers to something unspeakable. No one has died, been changed, went to heaven and then returned to the earth to tell about it.

...but we know that when He is revealed...

John is writing that it has not yet appeared—it has not yet been made manifest—We do not have anyone other than Jesus who has walked this earth in a resurrected body and He has returned to His Father in heaven.

But...we know (because of the inner witness of being God's child) that if "*what we shall be*" were manifested, we would be shown to be in the likeness to the Lord.

The "revealing" of Christ that John writes about is called the *Rapture*, or the catching up of the church into heaven to be with the Lord.

One day the Lord will crack the sky and call His children to Himself. He said he would do it. He said He was going to prepare a place for us and then come back to get us. When He comes, He will change us, giving us glorified bodies like He had after His resurrection from the grave.

...we shall be like Him...

This statement has to do with *physical* likeness, not spiritual likeness. If you know Jesus Christ as Savior you are already spiritually like the Lord. You are more spiritually like the Lord each day through the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit.

However, one day we will be transformed into the physical likeness of the Lord:

*(Phil 3:20 NKJV) For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,
(Phil 3:21 NKJV) who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.*

John writes, “*when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.*”

Only at the Rapture will we be able to see our Lord as He is now; for physical eyes in a mortal body could not look on that glory, only eyes in glorified bodies.

We will have to go through a physical change in order to stand in His presence—if not His holiness and pure glory would burn us up. And this is the reason we shall be like Him, for only in that state can we see Him just as He is.

Are you looking for Him? Do you want to see Him? Are you one of little “born ones”?

How many of us have ever seen the president of the USA? When I was growing up, the president was the most important man in the entire world and if one would be fortunate enough to meet him—what a day it would be!!!

When we hear of a great person or a well-known person or celebrity visiting our city or community, it is natural for us to want to see that famous individual in person.

Years ago my wife was singing with a gospel group that had to record a TV spot. While at the television studio, Debbie ran into news anchorman Stan Stovel and couldn’t wait to get home to tell me that she saw “Stan Stovel.”

One day while taking Precious to John Hopkins for a check up, Debbie saw Dr. Ben Carson and couldn’t wait to get home to tell me that she saw “Dr. Ben Carson.”

Years ago, when I worked for a defense company, President Ronald Reagan visited our facility. With all the security, I was only able to see him from a distance, but I did see him in person and couldn’t wait to get home to tell my wife who *I* had seen.

On the Christian scene I’ve been able to attend conferences that have given me the opportunity to be under the ministry of Christians that God has used around the world such as RC Sproul, Tony Evans, Charles Stanley and Bob Cook. I’ve even been able to shake hands with a few of the men who have unknowingly shaped my ministry.

For we shall see Him just as He is

In the early 1980’s I was listening to Christian radio and came across a Bible teacher who’s teaching ministered to me immensely. This was before the days of public Internet so if you wanted to get copies of his messages you had to order them on cassette tape.

He also allowed those who financially supported his ministry to get his books free when they were published and even if you didn’t send his ministry a dime, he would still send you a free copy of his books when they were released.

God used this man to help me understand God’s word. God used the Bible teaching of this man to help me learn how to be a Christian husband and to live out a Christian marriage. God used this man to help me raise my children.

When I became a church planter, many of the truths of Scripture pertaining to the church I learned through this pastor's ministry and is the reason why I quote him often in my sermons. We've even used several of his books in our LIFE Groups.

I think it was 1997 when I traveled to Orlando, Florida where this brother would be teaching in a conference and what do you know, I see him, Pastor John MacArthur, coming in my direction.

During this time I was very shy about approaching people and I wrestled within, trying to force myself out of my comfort zone to approach and thank him for encouraging me with his Bible teaching. Needless to say, I lost the battle and he walked right past me.

While Dr. John MacArthur has made an impact on my life, marriage, family and our church, no one has impacted my life more than the Lord Jesus Christ. It wasn't Pastor John MacArthur who saved me from sin, it was Christ.

On the day of Barack Obama's inauguration, many people traveled across the country and even the world to be on site for that historic event.

The inauguration of Barack Obama as the 44th President of the United States took place on Tuesday, January 20, 2009. The event set a record attendance for any event held in Washington, D.C..

Based on the combined attendance numbers, television viewership and Internet traffic, it was among the most observed events ever by the global audience

The 2009 Presidential Inaugural Committee organized several other inauguration related events at the direction of the President-elect, such as the train ride, concerts, parade, balls and prayer service.

Government agencies and federal officials, who coordinated security and traffic management, determined the attendance count to be 1.8 million people based on information collected by several cameras and individuals on the ground.

Nielson television ratings indicated that 29.2% of televisions in the 56 largest media markets in the United States were tuned to the inauguration, the largest audience since Ronald Reagan's first inauguration in 1981 and nearly double the viewership of the 2005 inauguration of George W. Bush.

As measured on that historic day, between 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. EST, U.S. television viewership for the Obama inaugural events achieved an average of 37.8 million across 17 broadcast and cable channels, not including online viewers who watched live streaming video of the events.

Measurements of television viewership in Europe showed that Germany drew the largest audience for the Obama inauguration at 11 million viewers, followed by France at 7 million viewers and the United Kingdom at 5.1 million viewers.

The Obama inauguration resulted in a surge of Internet traffic to news and social networking websites and a record number of video streams. CNN reported that it generated more than 21 million video streams by 3:30 p.m. EST that day—an all-time record, in addition to receiving 136 million page views that day.

At one point during the surge of traffic to view the Obama inauguration, the BBC reported downtime during its own live video feed at its website. The heavy website traffic caused the BBC video feed to

cut out for 30 minutes, with web visitors seeing the message "Please come back later" instead of the live video footage.

The Obama inaugural ceremony not only achieved the highest Internet viewership for a U.S. presidential inauguration, the inaugural event was the first to feature a live audio description of a swearing-in ceremony and the first to include closed captioning in the live webcast of the event.

I rattled off all these numbers so that I could let you know that one day there is going to be an event that will surpass all the inaugurations ever held. One day the *King of kings and the Lord of lords* will take His stand in heaven and receive His bride, the church.

How many people will be in attendance? The Bible is not specific other than to say that "*broad is the way that leads to destruction and narrow is the way that leads to life eternal and few are those who find it.*" (Matthew 7:13-14)

If we were to come up with an estimate of who would be on hand for the "heavenly inauguration" we have to first account for the "few" who find the "narrow way" since the time of Adam and Eve. These are they who have followed God and walked with the Lord up until the time of the heavenly exaltation of Jesus Christ spoken of in Philippians 2:

Phil 2:9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,

Phil 2:10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,

Phil 2:11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The Bible gives us some insight into the kinds of numbers that will be present at this event.

Rev 19:1 After these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God!"

Rev 19:3 Again they said, "Alleluia! Her smoke rises up forever and ever!"

Rev 19:6 And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunders, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!"

The Bible also lets us know what kind of numbers will be present in heaven by giving us a description of the accommodations:

In Revelation 21, verses 15-16, John says, "*The one who spoke with me had a gold measuring rod [probably about ten feet long] to measure the city, and its gates and its wall. And the city is laid out as a square, and its length is as great as the width; and he measured the city with the rod, fifteen hundred miles; its length and width and height are equal.*"

Here John describes the New Jerusalem as a perfectly symmetrical, fifteen-hundred mile cube. In Solomon's Temple the Holy of Holies was a cube of twenty cubits (1 Kings 6:20). The New Jerusalem is the Holy of Holies for eternity.

According to Revelation 21:16 the New Jerusalem is 1,500 miles long, wide, and high. That means it contains 2.25 million square miles. The city of London is one square mile and has a population of about 5,000. On that basis, the New Jerusalem would be able to house over 100 billion people! It is

large enough for the few who find the narrow way (Matt. 7:13-14), but will also give them plenty of “elbow room.”

But there won't only be “the redeemed of the Lord” at this important event in heaven; there will be angels worshipping and singing the praises of God. How many angels will be there?

In Matthew 18:10, Jesus talks about “little children” in the passage: “*Take heed that you despise not one of these little ones, for I say unto you, that in heaven..*” Now here's where the angels come in: “*their angels do always behold the face of My Father who is in heaven.*”

This is why you shouldn't abuse children in any way, because they have angels assigned to them who report to God what's going on. Hebrews 1:14 also lets us know that angels are “*ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation.*”

This lets us know that there are a lot of angels because there are a lot of children and a lot of Christians on this planet. But it doesn't stop there.

Revelation 5 says, “*And I beheld and I heard the voice of many angels.*” Does it say I heard the voice of all the angels or “I heard the voice of most of the angels” or “I heard the voice of almost all the angels”? No, just of “many.” And how many were there? “And the number of them was 10 thousand times 10 thousand and thousands of thousands.” The reason it says “10,000 times 10,000” is that that's the largest number in the Greek language that has a word. So you multiply, and you're into the millions and millions.

But we still can't stop with that. Some claim there are as many angels as there are stars. How many stars are there? Astronomers have determined the positions of more than a million stars, but estimate that hundreds of millions, even billions of stars that remain unlisted. Angels are often equated with stars because the terms are used interchangeably.

In Luke 2:13 angels are called “*the heavenly host,*” while in Deuteronomy 17:3 the “*host of heaven*” refers to stars and other luminous bodies, so there could be billions of angels.

In Hebrews 12:22, we put the issue to rest. This is what it says: “*You are come to mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem and to an innumerable company of angels.*” The writer of Hebrews says there are too many to be counted. They are beyond counting.

In heaven there will be the multitudes of the redeemed. There will be myriads and myriads of the angelic hosts of the angels in heaven. Adam and Eve will be there. Noah will be there. Abraham, Isaac and Jacob will be there. Joseph will be there. Moses will be there. Joshua will be there. Rahab, Deborah and Ruth and Ester will be there. David will be there. The disciples of Jesus will be there—Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Peter and Paul will be there.

But there is only one face that you and I will want to be concerned with. His name is Jesus!

1 John 3:1-2 says: “*Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.*”

Purifying hope

(1 John 3:3 NKJV) And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

What hope? This hope “*in Him.*”

“*This hope,*” this expectation of His return to get us;

“*This hope,*” this expectation of seeing Him;

“*This hope,*” this expectation of being like Him...

The song says,

*Oh, I want to see Him, look upon His face,
There to sing forever of His saving grace;
On the streets of Glory let me lift my voice;
Cares all past, home at last, ever to rejoice.*

Years ago Douglas Miller sang thee words:

*And when I see Jesus, Amen...
When I see Jesus.... A- Men...
All of my trials,
all of my troubles...
All of my heartaches,
all of my disappointments will soon be over, when I see Jesus, A-men...*

Do you have this hope? If so, John writes that it should have a purifying effect on you because He is pure. Knowing that Jesus could crack the sky at any time should make you want to be on your best behavior for Him each moment of each day.

Jesus is coming soon. Are you one of His “born ones”? Are you a child of God?

As we celebrate Father’s Day, I encourage you to make sure you have received the love that God the Father wants to lavish upon you. Like me, you may not have grown up under the love of a godly father but now you know that there is a unique love, an out of this world kind of divine love, that was demonstrated when God gave His only Son Jesus Christ to die for you on the Cross.

There is the story of a small boy who was consistently late coming home from school. His parents warned him one day that he must be home on time that afternoon, but nevertheless he arrived later than ever. His mother met him at the door and said nothing.

At dinner that night, the boy looked at his plate. There was a slice of bread and a glass of water.

He looked at his father’s full plate (fried chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy and corn) and then the boy looked at his father, but his father remained silent. The boy was crushed.

The father waited for the full impact to sink in, then quietly took the boy’s plate and placed it in front of himself. He took his own plate, put it in front of the boy, and smiled at his son. When that boy grew to be a man, he said, “*All my life I’ve known what God is like by what my father did that night.*”

Rom 5:6 For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

Rom 5:7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die.

Rom 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.