

A WORD ON WORSHIP

REVIEW OF MESSAGE FROM JUNE 15, 2014

BY PASTOR ANDREW KIKKERT, SUNRISE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Hear Sunday Sermons at www.SunriseTC.org

Psalm 78:2-4

"I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings of old, which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us. We will not conceal them from their children, but tell to the generation to come, the praises of the Lord and His strength and His wondrous works that He has done."

The role of mom is pretty well recognized by everyone (including the secular world) as vital to the family, but for some reason fathers have been relegated to the position of second class citizen, especially in our day with the active feminist movement. A well-known feminist leader has gone so far as to say, "Fathers are a biological necessity, but a psychological absurdity."

From the standpoint of God's word and the evidence of research that has been done recently, such a statement is an absurdity. Dads have a vital role in bringing strength and stability to the home. Actually, both mom and dad bring ingredients into the home that are crucial to the spiritual and emotional stability of the home. Together they bring a blend of femininity and masculinity which in many ways reveal the image of God. These two influences together, especially when they are the product of godly parentage, are vital forces in shaping spiritually and psychologically healthy children.

In Psalm 78, we have the words of Asaph, a contemporary of David, who needs to be heard because he is speaking an important word from God to God's people. It is a message that is absolutely essential to the preservation of society and the purpose of God's people in society. When we fail to communicate God's truth to our children, we are guilty of hiding from them the most important information in the world. We are like someone who knows where there is water, but refuses to reveal it to someone who is dying of thirst. The great mission of the psalmist (as it should be with all believers and parents) is to unveil the truth of God. Here the truth that the psalmist has in view is that which is seen in the history of God's dealings with the nation, but the goal is for God's truth to be communicated effectively from generation to generation.

The psalmist is aware of the ever-present problem parents have of communicating the truth of God to the next generation. By our own indifference to the things of God, by our preoccupation with the pressures of life, by our materialism, by our failure to get real in our walk with the Lord, we become guilty of concealing God's truth because we fail to tell to the generation to come, the truth of God's Word. The psalmist teaches that this is one of the greatest missions of God's people. Indeed, we have in this one of the great commands of the Bible - the command for parents to teach their children and bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.



Sunrise Community Church
Come acknowledge the Lord in our midst
EVERY SUNDAY BEGINNING AT 8:45 A.M.

JUNE 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	1	2	3	4	5

The Hymns We Sing

COURTESY OF THE CYBER HYMNAL™
<http://www.hymntime.com/>

Dear Lord and Father of Mankind

<http://www.hymntime.com/tch/htm/d/e/a/dearlord.htm>

<http://www.hymntime.com/tch/mid/r/e/p/repton.mid>

Repton, Charles H. H. Parry, 1888

http://www.hymntime.com/tch/mid/r/e/s/rest_maker.mid

Music: Rest (Maker), Frederick C. Maker, 1887

"A great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper." 1 Kings 19:11-12

Words: John G. Whittier, in the Atlantic Monthly, April 1872. These words are from a long narrative poem, *The Brewing of Soma*. It describes Vedic priests going into the forest and drinking themselves into a stupor with a concoction called "soma." They try to have a religious experience and contact the spirit world. It is after setting that scene that Whittier draws his lesson: "Dear Lord, and Father of mankind, forgive our foolish ways..." This hymn is as relevant today as when it was written. In a modern context, it speaks to the drug culture, and those looking for an "experience" to prove the reality of God. The hymn was sung in the 2007 movie *Atonement*, which won an Academy Award for best score.

Music: Repton, Charles Hubert Hastings Parry (1848-1918) 1888

Music, Alternate: Rest, Frederick C. Maker, 1887

1. Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
Forgive our foolish ways;
Reclothe us in our rightful mind,
In purer lives Thy service find,
In deeper reverence, praise.
2. In simple trust like theirs who heard,
Beside the Syrian sea,
The gracious calling of the Lord,
Let us, like them, without a word,
Rise up and follow Thee.

3. O Sabbath rest by Galilee,
O calm of hills above,
Where Jesus knelt to share with Thee
The silence of eternity,
Interpreted by love!

4. With that deep hush subduing all
Our words and works that drown

The tender whisper of Thy call,
As noiseless let Thy blessing fall
As fell Thy manna down.

5. Drop Thy still dews of quietness,
Till all our strivings cease;
Take from our souls the strain and stress,
And let our ordered lives confess
The beauty of Thy peace.

6. Breathe through the heats of our desire
Thy coolness and Thy balm;
Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
Speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still, small voice of calm.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT SUNRISE

June 2014

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|---------|-----------|---|
| June 15 | 8:45 a.m. | Father's Day
<i>Boaz: A Mighty Man of God</i>
No Second Hour- Celebrate Father's Day |
| June 17 | 7:00 p.m. | Bible Study in Colossians |
| June 20 | 7:00 p.m. | Game Night |
| June 22 | 8:45 a.m. | New Series In 1st John
<i>The Tests of True Christianity</i>
10:45 a.m. Sunday School |
| June 24 | 7:00 p.m. | Bible Study in Colossians |
| June 27 | 6:30 p.m. | Friday Night Fellowship |



ISIS may expel Iraq's Christians for good

BY SARAH ALBERS • JUNE 13, 2014, 6:00 AM • [HTTP://WWW.THEAMERICANCONSERVATIVE.COM/](http://WWW.THEAMERICANCONSERVATIVE.COM/)

The Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, ISIS, has recently overtaken the major Iraqi city of Mosul, causing an exodus of more than 500,000 that took some of Iraq's last remaining Christians with it. The city itself, mentioned in the Bible as Nineveh, has harbored Christianity since the very dawn of its tradition and was one of the last havens for Iraqi Christian communities.

Despite these deep roots, past U.S. policy has ignored the vulnerable position of Christians in the Middle East. Andrew Doran wrote a strikingly prescient piece for TAC almost exactly one year ago, saying:

Democracy in the Middle East is proving less tolerant than the regimes it has succeeded. Unless swift action is taken, these democracies will evolve into bastions of intolerance and violence beyond our comprehension. These democracies will not march ineluctably toward liberty and pluralism, as some naïve optimists continue to forecast despite the evidence, but will end in the ordered barbarism of Saudi Arabia, where punishments include beheading and crucifixion.

As it so happens, ISIS is the jihadist organization renounced by al-Qaeda for its brutality. Maliki's abusive government, propped up by \$20 billion in American aid, allowed Mosul to be claimed with alarming ease. One CNN article reports that "police and soldiers ran from their posts rather than put up a fight, abandoning their weapons as they went. The militants took their place in the city's boulevards and buildings." Marc Lynch of the *Washington Post* argues that the Iraqi military isn't resisting is because Maliki has lost its loyalty.

The most important answers lie inside Iraqi politics. Maliki lost Sunni Iraq through his sectarian and authoritarian policies. His repeated refusal over long years to strike an urgently needed political accord with the Sunni minority, his construction of corrupt, ineffective and sectarian state institutions, and his heavy-handed military repression in those areas are the key factors in the long-developing disintegration of Iraq.

If ISIS succeeds, the regnant regime will be the "ordered barbarism" Doran foretold. In the hierarchy of a new caliphate, there will be no room for diversity or religious tolerance; there will no longer be any room for Christianity. According to a *World* magazine report, most of the Christians, so long a presence in Mosul, have already been driven out:

"Ninety-nine percent of the Christians have left Mosul," pastor Haitham Jazrawi said June 13 following the takeover of Iraq's second largest city – and its ancient Christian homeland – by al-Qaeda-linked jihadist militants.

Catholic Archbishop Amil Shamaaoun Nona is reported to have said that the decline has been occurring since the U.S.-led campaign began. "In 2003 there were still 35,000 faithful living in Mosul," Nona said. "Three thousand were still there in early 2014. Now probably not one is left here, and that is tragic." According to Nina Shea of the Hudson Institute, once the Christians are gone, they may not be coming back:

When the army does eventually succeed in reversing jihadi control in Mosul, it may be too late for the Christians. Once Middle Eastern Christians flee to the West, they don't return.