

FATHER'S DAY 2021

INDIVIDUAL MESSAGE: FATHER'S DAY

TEXT: **Genesis 5:21-27; Hebrews 11:5; Jude 1:14-15 ESV**

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY 2021

The National Holiday

Grace Golden Clayton West Virginia miners

The first known Father's Day service occurred in **Fairmont, West Virginia, on July 5, 1908, after hundreds of men died in the worst mining accident in U.S. history.**

Grace Golden Clayton, the daughter of a dedicated minister, proposed a service to honor all fathers, especially those who had died.

However, the observance did not become an annual event, and it was not promoted; very few people outside of the local area knew about it.

Meanwhile, across the entire country, another woman was inspired to honor fathers ...

Sonora Smart Dodd – 1905 Spokane Washington for her father Jarvis – a single father

In 1909, Sonora Smart Dodd of Spokane, Washington, was inspired by Anna Jarvis and the idea of Mother's Day.

Her father, William Jackson Smart, a farmer and Civil War veteran, was also a single parent who raised Sonora and her five brothers by himself, after his wife Ellen died giving birth to their youngest child in 1898. While attending a Mother's Day church service in 1909, Sonora, then 27 years old, came up with the idea.

Within a few months, Sonora had convinced the **Spokane Ministerial Association and the YMCA to set aside a Sunday in June to celebrate fathers.** She proposed June 5, her father's birthday, but the ministers chose the third Sunday in June so that they would have more time after Mother's Day (the second Sunday in May) to prepare their sermons.

Thus, on June 19, 1910, the first Father's Day events commenced:

Sonora delivered presents to handicapped fathers, boys from the YMCA decorated their lapels with fresh-cut roses (red for living fathers, white for the deceased), and the city's ministers devoted their homilies to fatherhood.

Becoming a National Holiday

The widely publicized events in Spokane struck a chord that reached all the way to Washington, D.C., and Sonora's celebration put the idea on the path to becoming a national holiday. However, the holiday did not catch on right away, perhaps due to the perceived parallels with Mother's Day.

- In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson and his family personally observed the day.
- Eight years later, President Calvin Coolidge signed a resolution in favor of Father's Day "to establish more intimate relations between fathers and their children and to impress upon fathers the full measure of their obligations."

- In 1966, President Lyndon Johnson signed an executive order that the holiday be celebrated on the third Sunday in June.
- Under President Richard Nixon, in 1972, Congress passed an act officially making Father’s Day a national holiday. (Six years later, Sonora died at age 96.)

It has been said that on Mother’s Day the message is always on appreciating the role and the work of the mother and giving thanks.

Yet on father’s day the message is always – Straighten Up!

“The nature of impending fatherhood is that you are doing something that you’re unqualified to do, and then you become qualified while doing it.” –John Green

“One of the greatest things a father can do for his children is to love their mother.” –Howard W. Hunter

There are holidays that have been pushed by Hallmark to make a dollar or two. Mother’s Day and Father’s Day are not among those.

It is right to honor our mothers and fathers.

The blessing is that our days may be long upon the earth.

Today I want to look briefly at one father in the Scriptures. His name is known, though there only a few verses about him.

You may remember that Methuselah is known to have been the oldest individual to ever live. 969 years. So I can only think that he must have honored his father.

We know that he passed away in the year of the flood, and that his grandson is Noah.

Today I am speaking about Noah’s great grandfather and Methuselah’s father.

Enoch

Genesis 5:21-27

²¹ When Enoch had lived 65 years, he became the father of Methuselah. ²² After he became the father of Methuselah, Enoch walked faithfully with God 300 years and had other sons and daughters. ²³ Altogether, Enoch lived a total of 365 years. ²⁴ Enoch walked faithfully with God; then he was no more, because God took him away. ²⁵ When Methuselah had lived 187 years, he became the father of Lamech. ²⁶ After he became the father of Lamech, Methuselah lived 782 years and had other sons and daughters. ²⁷ Altogether, Methuselah lived a total of 969 years, and then he died.

Hebrews 11:5

By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

Jude 1:14-15 ESV

It was also about these that Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of his holy ones, to execute judgment on all and to convict all the ungodly of all their deeds of ungodliness that they have committed in such an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things that ungodly sinners have spoken against him."

He walked faithfully with God. - Genesis 5:21-27

- Your children will be blessed.
- Blessed to the thousandth generation.
- Children are blessed when their parents walk faithfully with the Lord and especially when their father's walk as godly men.

He pleased God. - Hebrews 11:5

- And his son lived the longest of anyone ever to live.
- God was watching.... God is always looking for faithful people.
- God will find you.
 - Prodigal Son Parable The father was watching for the son to return and ran to him when he saw him from a great distance.
 - Trip to NY with family. Brandon missed the train to Brooklyn. We were in terror. A thirteen year old boy in NY.
 - He decided to stay where he was believing that we would be looking for him and if he wandered it would be worse.
 - We got off the train and went back and found him. Thank God! He did not wander. This Father went looking for him
 - The Father is looking for you as well.
 - We see it with Job, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, and others.
 - God is looking for faithful people and is pleased with them.

He proclaimed the glory of God. - Jude 1:14

- Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of his holy ones, ...
- His son, grandson and great grandson lived godly lives and Noah himself found grace in the eyes of the Lord

He proclaimed judgement on the ungodly for their deeds and for their words. - Jude 1:14

- To execute judgment on all and to convict all the ungodly of all their deeds of ungodliness that they have committed in such an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things that ungodly sinners have spoken against him.
- Speculation that he will be one of two witnesses' in the time of Tribulation and also that he became a messenger of judgement against the fallen angels who had united with the daughters of men. The Book of Enoch. In either course, he is seen as an individual who proclaims the truth of God's holiness and the righteous judgement upon those who stand against God.

He was taken to walk with God.

- He, along with Elijah are the only two individuals to not have died. They are assumed to be the two witnesses in the Book of Revelation.
- His life was so close to God that he was taken up to walk with God.
- His son was aware of his father's close walk with God.

His son was blessed on his account.

“You don’t raise heroes, you raise sons. And if you treat them like sons, they’ll turn out to be heroes, even if it’s just in your own eyes.” –Walter M. Schirra, Sr.

- Methuselah – 2 meanings
 - Man of the dart – man of the javelin.
 - When he is dead, it shall be sent (“it,” meaning the deluge).
 - Our children are arrows in our quiver.
- Longest life -969 years old
 - Knew Adam.
 - Knew his grandson – Noah.
 - Knew his great grandsons – Ham Shem and Japheth.
 - Died the year of the flood.
- Lineage of Christ – Luke 3:37

Challenge

Fathers

- Be faithful.
- Strive to Please the Lord.
- Proclaim Glory to God.
- Understand God’s judgement on the wicked.
- Walk with God - Be sure to be in heaven.
- Be the Blessing to your children.

Welcome - Ron and Sandy Beutel - one-time members of Esperance.

They have brought a guest today – Katherine Mosher, missionary to Indonesia and working with Mission Aviation fellowship. We have supported the Whitings for many years and welcome you here Katherine.

Nourishing network

Giving

Happy Birthday to Connie trail this week.

Have a blessed Father’s Day!