

RIGHTEOUS FATHERS

by Bishop Cecil Reid



Why is it so important that fathers hold a high standard of righteousness? What are the benefits of righteous living? Check this out. There is something that God will do for righteous fathers that may stagger one's imagination. One case and point is Barabbas, a robber who had committed murder in an insurrection

before the trial of Jesus (*Mk. 15:7; Luke 23:19*). His crimes had made him liable to both Roman and Jewish Law. Some Bible scholars suggest that the three crosses indicated that Barabbas and the other two malefactors were partners together in crime. Barabbas was the leader, and Jesus took his place. The law of the land required that one prisoner be released at the Passover. Why was Barabbas released when there were two other criminals? Why weren't the names of the other two ever mentioned?

May I suggest two points? 1. **There can never be two leaders.** If indeed Barabbas was the point man in a double crime, then there would be a double focus in leadership at Calvary - good and evil. Such focus could have advanced the kingdom of darkness as having equal champions in death. The place where men's sins would be eternally decided, covered by the blood of the Lamb. But Jesus Christ could and would never be left open for debate. 2. **In retrospect of Barabbas's name, the second point highlights the rewards of righteousness.** Barabbas's name carried two meanings, both of which suggest strongly a Godly father. The first of its meanings is "*Son of the father*". In the first century and even now, great esteemed rabbis are called "Father". This rabbinical office demands righteousness and commitment. The second meaning is "*abba*", which is a name also used as a title to address a righteous God in prayer. "Son of the father" and "abba" both give birth to the fact that Barabbas had a righteous father who believed God, even though his son lost tract of righteousness, chose a life of crime, and was caught and condemned for it. The righteous life of a father was rewarded with grace extended to an undeserving child. **Jesus took his place on the cross so that he might be free, rewarding a righteous father for his commitment.** We

also can reclaim our children through righteous living! *“Though hand join in hand (join forces), the wicked shall not be unpunished: but **the seed of the righteous shall be delivered**”* (Prov.11:21).

Fathers you may fall short in your efforts to develop your child or children in the secular arena of life. But a righteous man who honors God with his life will never fall short. Why? God always honors righteousness, for it is His nature. Therefore, a father living a righteous and consecrated life can indeed draw off the abundant resources of God for their families. He can insure future blessings for him and his children. *“They shall not labor in vain, nor bring forth for trouble; for they are the seed of the blessed of the Lord, and their offspring with them”* (Isaiah 65:23).

This Father’s Day, may I challenge every father in the leadership role of their family to commit your life to Jesus Christ, develop godly attributes of compassion, and give favor to others, knowing that your commitment will have "cash value" for your children. For as the scripture says "His seed is blessed" (Psa.37:25, 26).

Happy Father’s Day!

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