

Ordinary time 12A - Fathers' Day - 2020

"Wait until you see sister!"

A bald man and his wife one night decided to go out to dinner and hired a babysitter to take care of their kids. While they were gone, the babysitter got interested in TV and wasn't watching the kids very carefully. The couple's little boy got his father's electric shaver and shaved a big landing strip right down the middle of his head.

When Dad, got home, he was furious. He said, "Son! I told you never to play with my shaver. Now you are going to get a spanking that you will never forget!" He was just about to give the spanking when the boy looked up at him and said, "Wait until you see sister!"

The Mom and Dad were both horrified. They went into the next room and there was their little four-year-old daughter with the hair shaved off of her head. She looked like a skinned rabbit. By this time Dad was furious. He grabbed his son and said, "Now you're really going to get it."

Just as Dad was about to begin administering discipline, his son looked up at him with tears in his eyes and said, "**But Daddy! WE WERE JUST TRYING TO LOOK LIKE YOU!**" [*Parables, Etc.* (Saratoga Press, P.O. Box 8, Platteville, CO, 80651; 970-785-2990), October 2001.] And that's key to whole parenting thing, isn't it? Many of our kids just want to look like us.

Who's In Charge Here?

A colleague shared about a church he served in Tennessee where an eccentric and flamboyant elder impressed him with his intense commitment to the faith. He did not have a pietistic bone in his body, but his devotion was nonetheless clear and articulate. One evening at a dinner party in his home we were animatedly discussing some theological idea. In the midst of the give and take his teenage daughter, probably frustrated with all of the high-blown discussion of religion, asked, "Dad, you talk about religion all the time. Why are you so religious anyway?" This query brought a loud hush to the dining table.

His dad paused dramatically, pushed his chair back from the table, stood and responded, "Every morning before you are awake, I rise and walk into the

living room. I lift my arms and ask, 'Who's in charge here?' The answer always comes back: 'Not you!' That's why I am religious. Because I am not in charge!"

Religious life begins with the realization that we are not in charge, and from there we can proceed to align ourselves to the One who is in charge. Jesus is declaring to the disciples: Go into the world knowing who is in charge and what it will mean to act upon that knowledge!

Jesus is clear, however, that to act on that knowledge is not always easy.

We are not in this alone:

There is a story about some people sitting in a boat. One of them began to bore a hole beneath the section of the ship where he was sitting.

His friends asked, "What are you doing there?"

He said to them, "Of what concern is it to you? am I not boring a hole in my section of the ship?"

They replied, "But the water is coming in and sinking the ship under us!!!"

We have gotten so wrapped up in the "ME" generation in the "ME" lifestyle, that we forget our actions affect those around us.

"If Daddy Will Hold Me":

A little girl had somehow received a bad cut in the soft flesh of her eyelid. The doctor knew that some stitches were needed, but he also knew that because of the location of the cut, he should not use an anesthetic. He talked with the little girl and he told her what he must do... and asked her if she thought she could stand the touch of the needle without jumping. She thought for a moment, and then said simply, "I think I can if Daddy will hold me while you do it." So, the father took his little girl in his lap, steadied her head against his shoulder, and held her tightly in his arms. The surgeon then quickly did his work... and sewed up the cut in her eyelid... and the little girl did not flinch. She just held on tight to her Father.

That's a parable for us in our spiritual lives and a graphic reminder that whatever we have to face, we can hold on tight to our Father... and He will see us through. There's a word for that... it's called TRUST or FAITH. It's surely what Jesus had in mind when he said, "Unless you become like a little child, you cannot enter the kingdom of God." (James W. Moore, *When Our Children Teach Us*)