



THE CHURCH AT ELLERSLIE
SUNDAY SERMON NOTES

ERIC LUDY

SUNDAY, JUNE 18, 2017

THE LOWERCASE f



A study in the profound role of an earthly father

Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one's youth. Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them; they shall not be ashamed, but shall speak with their enemies in the gate.

Psalm 127:4-5

Introducing my arrows

1. Hudson Jack - my epic inspiration
2. Harper Grace - my sweet consolation
3. Kipling "Dubber" Joel Anthony - my uproarious laughter
4. Avonlea Rose - my passion for Truth
5. Lily Michlene - my song in the night
6. Rees William - my inexplicable contentment

The Lowercase "f"

And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven.

Matthew 23:9

There is Only One Capital "F" Father

- There is only one Capital "P" Pastor
- There is only one Capital "B" Bridegroom
- There is only one Capital "H" Husband

The Difference Between Lowercase “f” and Capital “F” Fatherhood

Prepping the Stage for the Speaker

The Proposal

“Leslie, will you allow me to be a placeholder - a lowercase “b” bridegroom until your True Bridegroom returns?”

The Placeholder

Introducing “*The First*” - the one that readies the children for “*The Second*”

Wherefore the law “*the First*” was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ “*the Second*” . . .

Galatians 3:24
(italicized words added)

The Lowercase “f” father is a First

The Amazing Pattern for the First

You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, “I am not the Christ,” but, “I have been sent before Him.” He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled. He must increase, but I must decrease. He who comes from above is above all; he who is of the earth is earthly and speaks of the earth. He who comes from heaven is above all.

John 3:28-31

The First Cannot Save the Children

But he still has a job to do!

- he must lay a clear picture of the law, the standard
- he must supply the vision of what God will, in fact, do
- he must be a schoolmaster that brings the children unto Christ

The Role of the Lowercase “f” father

To father these children until the Capital “F” arrives

What Does it Mean to *father*?

Simply put: To supply authoritative order, protection, provision, discipline, and direction to the lives of children

But it is Far More than That

Lowercase “f” fatherhood was built to reveal something much bigger

It's meant to showcase the Revelation of the Kingdom of God and His Magnificent Glory

- It's meant to hold a place, to supply a window into something much greater
- It's meant to showcase, though imperfectly, the perfect Fatherhood of Heaven
- It's meant to labor towards the hand-off unto the Capital “F” when He arrives
- And it's meant to decrease in font-size when the Capital “F” arrives

The Blueprint for the Lowercase “f”

the sacred labor of the first

Dear Lowercase father,

- Build a house according to the Pattern Shown
- Establish a government upon the Pattern Shown
- Be a benevolent king
- Live in an understanding way with a God-fearing priesthood
- Labor to make sure each tribe under your rule is both fit for battle and understands ranks and battle formation

- Labor to make sure that each tribe under your rule is actively cultivating and developing its unique real-estate and learning work and trade
- Labor to make sure that each tribe is readied with daily oil in their lamp so that when the Bridegroom comes into their life they will be ready to welcome Him
- And when the True House comes, you, the first house, will be seen as merely a shadow
- When the True King arrives, you, the first king, will be realized as merely a tutor
- When the True Lord of Hosts steps onto the scene, you, the previous military general, will step aside and fall into rank
- When the True Christ arrives, then all the real-estate in all your land will be offered up; all its talents, all its abilities will be laid at His feet - for Him to use as He deems fit

Affectionately,

The Holy Spirit, *The Builder of the Best Lowercase fathers*

The Two Modern Extremes

the “Big Daddy Brigade” and the “Make-Him-Earthly Movement”

Danger #1 - The Big Daddy Brigade

- If a father doesn’t labor towards the eventual passing off unto the Capital “F” then he assumes that Capital position, whether wittingly or unwittingly

Danger #2 - The Make-Him-Earthly Movement

- If a believer doesn’t allow the Capital “F” Father to assume a role greater than that of their earthly lower case “f” father then they assume a Capital “F” position in their life, whether wittingly or unwittingly

The Kingdom father

The man laboring to diligently prepare his children for the loving daily care and total-life-governance of the Capital “F” Father

- He awaits the arrival of Jesus Christ at the Jordan River in the life of his children

- And then he announces to them, “Behold, this is the Capital version, of which I have merely been a lowercase placeholder. He it is you must learn to follow. He it is that must rule your life. I am here to make sure that you rest securely in His care and rule, and then I must decrease, in order that He will increase in your life.”

The Jordan River

The painful place where the hand-off is made

Yarden - Yar·dān'

The coming down, the humble descent

And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

Matthew 3:17

At the Jordan

The First Must Yield to the Second

- Moses hands the children off to Joshua
- Elijah hands the mantle off to Elisha
- John the Baptist hands the bride off to the Bridegroom

And at the Arrival of the Government of Jesus in our Kid's Lives

We, as earthly fathers, also make the hand-off

We May Be Lowercase “f” fathers

nonetheless, we do have an extraordinary role to play

Remember the Invisible Hand?

Think Capital “F” Father

Remember the Work Glove?

Think lowercase “f” father

The Law of the Invisible Hand

the Invisible Hand (or the Capital “F” Father) is revealed only through a work glove



No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him (revealed God to us; has made Him known; has explained Him).

John 1:18

He that hath seen me hath seen the Father . . .

John 14:9

Jesus Became a Work Glove

And He functioned perfectly, the way a work glove ought to function

Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, **The Son can do nothing of himself**, but what he sees the Father do: **for whatsoever things He does, these also does the Son likewise.**

John 5:19

For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, **but the will of Him that sent me.**

John 6:38

Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is **not mine, but His** that sent me.

John 7:16

. . . **I do nothing of myself**, but as my Father has taught me, I speak these things.

John 8:28

For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, **He gave me a commandment**, what I should say, and what I should speak.

John 12:49

The words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but **the Father that dwells in me, he does the works.**

John 14:10

Do you want to be a Godly Father?

- Then submit to the Capital “F” Father as if you were a work glove. And show this world that amazing behavior that is, otherwise, invisible.
- When the Hand points, you point. When the Hand grips, you grip. When the Hand waves, you wave. Be in perfect harmony with the movements of the Hand.
- And in so doing, though you are merely a lowercase “f” father, you will reveal the Capital “F” Father in and through your life.