

20260906 O may all who come behind us find us faithful – Dr John Tan

願所有跟隨我們腳蹤而來的人看見我們忠心到底

Well, it has fallen on my shoulders to take us through a consideration of what a goodly and godly father should be, and I cannot say that this is something that I am all that qualified for. I have never had a human father figure in my life. Even after I had become a Christian, on the occasions that I felt that the Lord was speaking to me, I would hear Him say 'child' rather than call me by my name.

嗯，接下來要由我來和大家一起思考，一位良善又敬虔的父親應該是怎樣的。我不能說自己對這個課題有多大的資格，因為在我的生命中，我從來沒有一位人世間的父親可以作為榜樣。即使在我成為基督徒之後，當我感到主在對我說話的時候，祂有時會稱我為「孩子」，而不是直接叫我的名字。

When I was about 18, I complained to the Lord that instead of referring to me as 'child' that perhaps He could call me by my name instead. I still remember the spot where I was in, in a room in Glasgow, Scotland, when I felt the Lord say that the reason He called me child was because He is my father, as I have never had a father figure in my life. That was a time of change for me! (Incidentally, on the day that I started preparing for this message in earnest, my reading for that day was from 2 Corinthians 6 where verse 18 said: I will be a Father to you, and you will be sons and daughters to Me, says the Lord Almighty).

當我大約十八歲的時候，我曾向主抱怨，說祂既然一直稱我為「孩子」，也許可以改叫我的名字。直到今天，我仍然記得當時的情景，我身處蘇格蘭格拉斯哥的一個房間裡，我感到主對我說，祂之所以稱我為「孩子」，是因為祂是我的父親，而我在生命中從來沒有一位父親可以作為榜樣。那是一個使我生命改變的時刻！順帶一提，就在我開始認真預備這篇信息的那一天，我當天所讀的經文正好是哥林多後書第六章，其中第十八節說：「我要作你們的父；你們要作我的兒子和女兒。這是全能的主說的。」

Given that I have never really had a father figure, how then should I talk about being a father? Well, I guess a lot of this comes from observing and experimenting – observing others (looking at the good, the bad and the ugly sides of fatherhood) and experimenting with my own form of fatherhood.

既然我從來沒有真正擁有過一位父親作為榜樣，那麼我又該如何來談論作父親呢？我想，其中很多都是來自觀察和嘗試——觀察別人，看看父親角色中美好的、糟糕的，以及不堪的一面；同時也在自己作父親的過程中，不斷嘗試和摸索出屬於自己的方式。

I would therefore like to look at the matter of fatherhood from three perspectives and these are as follows: 因此，我想從三個角度來探討父親這個課題，分別是：

- How the world defines fatherhood success
- 世界如何定義成功的父親
- How Scripture defines fatherhood success
- 聖經如何定義成功的父親
- Faithful fatherhood
- 忠心的父親

How does the world define fatherhood success?

世界如何定義成功的父親

Many people in the world define the success of a father by how much money that father might have and thus be able to leave for his children. As a result of this belief, we have many fathers today whose main pursuit in life is for the bigger house, for a greater number of properties, for bigger and more expensive cars, and for all the trinkets and the ornaments of success and wealth.

世界上有許多人以一位父親擁有多少金錢，以及他能夠留給兒女多少財產，來衡量他是否成功。因此，抱持這種觀念的結果，就是今天有許多父親一生主要追求的是更大的房子、更多的房產、更大更昂貴的汽車，以及各種象徵成功和財富的裝飾與物質。

In the movie 'The Fiddler on the Roof' Tevye sings the song 'If I were a rich man'. The words go something like this, and here I must say that I have truncated the song, and if you listen to the whole song, you can see that one of the things that Tevye used to measure his rating as a father (or the level of his success as a father) would have been wealth.

在電影《屋頂上的提琴手》中，泰維唱了一首名為《如果我是個有錢人》的歌。歌詞大意是這樣，而我必須說明，我在這裡只引用了歌曲的一部分。如果你聽完整首歌，就會發現，泰維用來衡量自己作為父親是否成功的一個標準，就是財富。

Oh, Lord, you made many, many poor people
 哦 主啊 祢造了許許多多窮人
 I realize, of course, it's no shame to be poor
 我當然明白 貧窮並不是甚麼可恥的事
 But it's no great honor either
 但這也不是甚麼值得引以為榮的事
 So, what would have been so terrible if I had a small fortune?
 那麼 如果我擁有一點財富 又有甚麼不好呢
 If I were a rich man
 如果我是個有錢人
 Ya ba dibba dibba dibba dibba dibba dibba dum
 呀 巴 迪巴 迪巴 迪巴 迪巴 迪巴 碎
 All day long, I'd biddy biddy bum
 整天我都會哼著小調
 If I were a wealthy man
 如果我是個有錢人
 I wouldn't have to work hard
 我就不必辛苦工作
 Ya ba dibba dibba dibba dibba dibba dibba dum
 呀 巴 迪巴 迪巴 迪巴 迪巴 迪巴 碎

(At this point recall the parable written by Heinrich Boll in 1963)

這時請回想一下海因里希·伯爾於 1963 年所寫的那則寓言

- **The Encounter:** A well-dressed tourist finds a fisherman resting in his boat with a small, sufficient catch and asks why he is not heading back out to sea to catch more fish.

- 相遇：一位衣著講究的遊客看見一名漁夫正躺在船上休息，漁夫捕到的魚不多，但已經足夠。遊客便問他，為甚麼不再出海多捕一些魚。
- **The Business Pitch:** The tourist explains how the fisherman could work harder, earn more money, buy a fleet of boats, build a processing plant, and make millions.
- 商業計劃：遊客向漁夫解釋，他可以更加努力工作，賺取更多金錢，購買更多船隻，建立加工廠，最終賺取數百萬財富。
- **The Final Question:** When the fisherman asks what he would do after making millions, the tourist says he could retire, sleep late, and spend his evenings drinking wine and playing music.
- 最後的問題：當漁夫問，如果賺了數百萬之後可以做甚麼，遊客回答說，他可以退休，睡到自然醒，晚上悠閒地喝酒和彈奏音樂。
- **The Realization:** The fisherman points out that this is already the exact life he is living without the stress of 20 years of hard labor
- 領悟：漁夫指出，遊客所描述的退休生活，其實正是他現在所過的生活，只是不需要經歷二十年辛苦勞碌所帶來的壓力。

(returning to the song by Tevye – he says)
(回到泰維所唱的歌，他接著說：)

Lord, who made the lion and the lamb
主啊 是祢造了獅子和羔羊
You decreed I should be what I am
是祢命定了我成為今天的我
Would it spoil some vast eternal plan
難道會破壞甚麼偉大的永恆計劃嗎？
If I were a wealthy man?
如果我成為一個富翁

But the truth is that there have been many examples of people whose success as fathers have been actually spoiled and hindered by this wealth for they spend too much time chasing that wealth, then protecting it, until they discover, too late, that this wealth did not help them grow any closer to their earthly family or for that matter, to their heavenly father.

但事實上，有許多例子顯示，一些人作為父親的成功，反而因財富而受到破壞和阻礙。因為他們花了太多時間追逐財富，然後又花更多時間去守護財富，直到最後才發現，一切都已經太遲了，這些財富並沒有使他們與自己的家人更加親近，也沒有使他們與天上的父更加親近。

Such fathers are often absent because all they do is work to amass even more money, and they parent by proxy, using nannies and childminders, and think that as long as they provide for their kids financially that this would substitute for authentic attention and emotional validation. And often such children grow up thinking that they are entitled to everything and anything that they want.

這樣的父親往往缺席在家庭生活中，因為他們所做的就是不斷工作，累積更多的財富。他們把養育孩子的責任交給保姆和照顧者，以為只要在經濟上供應孩子，就可以取代真正的陪伴和對孩子情感上的肯定。而這樣的孩子長大後，往往會認為自己理所當然地應該得到任何自己想要的東西。

J. Paul Getty would be a prime example of a rich man who was a poor father. He put money above all else, so much so that when his grandson was kidnapped, he refused to pay the ransom the initial US\$17 million demanded.

保羅蓋蒂就是一個典型的例子——他是一個富有的人，卻是一位失敗的父親。他把金錢看得比一切都重要，以致當他的孫子遭到綁架時，他起初甚至拒絕支付綁匪所要求的 1,700 萬美元贖金。

The ransom was eventually reduced to US\$3 million. Getty who was worth more than US\$1.2 billion at that time would only pay US\$2.2 million as this was the maximum tax-deductible sum (i.e., to lower his overall tax rate) and he loaned the balance needed for the ransom to his own son at 4% interest rate. (Essentially, the reduced ransom was only 0.3% of Getty's total worth).

贖金最後降至 300 萬美元。當時蓋蒂的身家超過 12 億美元，但他只願意支付 220 萬美元，因為這是可以獲得稅務扣減的最高金額，也就是可以降低他整體稅負的最高額度。至於贖金其餘所需的款項，他則以 4% 的利率借給自己的兒子。換句話說，這筆降低後的贖金，只佔蓋蒂總財富的大約 0.3%。

He compelled his family to beg for his money, and he could make his family members fight for his attention and financial support. In fact, his sons struggled with addiction and were miserable people and his grandson would become a huge victim of his grandfather's love for money. Of course, one could argue that Getty is a case in the extreme.

他讓家人不得不向他苦苦哀求，希望得到他的金錢；他也可以讓家人為了得到他的關注和經濟上的支持而彼此爭鬥。事實上，他的兒子們都曾與成癮問題掙扎，生活得非常痛苦，而他的孫子更成了祖父對金錢的過度重視所帶來的重大受害者。當然，我們也可以說，蓋蒂的例子是比較極端的個案。

As an aside, in the US states it has been reported that children who have their fathers at home are 80% less likely to spend time in jail, 75% less likely to experience teen pregnancy and are half as likely to be expelled or suspended from school.

順帶一提，有報告指出，在美國，家中有父親陪伴成長的孩子，入獄的可能性低 80%，經歷青少年懷孕的可能性低 75%，而被學校開除或停學的可能性也只有原來的一半。

I think that we should often remind ourselves of the words of Epictetus a Greek philosopher, who said that 'wealth consists not in having great concessions, but in having few wants.' And of those few wants should be to want to relate to our children in a meaningful manner.

我想，我們應當常常提醒自己，希臘哲學家愛比克泰德曾說過：「**財富不在於擁有很多，而在於慾望很少。**」而在我們這些不多的渴望之中，其中一個應該是渴望與我們的兒女建立真實而有意義的關係。

Some define their success as a father by the honors that they have received – if I get this honor or that title or this recognition, people will look at me and see how wonderful I am as an icon of the family.

有些人以自己所獲得的榮譽來衡量作為父親是否成功——如果我得到這個榮譽、那個頭銜，或獲得某種認可，人們就會看著我，看見我是多麼出色，成為家庭中令人稱羨的代表人物。

But the problem with these is that we are attaching worth to something that is extrinsic. What these people are really doing is creating a false standard where worth is measured by public praise, where the focus is on work rather than being with the children, where real people connections are missed; this is because of the constant desire to be in the limelight.

但問題在於，我們把自己的價值建立在一些外在的事物上。這些人其實是在建立一個錯誤的標準，就是以公眾的讚賞來衡量自己的價值，把焦點放在工作和成就上，而不是花時間陪伴兒女，因而錯過了與人建立真正關係的機會；這一切都是因為他們不斷渴望成為眾人矚目的焦點。

Ultimately, substituting active fatherhood for wealth and titles hurt the children as money cannot replace a father's time with and genuine love for the children.

歸根究底，用財富和頭銜來取代父親應有的積極參與，最終只會傷害孩子，因為金錢無法取代父親花時間陪伴孩子，也無法取代父親對孩子真誠的愛。

Let's move on to the next perspective which is
接下來，讓我們進入下一個角度，也就是：

How Scripture defines fatherhood success

聖經如何定義成功的父親

I have made a list of some of the characteristics that the Bible says that a godly father should have, but will go through this list rather quickly and only concentrate on just a few:

我整理了一些聖經所教導，一位敬虔的父親應當具備的特質。不過，我會很快地瀏覽這份清單，只特別著重其中幾項來分享：

- A godly father is one who is able to teach God's word to his children (Deuteronomy 11:19 – if you read the whole chapter, you will see that this chapter is about loving the Lord and obeying Him. And then somewhere near the middle of the chapter, we are reminded to teach God's laws to our children, talking to them when you are sitting in the house, when you are walking by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise). Of course, in order to be able to teach them to our children, we must learn these precepts and values first.
- 敬虔的父親應當能夠教導兒女神的話語（申命記 11:19）。如果你閱讀整章經文，就會發現這一章主要講到要愛主並遵行祂的命令。然後，在這一章的中段，神提醒我們要將祂的律法教導兒女，無論我們坐在家裡、行在路上、躺下或起來，都要與他們談論神的話。當然，要能夠把這些教導傳給兒女，我們自己首先必須學習並明白這些教訓和價值觀。
- A godly father prays for, and with his family – a very clear example of this in in Job 1:5 where Job would rise early and offer burnt offerings for each of his children. You will also find other verses

like 2 Sam 7:27 – 29, Genesis 25:21 where Isaac prayed for his wife Rebekah because she was barren)

- 敬虔的父親會為家人禱告，也會與家人一同禱告——約伯記 1:5 就是一個非常清楚的例子。約伯常常清早起來，為他的每一個兒女獻上燔祭。你也可以從其他經文中看到類似的榜樣，例如撒母耳記下 7:27–29，以及創世記 25:21，當時利百加不能生育，以撒便為他的妻子利百加禱告。
- A godly father is one who can discipline with love (Proverbs 3:11 – 12; Ephesians 6:4)
- 敬虔的父親懂得以愛心管教兒女（箴言 3:11–12；以弗所書 6:4）
- A godly father is one who can provide for the family (Proverbs 13:22, Matthew 7:9 – 11)
- 敬虔的父親會供應家人的需要（箴言 13:22；馬太福音 7:9–11）
- A godly father is one who reflects God's love and therefore is able to lead by example (Proverbs 20:7, 22:6).
- 敬虔的父親會活出神的愛，因此能夠以身作則，帶領兒女走在正確的道路上（箴言 20:7；22:6）
- A godly father is one who is able to give loving instructions (Proverbs 4:1 – 4, Ephesians 6:4)
- 敬虔的父親能夠以愛心給予兒女教導和指引（箴言 4:1–4；以弗所書 6:4）
- A godly father is one who is an encourager, a protector and a mentor
- 敬虔的父親是一位鼓勵者、保護者和良師
- A godly father is one who loves the mother. These specific words are not found in the Bible but Ephesians 5:25, Colossians 3:19, 1 Peter 3:7 do suggest that husbandly love towards the spouse allows a father to create a stable, secure and faithful environment where children are raised up positively
- 敬虔的父親會愛孩子的母親，也就是自己的妻子。雖然聖經中沒有直接使用這樣的說法，但以弗所書 5:25、歌羅西書 3:19 和彼得前書 3:7 都指出，丈夫對妻子的愛能幫助建立一個穩定、安全和忠誠的家庭環境，使兒女能夠在正面的環境中健康地成長。

The list is a lot longer than this, but I have just highlighted a few of them as time does not permit a full discourse of all the characteristics of a goodly/godly father. This leads us to the final section of my sharing this morning, which is the crux of the message.

這份清單其實還可以列得更長，但由於時間有限，我只特別提出其中幾項，無法逐一詳細討論一位良善、敬虔的父親所應具備的所有特質。這就帶領我們來到今天早上分享的最後一個部分，也是這篇信息的核心。

Faithful fatherhood

忠心的父親

I have three kids of my own – wonderful children that my wife and I are tremendously proud of and blessed by. And yes, as children they used to fight over who would do the dishes after meals, except that their 'fight' would take on a different tone. They would 'fight' to do the dishes for the other person because 'well, you did it last night'. Even now despite the fact that they are all married and have their own families, they can still spend hours talking with each other and they love each other very much.

我自己有三個孩子——都是非常棒的孩子，我和妻子都為他們感到無比驕傲，也深深感恩，因為他們是神給我們的祝福。是的，當他們還小的時候，也曾經為了誰要在飯後洗碗而「爭吵」，不過他們的「爭吵」方式有點不一樣。他們會搶著替對方洗碗，因為會說：「你昨晚已經洗過了。」即使現在他們都已經結婚，也各自有了自己的家庭，他們仍然可以花好幾個小時彼此聊天，而且彼此非常相愛。

One of the things that we used to do with the children when they were very young was that we would take them out, one at a time, for a night drive. So, Monday would be the night for the son, Wednesday would be for the first daughter and so on. Now that the first two have children of their own, this is what they say that they want to do.

當孩子們還很小的時候，我們曾經做過一件事，就是輪流一次只帶一個孩子出去，在晚上開車兜風例如，星期一晚上是帶兒子的時間，星期三晚上則是帶大女兒的時間，依此類推。如今，前兩個孩子都已經有了自己的孩子，而這正是他們說自己也想要做的事。

During these drives I would spend time with them, listen to them, and let them do the talking. That was something that they found just so important and precious. And of course, my dear wife made this possible for she looked after the other two at home while I was out with the one child on his or her particular night. 在這些開車兜風的時間裡，我會陪伴他們，聆聽他們，讓他們自己多說一些。這對他們來說，是一段非常重要和寶貴的時光。當然，這一切也多虧了我親愛的妻子，因為當我帶著其中一個孩子出去度過屬於他或她的特別夜晚時，她就在家裡照顧另外兩個孩子。

For us as Christians, there is yet one more dimension to fatherhood. The first is that of being the natural, biological fathers to our children. The second is that of becoming spiritual fathers to the people that we have brought (or will bring) to the Lord. This second definition of fatherhood is something that we should talk about on another day.

對我們基督徒來說，父親的角色還有另一個層面。第一個層面，是成為自己孩子肉身上的父親，也就是他們的親生父親；第二個層面，是成為那些我們已經帶領，或將要帶領歸向主之人的屬靈父親。至於父親角色的這第二個定義，我想我們可以留待另一天再來討論。

It is an important form of fatherhood, but I mention this just to get us to begin to ponder over it. Many of my spiritual children are in Cambodia and again, my wife has made it possible for me to engage in this ministry as for years she shouldered the responsibilities of caring for the family when I was away in Cambodia.

這也是一種非常重要的父親角色，我在這裡提到它，只是希望大家開始思考這方面的意義。我的許多屬靈兒女都在柬埔寨，而我能夠投入這項事工，同樣要感謝我的妻子，因為多年來，當我前往柬埔寨服事時，她承擔了照顧家庭的責任，使我能夠專心投入這項事工。

I want to end this sharing about fatherhood by bringing your attention to the words of this song. The song is called 'Find us faithful' and the words of the second verse go like this:

我想用這首歌的歌詞來結束今天關於父親的分享。這首歌名為《願人看見我們忠心到底》，第二節的歌詞是這樣：

After all our hopes and dreams have come and gone
 當我們所有的盼望和夢想都已成為過去
 And our children sift through all we've left behind
 當我們的兒女細數我們所留下的一切
 May the clues that they discover and the memories they uncover
 願他們所發現的點滴線索和所尋回的回憶
 Become the light that leads them to the road we each must find
 成為引領他們找到人生道路的光

O may all who come behind us find us faithful
 願所有跟隨我們腳蹤而來的人看見我們忠心到底
 May the fire of our devotion light their way
 願我們忠誠的火焰照亮他們前行的道路
 And may the footprints that we leave
 願我們所留下的腳印
 Lead them to believe
 引領他們相信
 And the lives we live inspire them to obey
 願我們所活出的生命激勵他們順服主的旨意
 O may all who come behind us find us faithful
 願所有跟隨我們腳蹤而來的人看見我們忠心到底

Our prayer, and by 'our' I mean my wife and I, is that when our children sift through the memories and think of us (now or in the future), is that they would find us faithful and that the things that we have done for them as father and mother (and yes, I know that this is a fathers' day message) will lead them and inspire them to love, obey and serve the Lord all the more. Indeed, may all who come behind us find us faithful.

我們的禱告，這裡所說的「我們」，是指我和我的妻子是盼望當我們的孩子回顧與我們有關的回憶，無論是現在或將來，思想我們的時候，他們能夠看見我們是忠心的；也盼望我們作為父親和母親為他們所做的一切（是的，我知道今天的信息是父親節的信息）能夠引導並激勵他們更加愛主、順服主和服事主。的確，願所有跟隨我們腳蹤而來的人，都看見我們忠心到底。