



## **Jesus— The Perfect Gift For An Imperfect World**

**“Jessie the father of David”**

### **Matthew 1:5-6 | Samuel 17:55-58**

#### **Introduction**

Currently we are studying the genealogy of Jesus.

**As we examine the genealogy of Jesus we discover—JESUS IS THE PERFECT GIFT FOR AN IMPERFECT WORLD.**

**Genealogy**— A record or table of the descent of a person, family, or group from an ancestor or ancestors; a family tree. The study or investigation of ancestry and family histories.

When we read the names in the ancestry of Jesus, we see a cross section of humanity, in all its glory and shame. Some did great heroic things, some did despicable things, some did both. But you know something? We’re all like the people in the family tree of Jesus: some good, some bad, most in between.

The incredible thing is that God, in His infinite Grace, loves us, in our brokenness. God loves us enough to work through all these fallen people to bring his son the earth to save the humanity from our sins.

Last week we learned about Obed— the father of Jesse and the grandfather of King David.

From Obed’s example we learned:

**You don’t have to be a somebody to be a somebody.**

A person doesn't need to be famous, influential, or hold a specific title in order to have value, influence or make a positive impact.

Based on his name we understand that Obed was a **“Worshipping Servant”** who had tremendous influence on his family.

The question that comes to my mind concerning Obed is this—

**“Where does Godly influence come from?”**

**Isaiah 66:1-2** “This is what the Lord says: Heaven is my throne, and earth is my footstool. Where could you possibly build a house for me? And where would my resting place be? <sup>2</sup>My hand made all these things, and so they all came into being. This is the Lord's declaration. I will look favorably on this kind of person: one who is humble, submissive in spirit, and trembles at my word.” CSB

**Godly Influence comes from those who are favorable in God's sight v.2b**

“ . . . This is the Lord's declaration. **I will look favorably on this kind of person: one who is humble, submissive in spirit, and trembles at my word.**” CSB

The phrase translated **“look favorably”** comes from the Hebrew word **“Nabat”** meaning to **express approval, to prefer, to treasure, to ensure a good outcome to the ones who stand out, the ones who shine the brightest.**

The Favor of God on our life comes from:

**Humility**  
**Brokenness**  
**Obedience**

Today we are going to discover the importance of a father's influence.

## Scripture

### Matthew 1:5-6

Salmon fathered Boaz by Rahab, Boaz fathered Obed by Ruth, Obed fathered Jesse,  
<sup>6</sup> and Jesse fathered King David. CSB

### I Samuel 17:55-58

When Saul had seen David going out to confront the Philistine, he asked Abner the commander of the army, “Whose son is this youth, Abner?” “Your Majesty, as surely as you live, I don’t know,” Abner replied.

<sup>56</sup> The king said, “Find out whose son this young man is!”

<sup>57</sup> When David returned from killing the Philistine, Abner took him and brought him before Saul with the Philistine’s head still in his hand.

<sup>58</sup> Saul said to him, “Whose son are you, young man?” “The son of your servant Jesse of Bethlehem,” David answered. CSB

## Quote Of The Day

“Every parent should remember: One day their children will follow their example, not their advice.” — Charles Kettering

“It is far better to influence and develop strong boys and girls than to repair broken men and women.” — Pat Kilby

**Influence**— The capacity to have an effect on the character, development, or behavior of someone.

**Influence**— A force that brings about a change in a person’s character and behavior.

### What does influence look like?

Influence looks like Joel Prusak.

In his book titled “**Know Your Why**” author Ken Costa writes about a young man named Joel Prusak.

Joel Prusak was an employee at Dairy Queen. One day, as he was serving customers their food, he noticed a blind man had dropped a twenty-dollar bill on the floor. A lady standing in line quietly bent down and put the twenty dollars into her own pocket. Young Joey Prusak approached the lady, asking her to give the twenty-dollar bill back to the blind man. She refused, quite aggressively, claiming it was her own. And then Joey did something very generous. Quietly, he opened up his own wallet and handed the blind man a twenty-dollar bill of his own. The man took the money gratefully, and Dairy Queen resumed normal business.

**A customer in line observed the whole episode and sent an e-mail to the Dairy Queen management, informing them of Joey's act of generosity. The DQ management then posted about it on Facebook, and the event went viral. A couple of days later, Joey received a call from the billionaire Warren Buffet, a big investor in Dairy Queen. He thanked Joey for showing such integrity and asked him to come to the next Dairy Queen investors' meeting. As Joey was an employee and representative of Dairy Queen, Buffet wanted him to be there as an integral part of the fabric of the organization.**

Joey's act of generosity influenced and inspired thousands of people to believe that they, too, could do something small to influence the world for good.

**And so it is with God. He takes our small acts of obedience or kindness or goodness and multiplies them for His glory and our good.**

Citation: Ken Costa, *Know Your Why*, (Thomas Nelson, 2016)

From Jesse’s example we learn two principles about parenting and influence:

**1. Recognize the Potential of your Child/ Children**

**2. Be Intentional with our Child/ Children**

Two principles about parenting and influence:

**Recognize The Potential of your Child/ Children**

**I Samuel 16:4-13** “Samuel did what the Lord directed and went to Bethlehem. When the elders of the town met him, they trembled and asked, “Do you come in peace?” 5 “In peace,” he replied. “I’ve come to sacrifice to the Lord. Consecrate yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. 6 When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and said, “Certainly the Lord’s anointed one is here before him.” 7 **But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or his stature because I have rejected him. Humans do not see what the Lord sees, for humans see what is visible, but the Lord sees the heart.”** 8 Jesse called Abinadab and presented him to Samuel. “The Lord hasn’t chosen this one either,” Samuel said. 9 Then Jesse presented Shammah, but Samuel said, “The Lord hasn’t chosen this one either.” 10 After Jesse presented seven of his sons to him, Samuel told Jesse, “The Lord hasn’t chosen any of these.” 11 **Samuel asked him, “Are these all the sons you have?” “There is still the youngest,” he answered, “but right now he’s tending the sheep.” Samuel told Jesse, “Send for him. We won’t sit down to eat until he gets here.”** 12 **So Jesse sent for him. He had beautiful eyes and a healthy, handsome appearance. Then the Lord said, “Anoint him, for he is the one.”** 13 So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully on David from that day forward. Then Samuel set out and went to Ramah. CSB

It is clear in this passage of Scripture that Jesse, David’s father, did not have regard for his youngest son.

The word translated “**youngest**” in verse 11 comes from the Hebrew word “**Qatan**” meaning the youngest, the smallest, the weakest, unimportant and insignificant— Some scholars suggest that Jesse treated David as the “**runt.**”

The word “**runt**” is a disparaging term referring to a person who is small in stature, weak, disrespected and insignificant.

Jesse did not recognize the potential of his youngest son.

**Jesse did not realize— Children grow up and have the potential to do amazing things and influence others.**

Jesse did not realize— **The “runt” of the family would become a competent and trusted Shepherd, a valiant Warrior, a skilled Musician, a prolific song writer (75 Psalms are attributed to David), a true Worshiper and the greatest and most significant king in Israel’s history.**

**Psalm 127:3** says that children are a heritage (a treasured gift) from the LORD.

Jesus said in **Matthew 18:6 (Mark 9:42, Luke 17:2)** “. . . whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to fall away—it would be better for him if a heavy millstone were hung around his neck and he were drowned in the depths of the sea.” CSB

Jesus uses this striking example to highlight the seriousness of causing a "little one" who believes in Jesus to stumble.

Millstones were used for grinding grain. In biblical times their size and weight varied in size. A small millstone would typically weigh 100-300 pounds a large (heavy) millstone weighed between 1,000 to 3,000 pounds — **Try swimming with that around your neck.**

**We as parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and as church must treasure our children they are the future that will follow us!**

As a church we must value our children and the children in this community because they are the future of the church.

**What happens when we do not treasure our children?**

**King Hezekiah— “The Hezekiah Principle.”**

Hezekiah was the first king since David to keep the Lord's commandments, restore true worship for the people, and to honor Yahweh as True God.

Even so, he did not value the future of God's Kingdom because he did not value the generations that would follow him.

This story is so powerful that it is mentioned twice in the Old Testament.

**2 Kings 20:18-19** "Some of your descendants—who come from you, whom you father—will be taken away, and they will become eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.' " <sup>19</sup> Then Hezekiah said to Isaiah, "The word of the Lord that you have spoken is good," for he thought, "Why not, if there will be peace and security during my lifetime?" CSB

### **Isaiah 38-39**

**When we do not treasure our children we doom their future and the future of the Church.**

Sometimes these "**treasured gifts**" from the LORD dangle on our nerves as if they were bouncing from a bungee cord.

**When we are frustrated with our children**— don't forget they have great potential.

**When we become impatient with our children**— don't forget they have great potential.

**Ephesians 6:4** says, "Fathers, don't stir up anger in your children, but bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord." CSB

Rules to remember when frustrated and impatient with our children:

#### **1. Practice Patience—**

**Proverbs 15:1-2** "A gentle answer turns away anger, but a harsh word stirs up wrath. 2 The tongue of the wise makes knowledge attractive, but the mouth of fools blurts out foolishness." CSB

Rules to remember when frustrated and impatient with our children:

## 2. Practice Wisdom—

**Proverbs 15:18** “A hot-tempered person stirs up conflict, but one slow to anger calms strife.” CSB

Rules to remember when frustrated and impatient with our children:

## 3. Practice Respect—

**Proverbs 15:4** “The tongue that heals is a tree of life, but a devious tongue breaks the spirit.” CSB

Rules to remember when frustrated and impatient with our children:

## 4. Practice Discipline—

**Proverbs 15:10** “Discipline is harsh for the one who leaves the path; the one who hates correction will die.” CSB

**Proverbs 15:32** “Anyone who ignores discipline despises himself, but whoever listens to correction acquires good sense.” CSB

Rules to remember when frustrated and impatient with our children:

## 5. Practice Forgiveness—

**Ephesians 4:31-32** “Let all bitterness, anger and wrath, shouting and slander be removed from you, along with all malice. 32 And be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another, just as God also forgave you in Christ.” CSB

Rules to remember when frustrated and impatient with our children:

## 6. Practice Love—

**Psalms 103:8-13** “The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in faithful love. 9 He will not always accuse us or be angry forever. 10 He has not dealt with us as our sins deserve or repaid us



according to our iniquities. <sup>11</sup> For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his faithful love toward those who fear him. <sup>12</sup> As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

<sup>13</sup> **As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him.**” CSB

Two principles about parenting and influence: Recognize the potential of your child/ children:

## Be Intentional with our Child/ Children

**I Samuel 17:58** When David returned from killing the Philistine, Abner took him and brought him before Saul with the Philistine’s head still in his hand.

<sup>58</sup> Saul said to him, “Whose son are you, young man?” “The son of your servant Jesse of Bethlehem,” David answered. CSB

King Saul wanted to know who David’s father was

When young David marched out to meet Goliath in Battle— It was no accident.

David had been prepared for this moment.

Parents we must prepare our children for their future and the moments they will experience in their life.

Preparing children for their future and the moments they will face is an intentional and constant exercise.

**Preparing Children for their future requires:**

### 1. Spending legitimate time with our children

**Psalm 39:4-5** “Lord, make me aware of my end and the number of my days so that I will know how short-lived I am. <sup>5</sup> In fact, you have made my days just inches long, and my life span is as nothing to you. Yes, every human being stands as only a vapor.” CSB

As parents we need to understand our life is short and we need to be wise with our time.

Time is precious— Time is limited we do not get our time back!

**Psalm 90:12** says, “Teach us to number our days carefully so that we develop wisdom in our hearts.” CSB

**Spending time with our children means spending time with our children.**

**Money does not replace time with our children**

**Gifts do not replace time with our children**

**Excuses and empty promises do not replace time with our children**

**Ecclesiastes 9:10** “Whatever your hands find to do, do with all your strength, because there is no work, planning, knowledge, or wisdom in Sheol where you are going.” CSB

**Preparing Children for the future requires:**

**2. Teaching our children the things that matter most**

**Deuteronomy 6:1-9** “This is the command—the statutes and ordinances—the Lord your God has commanded me to teach you, so that you may follow them in the land you are about to enter and possess. 2 Do this so that you may fear the Lord your God all the days of your life by keeping all his statutes and commands I am giving you, your son, and your grandson, and so that you may have a long life. 3 Listen, Israel, and be careful to follow them, so that you may prosper and multiply greatly, because the Lord, the God of your ancestors, has promised you a land flowing with milk and honey. 4 “**Listen, Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one., 5 Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.** 6 These words that I am giving you today are to be in your

heart. 7 Repeat them to your children. Talk about them when you sit in your house and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. 8 Bind them as a sign on your hand and let them be a symbol on your forehead., 9 Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your city gates.” CSB

Parents— The greatest and most significant thing we will ever do is teach our children to follow God by grace through faith in Jesus Christ!

Parents— We must practice what we preach. Our children will follow our example more than they will follow our words.

Parents don't teach your children to become “cool, or popular or to fit in.” Teach them to follow Jesus, to be humble, to be a servant, to be respectful, obedient, hard working and disciplined.

**I tried be cool once and it didn't work like I expected it to— I wanted to be cool like Tony!**

Teach them to love God and others!

**Preparing Children for the future requires:**

### **3. Training our children**

**I Corinthian 12:4-7** “Now there are different gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 There are different ministries, but the same Lord. 6 And there are different activities, but the same God works all of them in each person. 7 A manifestation of the Spirit is given to each person for the common good:” CSB

As parents we have the responsibility to train our children to influence their world for Jesus Christ and advance His kingdom on the earth.

As parents we have the responsibility to train our children according to their gifts and abilities.

David was trained to be a **competent and trusted shepherd**

David was trained to be a **skilled musician**

David became a **prolific song writer and worshiper**

David was trained to be a **skilled and valiant warrior**

David became the greatest and most significant king in Israel's history  
David was a man after God's own heart.

**Jeremiah 29:11-14** "For I know the plans I have for you"—this is the Lord's declaration—"plans for your well-being, not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. 12 You will call to me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. 13 You will seek me and find me when you search for me with all your heart. 14 I will be found by you"—this is the Lord's declaration . . ."  
CSB

**Preparing Children for the future requires:**

#### **4. Trusting our children**

**Proverbs 22:6** "Start a youth out on his way; even when he grows old he will not depart from it." CSB

There will come a time when we must let our children go.

Our children will become a version of what we have taught them to become.

Trusting our children means giving them responsibility.

Trusting our children means giving them expectations.

Trusting our children means giving them accountability

Trusting our children means giving them room to make mistakes, room to grow, room to learn, room to become competent and room to own their faith.

As I bring the message to a close Erma Bombeck shared an illustration regarding the reality of letting our children grow up into adulthood:

The task of raising kids is rather like trying to fly a kite on a day when the wind doesn't blow. Mom and Dad run down the road pulling the cute little device at the end of a string. It bounces along the ground and shows no inclination of getting off the ground.

Eventually and with much effort they manage to lift it 15 feet in the air, but great danger suddenly looms. The kite dives toward electrical lines and twirls near trees. It is a scary moment. Will they ever get it safely on its way? Then, unexpectedly, a gust of wind catches the kite, and it sails upward. Mom and Dad feed out line as rapidly as they can.

The kite begins pulling the string, making it difficult to hold on. Inevitably, they reach the end of their line. What should they do now? The kite is demanding more freedom. It wants to go higher. Dad stands on his tiptoes and raises his hand to accommodate the tug. The line is now grasped tenuously between his index finger and thumb, held upward toward the sky. Then the moment of release comes. The string slips through his fingers, and the kite soars majestically into God's beautiful sky.

Mom and Dad stand gazing at their precious "baby" who is now gleaming in the sun, a mere pinpoint of color on the horizon. They are proud of what they've done—but sad to realize their job is finished. It was a labor of love. But where did the years go? Citation: James Dobson, *Focus on the Family*, from <http://www.uexpress.com/ups/advice/do/> (9-26-99)

Parents have a God-given responsibility of nurturing trust and educating their children. Raising children should not be neglected or delegated to AI, government, or technology. Embracing the role of parenting with the best intention of the children in mind will shape the values and character of the next generation.