

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Psalm 69:7-18

Jeremiah 20:7-13

Romans 6:1b-11

Matthew 10:24-39

MESSAGE

“A Father’s Calling in a Challenging World”

Pastor Bruce

“A FATHER’S CALLING IN A CHALLENGING WORLD”

Scripture Theme Connection

- Faithfulness often includes hardship (**Psalm 69, Jeremiah 20**)
- New life in Christ transforms how we live (**Romans 6**)
- Following Christ requires courage and commitment (**Matthew 10**)

“A FATHER’S CALLING IN A CHALLENGING WORLD”

1. Faithfulness May Bring Struggle — But God Sees (Psalm 69:7–18)

- The psalmist suffers because of devotion to God
- Experiences:
 - Rejection
 - Isolation
 - Misunderstanding
- **Father’s Day Connection:**
- Fathers often carry unseen burdens:
 - Providing, protecting, guiding
 - Wrestling with expectations and sacrifice

“A FATHER’S CALLING IN A CHALLENGING WORLD”

- 1. Faithfulness May Bring Struggle — But God Sees (Psalm 69:7–18)**
- 2. Speaking Truth Can Feel Costly — But God Sustains (Jeremiah 20:7–13)**

⁷ You deceived me, Lord, and I was deceived;
you overpowered me and prevailed.

I am ridiculed all day long;
everyone mocks me.

⁸ Whenever I speak, I cry out
proclaiming violence and destruction.

So the word of the Lord has brought me
insult and reproach all day long.

“A FATHER’S CALLING IN A CHALLENGING WORLD”

1. Faithfulness May Bring Struggle — But God Sees (Psalm 69:7–18)
2. Speaking Truth Can Feel Costly — But God Sustains (Jeremiah 20:7–13)

⁹ But if I say, “I will not mention his word
or speak anymore in his name,”

his word is in my heart like a fire,
a fire shut up in my bones.

I am weary of holding it in;
indeed, I cannot.

¹⁰ I hear many whispering,
“Terror on every side!

Denounce him! Let’s denounce him!”

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1. Faithfulness May Bring Struggle — But God Sees (Psalm 69:7–18)
2. Speaking Truth Can Feel Costly — But God Sustains (Jeremiah 20:7–13)

All my friends
are waiting for me to slip, saying,
“Perhaps he will be deceived;
then we will prevail over him
and take our revenge on him.”

¹¹ But the Lord is with me like a mighty warrior;
so my persecutors will stumble and not prevail.

“A FATHER’S CALLING IN A CHALLENGING WORLD”

- 1. Faithfulness May Bring Struggle — But God Sees (Psalm 69:7–18)**
- 2. Speaking Truth Can Feel Costly — But God Sustains (Jeremiah 20:7–13)**

They will fail and be thoroughly disgraced;
their dishonor will never be forgotten.

¹² Lord Almighty, you who examine the righteous
and probe the heart and mind,
let me see your vengeance on them,
for to you I have committed my cause.

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- 1. Faithfulness May Bring Struggle — But God Sees (Psalm 69:7–18)**
- 2. Speaking Truth Can Feel Costly — But God Sustains (Jeremiah 20:7–13)**

¹³ Sing to the Lord!

Give praise to the Lord!

He rescues the life of the needy
from the hands of the wicked.

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- 1. Faithfulness May Bring Struggle — But God Sees (Psalm 69:7–18)**
- 2. Speaking Truth Can Feel Costly — But God Sustains (Jeremiah 20:7–13)**

- Jeremiah feels overwhelmed, even frustrated with his calling
- Yet God’s word is like “fire in his bones”—he cannot remain silent

Father’s Day Insight:

- Fathers and leaders must:
 - Speak truth
 - Model integrity
 - Lead even when it’s unpopular

“A FATHER’S CALLING IN A CHALLENGING WORLD”

3. A New Life Changes Everything (Romans 6:1b–11)

Dead to Sin, Alive in Christ

6 What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? ² By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? ³ Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

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3. A New Life Changes Everything (Romans 6:1b–11)

⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶ For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with,^[a] that we should no longer be slaves to sin— ⁷ because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.

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3. A New Life Changes Everything (Romans 6:1b–11)

⁸ Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹ For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. ¹⁰ The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.

¹¹ In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. ***

“A FATHER’S CALLING IN A CHALLENGING WORLD”

3. A New Life Changes Everything (Romans 6:1b–11)

- We are united with Christ in:
 - His death → freedom from sin
 - His resurrection → new life

Key Idea:

- We are no longer bound by old patterns or identities

Father’s Day Connection:

- Godly fatherhood (and Christian living) is shaped by:
 - Transformation, not perfection
 - Grace, not guilt

“A FATHER’S CALLING IN A CHALLENGING WORLD”

4. Following Christ Requires Courageous Commitment (Matthew 10:24–39)

²⁴ “The student is not above the teacher, nor a servant above his master. ²⁵ It is enough for students to be like their teachers, and servants like their masters. If the head of the house has been called Beelzebul, how much more the members of his household!

²⁶ “So do not be afraid of them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. ²⁷ What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs.

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4. Following Christ Requires Courageous Commitment (Matthew 10:24–39)

²⁸ Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father’s care. ³⁰ And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹ So don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

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4. Following Christ Requires Courageous Commitment (Matthew 10:24–39)

³² “Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. ³³ But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven.

³⁴ “Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. ³⁵ For I have come to turn

“a man against his father,
a daughter against her mother,
a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law—

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4. Following Christ Requires Courageous Commitment (Matthew 10:24–39)

³⁶ a man’s enemies will be the members of his own household.’

³⁷ “Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. ³⁸ Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹ Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.

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4. Following Christ Requires Courageous Commitment (Matthew 10:24–39)

- Jesus prepares His disciples:
 - They will face opposition
 - They must not fear
- Radical call:
 - Loyalty to Christ above all
 - Willingness to sacrifice for the gospel
 - Prioritize Christ in their homes

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4. Following Christ Requires Courageous Commitment (Matthew 10:24–39)

Father’s Day Insight:

- Fathers are called to:
 - Lead courageously
 - Stand firm in faith

“A FATHER’S CALLING IN A CHALLENGING WORLD”
LIVING IN GOD’S LIGHT

What exactly does this mean for US?

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What exactly does this mean for US?

Spiritual Truth:

- God does not overlook faithful endurance
- Our cries are heard in His compassion

Application:

- Faithfulness is not measured by ease, but by perseverance
- Bring honest prayers to God in seasons of strain

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LIVING IN GOD’S LIGHT

What exactly does this mean for US?

Key Truth:

- God’s call is not always comfortable—but it is always purposeful

Application:

- Trust God even when obedience feels difficult
- Lean on Him when leadership feels heavy

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What exactly does this mean for US?

Application:

- Live as people who are spiritually alive
- Model what it means to walk in renewed life

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What exactly does this mean for US?

Key Truth:

- True life is found when we surrender fully to Christ

Application:

- Do not fear rejection for living faithfully
- Reorder priorities with Christ at the center

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LIVING IN GOD’S LIGHT

What exactly does this mean for US?

Today we recognize that the call to follow God—and to lead well—is not always easy.

Yet across these scriptures we find assurance:

- God **sees our struggles**
- God **sustains us in calling**
- God **transforms us through Christ**
- God **strengthens us for courageous living**

This is the model not only for fathers—but for all believers.

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LIVING IN GOD’S LIGHT

What exactly does this mean for US?

This week, take these steps:

1. Practice Honest Prayer

Bring your struggles openly before God (Psalm 69 mindset)

2. Speak and Live Truth Boldly

Even in discomfort, trust God’s purpose (Jeremiah 20 calling)

3. Walk in Your New Identity

Choose actions that reflect your life in Christ (Romans 6 living)

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LIVING IN GOD’S LIGHT

What exactly does this mean for US?

This week, take these steps:

4. Lead with Courage

At home and beyond, put Christ first (Matthew 10 commitment)

Personal Reflection:

- Where is God calling me to be more faithful, even when it's hard?