

American Minute with Bill Federer

Father's Day! "America needs heroes on the battlefield of everyday life" -U.S. Senate Chaplain Peter Marshall

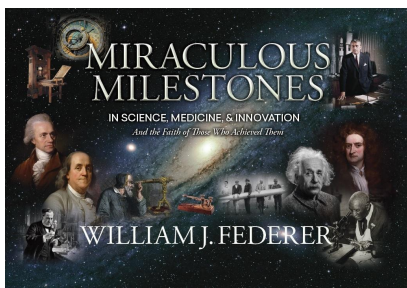
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U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Center for Disease Control, and other agencies report that **children from fatherless homes** are:



- *Five times more likely to live in poverty;*
- *Nine times more likely to drop out of school;*
- *Twenty times more likely to go to in prison;*
- *Higher risk of drug and alcohol abuse;*
- *Increased incidents of internalized and externalized aggressive behavioral problems;*
- *Greater chance of runaways and homelessness;*
- *Twice as likely to commit suicide ... [continue reading American Minute here ...](#)*

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In an effort to recognize the **importance of a father in the home**, the several "**Father's Day**" services were celebrated.

One was organized by Grace Golden Clayton, who on July 5, 1908, arranged a church service to honor all fathers, in memory of her father who was a Methodist minister in West Virginia.

Another event was celebrated June 19, 1910, in Spokane, Washington.

Sonora Louise Smart Dodd heard a church sermon on the newly established **Mother's Day** and wanted to honor **her father**, Civil War veteran William Jackson Smart, who had raised six children by himself after his wife died in childbirth.

Sonora Louise Smart Dodd drew up a petition supported by the Young Men's Christian Association and the ministers of Spokane to celebrate **Fathers' Day**.

In 1916, **Woodrow Wilson** spoke at a Spokane **Fathers' Day** service.

On December 6, 1904, **President Theodore Roosevelt** addressed Congress:

"No **Christian and civilized community** can afford to show a happy-go-lucky lack of concern for the **youth of to-day**;

for, if so, the community will have to pay a terrible penalty

of financial burden and social degradation in the tomorrow ..."

Roosevelt continued:

"The prime duty of the man is to work, to be the **breadwinner**; the **prime duty** of the **woman** is to be the **mother, the housewife.**

All questions of tariff and finance sink into utter insignificance when compared with the tremendous, the **vital importance of trying to shape conditions** so that these two **duties of the man and of the woman** can be fulfilled under reasonably favorable circumstances."

In 1972, **President Nixon** established **Father's Day** as a permanent national observance (Proclamation 4127), stating:

"To have a **father** — to be a **father** — is to come very near the heart of life itself.

In **fatherhood** we know the elemental magic and joy of humanity.

In **fatherhood** we even sense the divine, as the **Scriptural writers** did who told of all good gifts coming **"down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning"** (James 1:17) —symbolism so challenging to **each man** who would give **his own son or daughter** a life of light without shadow ...
"

Nixon added:

"Our identity in name and nature, our roots in home and family, our very standard of **manhood**—all this and more is **the heritage our fathers share with us ...**

It has long been our national custom to observe each

year one **special Sunday in honor of America's fathers**; and from this year forward, by a joint resolution of the Congress approved April 24, 1972, that custom carries **the weight of law ...**

Let each American make this **Father's Day** an occasion for renewal of the love and gratitude we bear to our **fathers**, increasing and enduring through all the years.

Now, Therefore, I, Richard Nixon, President of the United States of America, do hereby request that June 18, 1972, be observed as **Father's Day.**"

On May 20, 1981, in a Proclamation of **Father's Day**, **President Ronald Reagan** stated:

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it,' Solomon tells us. (Proverbs 22:6)

Clearly, the future is in the care of our **parents**. Such is the responsibility, **promise, and hope of fatherhood**. Such is the gift that our **fathers** give us."

Dr. Ben Carson explained:

"The more solid the family ... the more likely you are to be able to resist peer pressure ...

Human beings are social creatures. We all want to belong, we all have that desire, and we will belong, one way or another ...

If the **family** doesn't provide that, **the peers will, or a gang will, or you will find something to belong to.**"

On **Father's Day**, 1988, **Ronald Reagan** said:

"Children, vulnerable and dependent, desperately need security, and it has ever been a **duty and a joy of fatherhood** to offer it.

Being a **father** requires strength ... and more than a little courage ... to persevere, to fight discouragement, and **to keep working for the family ...**"

Reagan ended:

"Let us ... express our thanks and affection to our **fathers**, whether we can do so in person or in prayer."

Genesis 18:19 records one of the reasons **God** chose **Abraham**:

"For I know him (Abraham), that he will **teach his children** ... (to) keep the way of the LORD, **to do justice and judgment.**"

Deuteronomy 4:9:

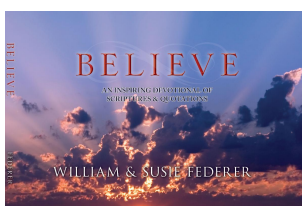
"Teach them to your children and grandchildren."

Deuteronomy 6:7:

"And you shall teach them diligently to your children."

Williams Jennings Bryan gave over 600 public speeches during his Presidential campaigns, with his most famous being "The Prince of Peace," which was printed in *The New York Times*, September 7, 1913:

"Christ promoted peace by giving us assurance that a line of communication can be established between the **Father above and the child below.**"



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A warning from Greek philosopher Plato in his work *Republic*, 380 BC, was that **democracy** is in the process

of **collapsing** when the **younger generation disrespect their fathers**:

"Can liberty have any limit? Certainly not ... By degrees the **anarchy finds a way into private houses** ...

The **son is on a level with his father**, he **having no respect** or reverence for either of his **parents**; and this is his freedom ...

Citizens ... chafe impatiently at the least touch of authority ... they will have no one over them ... **Liberty overmasters democracy** ...

The excess of liberty, whether in states or individuals, seems only to pass into **excess of slavery** ...

And so **tyranny** naturally **arises out of democracy**, and the most aggravated form of tyranny and slavery out of the most extreme form of liberty ..."

Plato added:

"By heaven ... the **parent** will discover what a monster he has been fostering in his bosom; and, when he wants to drive him out, he will find that he is weak and his son strong.

Why, you do not mean to say that the tyrant will use violence? **What! beat his father if he opposes him?**

Yes, he will, having first disarmed him ... Then he is a **parricide**, and a cruel guardian of an aged parent; and this is real tyranny."

George Orwell wrote in the book *1984* of what socialists do when they take over a country:

"Every record has been destroyed or falsified, every book rewritten, every picture has been repainted, every statue

and street building has been renamed, every date has been altered.

And the process is continuing day by day and minute by minute. History has stopped.

Nothing exists except an endless present in which the Party is always right.”

U.S. Senate Peter Marshall commented on **Marxist social deconstruction** (*20 Centuries of Great Preaching* Vol. 12 Waco: Word, 1971 p. 11-19):

"The history of the world has always been the biography of her great men ...

There was a time in these United States when **youth** was **inspired by (heroes)** ... when a picture of Washington or Lincoln adorned every school room wall ...

Along with the ponderous Family Bible on the Victorian table and the hymn books on the old-fashioned square piano, there looked down from the walls the likenesses of **our national heroes** ...

Those were the days of great beliefs - belief in the **authority of the Scriptures**, belief that **prayer was really answered**, belief in **marriage** and the **family** as permanent institutions, belief in the **integrity** and worth of **America's great men**.

These beliefs laid the groundwork for **producing more great men**, for many a **boy figured**, "**If that man could do it**, get an education, make his life count for something, **then I can too** ..."

Marshall continued:

"**Then there dawned the day** when the pictures of Washington and Lincoln did not fit in with our concept of

modern décor ... The old Family Bible looked embarrassingly out of place ... So the pictures and the Bible were often relegated to the Attic of Forgotten Things.

There went with them some of **the most stabilizing influences of American life.**

We had become a more sophisticated people, somewhat **cynical of the cherished beliefs of our ancestors**, rather blasé, frankly **skeptical of old-fashioned sentimentalism.**

Along with our higher education came a **debunking contest.** This **debunking** became a sort of national sport ... It was **smarter to revile than to revere** ... more fashionable to **depreciate than to appreciate.**

In our **classrooms** at all levels of education, **no longer did we laud great men** - those who had struggled and achieved. Instead, we merely took their dimensions and ferreted out their faults.

We decided that it was silly to say God sent them for a special task ... **They were merely ... products of their environments ...**

The Constitution, that hitherto cherished charter of American liberties, was drawn up by men who never spoke on a telephone or flew in a plane, therefore, **we should change the Constitution to suit modern ways."**

Marshall's concerns were echoed by others.

Thomas Sowell, a Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University, stated:

"Ours may become **the first civilization destroyed**, not by the power of our enemies, but by the **ignorance of**

our teachers and the dangerous nonsense they are teaching our children. In an age of artificial intelligence, they are creating **artificial stupidity.**"

In writing for *The Federalist*, June 12, 2020, Katy Faust and Stacy Manning reported:

"NAACP president Kweisi Mfume, when asked if white racism or the **absence of fathers** posed a greater threat to black Americans, replied without hesitation, '**The absence of black fathers.**'"

Senate Chaplain Marshall added that **sons and daughters** need **courageous fathers** to defend them against predatory agendas:

"We failed to realize that **when we were denying the existence of great men**, we were also **denying the desirability of great men.**

So now, many of **our children** have grown up without the guiding star ... holding in their hands only a bunch of ... **question marks**, with **no keys with which to open the doors of knowledge and life.**

The young no longer had any particular ambition to become **heroes**. Their ambition now was to **make as much money as possible**, as quickly as possible, in whatever way was most convenient ...

Thus, our **debunking** is ... a sign of **decaying foundations** of character to the individual and in the national life ...

We who are **Christians**, believe that **God gives the world a few great men to lead the rest of us closer to Him**, that to depreciate or to **deny** their greatness is to **deny** one of God's revelations of Himself to mankind.

The **heroes** the **Christian** cherishes ... were (or are)

human .. They **have their weakness** ... Their faults are well-known to their friends, better known to themselves. But the point is that with **God and His guidance**, they can provide the **moral leadership** that our nation so sorely needs.

America needs heroes on the battlefield of everyday life ... in our homes, in our schools, on college campuses, in offices and factories, who can lead us towards a return to idealism. For **time is running out for us** ..."

U.S. Senate Chaplain Peter Marshall concluded:

"**The call today is for Christian heroes and heroines** ... who are willing to **speak a good word for Jesus Christ** ... who are willing to **live by the undiluted values of Christian morality** in the pagan atmosphere of our society surrounded by lewdness, pornography, and profanity.

This may be a **higher bravery** than that of any battlefield: to face ridicule, sarcasm, sneering disdain for what one believes to be right.

To fight for goodness and right ... **fighting the battle first in our own hearts and souls** ... seeking God's help to overcome our particular temptations for the sake of peace .. for the sake of America ... for our own sake ... **for God's sake.**"

In 1942, **General MacArthur** was named Father of the Year.

He stated:

"By profession I am a **soldier** and take pride in that fact. But I am prouder -- infinitely prouder -- to be a **father**.

A **soldier** destroys in order to build; the **father** only builds, never destroys. The one has the potentiality of

death; the other embodies creation and life.

And while the hordes of death are mighty, the battalions of life are mightier still.

It is my hope that my son, when I am gone, will remember me not from the battle but in the home repeating with him **our simple daily prayer, 'Our Father Who Art in Heaven.'**"

MacArthur composed "**A Father's Prayer**":

"Build me a son, O Lord, who will be strong enough to know when he is weak, brave enough to face himself when he is afraid, one who will be proud and unbending in honest defeat, and **humble and gentle in victory**.

Build me a son whose wishes will not take the place of deeds; **a son who will know Thee** -- and that to know himself is the foundation stone of knowledge.

Lead him, I pray, not in the path of ease and comfort, but under the stress and spur of difficulties and challenge. Here let him learn **to stand up in the storm**; here let him learn **compassion** for those who fail ...

Build me a son whose heart will be clear, whose goal will be high; a son who will master himself before he seeks to master other men; one who will reach into the future, **yet never forget the past**.

And after all these things are his, add, **I pray**, enough of sense of humor, so that he may always be serious, yet never take himself too seriously.

Give him humility, so that he may always remember the simplicity of true greatness, the open mind of true wisdom, and the meekness of true strength.

Then, I, his father, will dare to whisper, **'I have not lived**

in vain."

President Reagan ended his Father's Day message:

"With **God's** grace, **fathers** find the **patience to teach**, the **fortitude to provide**, the **compassion to comfort**, and the **mercy to forgive**.

All of this is to say that they find **the strength to love their wives and children selflessly.**"

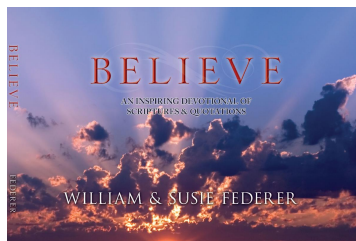
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