UHPC FATHERS’ DAY/ MEN OF THE CHURCH JUNE 16, 2019

SERMON TOPIC: “GODLY FATHERS & WISE MEN”

**“I desire that men ought always to pray lifting up holy hands without anger or argument.” (1st Tim. 2:8)**

Prayer:  *Jehovah God in Trinity, we call You Abba/ Father! Through Christ, who is the Word made flesh, You created all things. In Him all things are held together and sustained. Scripture tells us that He is the very wisdom and power of God and Your exact image and reflection. According to Psalm 8, and Genesis 1: 26…You have created humanity in Your own likeness and image and gave us dominion over everything else in creation. But since our original ancestors: Adam and Eve, fell from Grace through disobedience and deception by the devil, all humanity have been tarnished by sin. However, in Your steadfast love and faithfulness you offered Your Son a perfect sacrifice to redeem us by shedding His precious and sinless Blood for our Salvation. For all who believe in Him and accept His gift, they/we have inherited eternal life and abundant life now and for eternity. You are our generous and merciful Creator who is full of love and compassion for all creation, but especially for humanity. Not only do we come to You, but we desire to abide with You and trust that You are abiding with us and in us to keep us by Your Holy Spirit in Your presence now and always. We are grateful that we have been given life eternal and life abundant through Christ Jesus. Therefore, we lift this as a prayer to You with faith and in thanksgiving, Heavenly Father, in the name of Christ Jesus our Risen Lord. AMEN!*

Today, the church pauses to honor and to celebrate the male species of humanity in a special way. We are particularly lifting up the men of the church and those who are biological fathers, or surrogate fathers…uncles, big brothers, grandfathers, or maybe just a male friend or counselor on whom someone can rely for support in time of need. When we reflect on the qualities of our Heavenly Father, we hear over and over in Scripture that Jehovah demonstrates certain qualities such as: faithfulness, love, strength, compassion, dependability, and courage. Jehovah God is said to be omnipotent, omnipresent, and omniscient; patient, longsuffering, just, righteous, and holy. We know that everyone in some way fall short of God’s perfection, therefore, the Father has given us the only true and perfect One to be our Mediator, Intercessor, Great High Priest, the Way, the Truth, the Life, and Light into the Kingdom of Heaven. HIS NAME IS CHIRST JESUS. All fathers who know their need for redemption, healing, and restoration, will come to Him. These are those we call “GODLY FATHERS AND WISE MEN.” These men have more than just mere knowledge. They have wisdom which is the ability to use knowledge in a right way that glorifies God, blesses others, and does good to themselves.

We see David in Psalm 8, referring to wisdom as a woman calling out loudly to those passing by, to come in and receive prudence, insight, and discernment for she, wisdom, was always with God before the foundations of the world. THIS CALL IS NEEDED NOW MORE THAN EVER as we listen to the various rhetoric from the political world on a daily basis. It seems that people are looking in the wrong places and to the wrong people for guidance, wisdom, and truth. To have wisdom is to know Jehovah God with whom all truth, knowledge and wisdom originate. IT IS GIVEN TO THOSE MEN AND FATHERS AND ALL WHO ABIDE IN CHRIST AND FOLLOW HIS WAY.

As I browsed through 1st and 2nd Timothy, I hear Paul, the Apostle speaking to Timothy, one of his favorite and youngest ministers of the Gospel. We hear and see Paul acting as a mentor and a father to him. Paul, as far as we know, was not married and had no children that we know of. However, he fathered and counselled many. He reminded Timothy to stir up the gift of the Holy Spirit which was within him, for God did not give him a spirit of fear, but of power, of love, and of a sound mind. He encouraged Timothy to HOLD FAST in love and with faith. –To be strong in the grace he received from Christ. Then he was to teach it to those who will in turn teach it to others. … Teach them to be diligent and to present themselves approved unto God as workers not needing to be ashamed, but who are able to rightly divide the Word of Truth. Paul went on to say to Timothy: –“Jesus knows those who are His. So let everyone who names His name, depart from iniquity , be a vessel of honor, be prepared for good works, pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace. The great mystery of godliness is that GOD IS MADE MANIFEST IN FLESH, JUSTIFIED IN THE SPIRIT, SEEN BY ANGELS, PREACHED AMONG GENTILES, BELIEVED IN THE WORLD, AND RECEIVED UP IN GLORY. This is no other than Christ Jesus who is the perfect model of godliness for us to emulate.

As Paul encouraged Timothy, I encourage all the men, fathers, male of every age, as well as females who are here present: --Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, gentleness, fight the good fight of faith, lay hold of eternal life, avoid babblings, strife, profanity, contradictions, and make an effort to live blamelessly before God until the appearing of Christ—the BLESSED POTENTATE, KING OF kings, and Lord of lords. Paul also reminded Timothy and us today, to be ready to endure hardship, persevere in prayer, maintain hope, and integrity, build up a trustworthy character, become a discerner of truth.

Now all this seems like a “tall order” or an unattainable goal. But do not be afraid because God has given us a HELPER. He is the Holy Spirit of Truth. According to John 16, He is our Advocate and our Communicator with the Father through Christ Jesus. The Holy Spirit of Truth receives from the Father through the Son and reveals truth to those who belong to God. He will tell us future things and clarify things we were not able to understand before. THERE IS A TRINITARIAN RELATIONSHIP AND COMMUNICATION LINK THAT FILTERS TO THOSE WHO BELONG TO CHRIST. So –Yes, what Paul is saying to Timothy may seem insurmountable, but not impossible, because our Heavenly Father has made provision for us to overcome and to prevail against all the plans and plots of the adversary, Satan and all his cohorts.

SO, MEN OF GOD, WISE MEN, FATHERS… Know that you are not left alone to be expected to be perfect. However, if we seek Christ, the Wisdom and Power of God, if we remain faithful, and even when we stumble, He remains faithful. Therefore, I urge all fathers and all men present, to connect and stay linked up to Christ. The world, the church, families, children need more and more of GODLY FATHERS AND WISE MEN WHO FOLLOW CHRIST AND SERVE THE CHURCH IN CARRYING OUT GOD’S COMMAND TO LOVE AND TO MAKE DISCIPLES. Let me try to encourage you to be a mentor, a counselor, an uncle, a friend to a fatherless child. Sometimes it is only a pat on the shoulder, a high five, a “how is school going?” It may be a phone call, saying… “I was just thinking about you and wanted to say… “Hello, and is there anything you want to talk about?” It may be a surprise to know what a difference it makes in a young boy’s life?

Solomon tells us in the book of Proverbs that if anyone wants wisdom, they should ask of God who gives willingly. We are also told in Psalm 111:10 that the beginning of wisdom is the fear of God. Those who practice it have a good understanding. SO, WHAT CAN WE TAKE AWAY FROM THIS SERMON TODAY?

1--We honor all the men of God who have remained faithful and true to Christ and His church. -2-- We commend those who may be new to this walk and journey to the help of God through the work of the Holy Spirit. 3--We want you to know that there is no other way that leads to eternal and abundant life but the way of faith in God through Christ Jesus. 4 –If or when the world tries to turn us around, frustrate us, or tries to discourage, even terrify us, we are to HOLD FAST TO GOD’S UNCHANGEING HAND AND ASK THE HELP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, THE HELP OF THE CHURCH FAMILY, AND of Christ Himself who promised to pray for us that our faith fail not. He is the Mediator between God and man. He has promised to intercede for us. The Holy Spirit also prays and intercedes for us when we are overwhelmed and don’t Know how to pray aright. Also, From time to time take another look at Paul’s words to Timothy and ask the Lord to lead us and to implant these teachings within our heart, mind, soul, body, and spirit in the right way. AND YES, if someone stumbles or falls, try to restore them to grace by showing them the Truth in love.

Our world is in great need of Godly Fathers and Wise Men. IS THERE SOMEONE WAITING FOR YOU TO REACH OUT A HAND, GIVE A WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT, OR EVEN A WORD OF CAUTION OR ADMONITION? May God bless all the men and fathers here today and empower, encourage, inspire, and motivate you to emulate and imitate the Heavenly Father as much as possible by following the way of Christ Jesus the Son… God made manifest in flesh.

May God BLESS YOU WHO SERVE HIM and keep you from falling. May the Lord continue to give you wisdom to remain Godly Men! AMEN.