



SHALOM *in the Home*



Shalom in the Home: "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner"

In our current series, we've been talking about something very important. In fact, it is the most important thing you need for your soul. Since the pandemic, drug abuse has skyrocketed because people didn't have this. Less people were driving but there were more accidents. Think about that. During the pandemic, fewer people were driving but there were MORE accidents because they didn't have this. Counselors, social workers, and psychologists are booked solid, yet the need for one has never been higher... because "this" eludes them. And suicides and suicide attempts are up because "this" is missing. What is "this?" What is missing? What are all these people suffering from? What have we been talking about it in this series? Peace. Not just any peace. Peace with God. Shalom.

Here is the first time we see this word in the Scriptures:

"As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age"
(Genesis 15:15 ESV).

God is prophesying about Israel's future enslavement in Egypt, but as for Abram, he will be at rest in SHALOM, peace.

Shalom is a Hebrew word, and like all Hebrew words, it has many shades of meaning that paint a unified picture.

Definition of Shalom (שלום)

Peace; Well-being; Health; Safety; Completeness, Wholeness, Soundness; Prosperity; God's Kingdom Order.

When an Israeli greets you with "shalom," he's actually saying "live long and prosper!"

Isaiah calls Jesus "Sar Shalom"

"Sar Shalom, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6 LW)

Isaiah says there will be no end to the increase of His government or of His shalom, His peace. So Shalom characterizes the Kingdom of Jesus.

Our thesis: Kingdom Authority brings Shalom. How's your SHALOM at your home? Let's talk about that today.

I saw Top Gun Maverick. I saw it twice—great movie. As I was watching, I reflected on why this movie moved me so much. The reason? No spoilers but... This movie reveals the heart of every dad.



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Dads want to get out there and defend life and liberty, but deep in their hearts, they're fighting for their family. (Wait, are you saying Maverick gets married and has a kid? No. But go watch the movie!)

Dads know they can't do something about the whole world, but we CAN do something about OUR world—our family. Maybe we can't bring shalom to the whole world, but we CAN bring Shalom to OUR Home.



What do all these boys have in common?

- They're all school shooters
- No dad in the home

The Effects of Fatherlessness

44% more likely to live in poverty

60% of rapists

70% of youth in juvenile correctional facilities

70% of teen pregnancies

71% of those with drug and alcohol abuse

80% of teens in psychiatric hospitals

90% of all homeless children



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Dad, do you see the impact we have on our children? But listen, I know some of us don't have a dad in the home, or your father is an unbeliever for now. How many of us know the most important thing is that THE FATHER is in charge of your home, amen?

All the prophets in the Bible were Hebrew except for one. There was an Italian prophet: Malachi. Malachi said something very important about what happens when we usher Jesus into a family and the Spirit gets a hold of dad:

"And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers" (Malachi 4:6 ESV).

So dad, how should we see ourselves and our role in the family? I certainly didn't do this perfectly as a dad, but maybe together we can help each other out. Here's a summary of God's vision for dads:

Dad = King + Priest + Father

KING

Jesus is the King of the Universe, the ruler of everything. Who did Jesus appoint as KING of the home? Who's the HEAD of the household?

That's us, dad. Dad, you're the king. You're the boss. What does this mean?

Definition of King (Heb. Melekh: מֶלֶךְ)

sovereign, supreme, preeminent, royalty, one who reigns, "da one in charge"

Today, no one can just walk into another man's home. The police cannot enter your home without a warrant. You have the right to defend your home if threatened. The government cannot invade your home space. The government cannot keep troops or agents of any kind in your home. Sounds crazy, but that's what England was doing in the American colonies which led to the Revolutionary War. Do you know where our founding fathers learned these ideas?

In 1644, an English judge named Sir Edward Coke (pronounced "Cook") (maybe the greatest judge of the Elizabethan age in England) famously said:

"Domus sua cuique est tutissimum refugium."

Isn't that deep? Wow, so good. Oh! What does it mean? LOL Literally, it means "everyone's HOUSE is his safest refuge."

"A man's house is his castle." Sir Edward Coke



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Dad, you are the lord of your castle. Everything that happens at your house needs to pass through you first.

But wait, does this mean you get to boss people around? You may be a lord, but that doesn't mean we "lord it over" our family. Jesus is the best example of a King. In fact, He's the King of kings and Lord of lords. When He arrived on the Earth, He was born in a manger. He grew up normal. He didn't take power from others to control them, instead, He EMPOWERED people to live happy, successful lives. Now that's a GREAT King.

What was Jesus' secret? Let me show you:

"But I want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, and the head of Christ is God" (1 Corinthians 11:3 ESV).

There's a chain of command in the Kingdom of God, and Jesus willingly submitted Himself to this chain of command.

Supreme Commander: The Father

4-Star General: Jesus

Colonel: Dad

Lt. Colonel: Mom

Dad, do you want to be a good King? Align yourself with the chain of command in God's family, and come under Christ. Take your orders from Him. You don't need to figure out what to do. Let Jesus, your superior officer, tell you what to do.

Dad, you are a king. But the only way you can be a great king is to place yourself under the King of kings. Before you make your family bow before you, you must first bow before your King.

When you do that, your home will have shalom.

PRIEST

This is NOT the dictionary definition. This is the biblical definition.

Definition of Priest (Heb. Kohen: כֹּהֵן)

Principal officer, chief ruler, primary intercessor

In the Bible some priests were like kings. Isn't that interesting that the king is also a priest? Jesus is the King, but He's also the High Priest.

What does this mean? For example, when I pray for Mark, do I say, "Lord, would you help Mark find a wife? He's really Filipino and he needs a wife badly. Please bless him with a wife. No, that's not right.



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Godly priests do NOT pray, "Lord, make my kid a doctor, a lawyer, or a pro athlete."

To be a priest like Jesus means that dad takes the lead in, here it is, HEARING FROM GOD, on behalf of the family: what Church to attend? What ministry? House? Car?

As a dad I stand between my family and God. I say, Lord, what do YOU want to say to my wife? Say it through me. What do YOU want to do for my children? Do it through me.

Like Jesus, dad, if you will listen for the voice of God for your family and do what He tells you, you will have shalom in your home.

FATHER

What is the biblical definition (not what Webster says) of a FATHER? Well, for starters it ain't "sperm donor."

Defintion of Father (Heb. Av or Abba אב)

Head and founder of the house, honored patron, protector, ruler, originator, creator

Did you notice that all our words for dad-king, priest, and father-have this common sense of ruler, da boss, da one in charge, but what makes FATHER unique is this idea of "originator" or "creator."

Our fathers created us. Once upon a time, we did not exist, then our fathers decided to make us. God is our Father because He made us. We came from Him.

When Mona was giving birth to our 3 children, I was there, in the delivery room. She went through agonizing labor hour after hour. Then after baby was born she fed them, bathed them, and took care of them. If you think about it, the male contribution to this process seems ridiculously, hilariously insignificant. Our job was done in anywhere from 10-15 minutes.

But that's just looking at it biologically. Dads, we have a greater and much more significant role to play-a deeply Spiritual one. You can be a sperm donor and be a father, in the most blunt sense.

But to be a father means we cooperate with our Heavenly Father to shape, train, and form our children. Fathers literally BRING US INTO EXISTENCE, not just because of their procreative contribution, but then they step in and shape us, teach us, coach us.

During the Parents Panel, my son, Pastor Mark, shared something that blessed me more than words can express. He said, "As dads go, I hit the jackpot. You know my dad as a great pastor, but I know him as the best dad."

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My daddy heart was bursting with love and gratitude as he said that because that is who my dad is to me.



You see, I too won the million-dollar lottery when it comes to dads. My dad was in the Navy which meant he went overseas for 6 months at a time. As a chief musician, he had to work on every major holiday. But he was always there for us.



Instead of just flying to our next duty station, he made it a road trip for the whole family. We drove across the country from San Diego to Florida and back again. We did that 4 times. We had the time of our lives together as a family. And to this day we all love each other still, thanks to dad's leadership.

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When a dad connects with Jesus, he becomes a Spiritual father, and there is shalom in the home.

So how can we start doing this together in our homes? What could it look like at home? I'd like to share a wonderful practice—a Spiritual discipline—that I strongly urge all the dads here to practice at home with your families.

It's called "Shabbat."

The whole family, friends, strangers, gather at the DINING TABLE to celebrate the Lord's Supper.

But Guess who's coming to dinner? Not just mom, dad, kids, and grandkids, and friends, but also JESUS.

You all know how to do communion. Just copy what we do here at Church and do it at home. But don't forget to welcome Jesus to the dining table!

We did Shabbat here at Church this past Easter and it was so fun. Here are some pics:





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Here's Lylah's 1st Shabbat:



In closing, watch this scene from *The Chosen* (Season 1 Ep 2) as Mary prepares Shabbat.
https://youtu.be/Qif_wV8QIBQ

Questions for Discussion & Meditation

What is the definition of "shalom?"

How do our dads bring shalom to the home?

How does dad serve as king, priest, and father at home?

Do you observe a Shabbat meal in your home?

Is God calling you to do this?

What is the purpose of the Sabbath meal family fellowship time?

How would your family and friends observe the Sabbath meal discipline together? What would you do together during this time?