



**Godly Fathers Leave
Spiritual Legacies!
Jeremiah 35:1-19**

Observations

- **As you fathers travel through life; it is quite natural to think about your legacy, or what you are leaving that will benefit those who follow in your steps (money, benefits, property, influence, a good name, Proverbs 22:1)**
- **The question this morning is: what can fathers do to ensure that their next generation continues in the faith?**
- **Can I build a Spiritual Legacy in a time of Spiritual Decline?**
- **Is there a scriptural example of a Godly man who did just that? (Romans 15:4 gives us hope along these lines)**

Look At God's Summary of the Life of Jonadab

Then Jeremiah said to the family of the Rekabites, "This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel says: 'You have obeyed the command of your forefather Jonadab and have followed all his instructions and have done everything he ordered.' Therefore this is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel says: 'Jonadab son of Rekab will never fail to have a descendant to serve me.'" Jeremiah 35:18-19 N.I.V.

- Jeremiah tells the Rekabites that, because of the faithfulness of their father, God will continue to have a relationship with someone in each of his successive generations
- Fathers, your children's overall spiritual success can depend on YOUR faithful legacy (the example you leave them)

Jonadab Was a Faithful Father During an Unfaithful Time in Israel

- Jonadab was a common man (not a Noah, Moses, or an Abraham), living in the land of the Northern Tribes of Israel during the wicked reign of King Ahab and Jezebel
- It's difficult to be righteous when unrighteousness is celebrated in society, Isaiah 5:20

When fathers in a society engage in a pattern of immoral decisions, it wreaks havoc on their children, Ezekiel 18:4

“What mean ye that ye use this proverb concerning Israel, saying, the fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge?”

- The choices that fathers make are passed on to the children (absenteeism, domestic violence and abuse, alcoholism)

Look At How This Father Affected Generations After Him, Jeremiah 35:1-11

“This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord during the reign of Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Judah. ‘Go to the Rekabite family and invite them to come to one of the side rooms of the house of the Lord and give them wine to drink.’ So I went to Jaazaniah son of Jeremiah, the son of Habazziniah, and his brothers and all his sons—the whole family of the Rekabites. I brought them into the house of the Lord....”

Jeremiah 35:1-11

“... Then I set bowls of wine and some cups before the men of the Rekabite family and said to them, ‘Drink some wine.’ But they replied, ‘We do not drink wine, because our forefather Jonadab son of Rekab gave us this command: “Neither you nor your descendants must ever drink wine. Also you must never build houses, sow seed or plant vineyards; you must never have any of these things, but must always live in tents. Then you will live a long time in the land where you are nomads.”””

Jeremiah 35:1-11

“.... We have obeyed everything our forefather Jonadab son of Rekab commanded us. Neither we nor our wives nor our sons and daughters have ever drunk wine or built houses to live in or had vineyards, fields or crops. We have lived in tents and have fully obeyed everything our forefather Jonadab commanded us. But when Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon invaded this land, we said, ‘Come, we must go to Jerusalem to escape the Babylonian and Aramean armies.’ So we have remained in Jerusalem.”

Jonadab As a Father Had Instructed His Generations on, “Best Practices!”

- **Jeremiah took the descendants of Jonadab to the Temple and set before them lots of wine (what an honor; drink up and the prophet of God will pay the tab). But they don't!**
- **They explain to the prophet that they, as a family, don't drink. Why? Because their forefather Jonadab had laid out a plan for their family, and all of their children followed that same example.**
- **I suggest to you that Jonadab knew that drinking parties have ruined many lives (there is no food mentioned here) Proverbs 20:1 *“Wine makes you mean, beer make you quarrelsome—a staggering drunk is not much fun.” The Message***
- **Good fathers leave legacies of “best practices.” Gal. 6:7**

Jonadab Was a Father That Anticipated His Children's Future Needs

- In 1 Kings 14 Ahijah, a prophet of God, had already spoken of the captivity of the Northern Kingdom of Israel, where they now lived, because of their disobedience
- This lesson text tells us that the Babylonians and Arameans would capture the land they now occupied.
- But Jonadab had instructed the Rekabites, his family, to live as nomads in tents (they didn't own houses like other Israelites, or property and fields like the others) (Can't you hear the grandchildren complaining about what they don't have?)

Jonadab Instructed His Family That God's Judgement Was Coming to God's People (He Knew What His Children Didn't Know)

Can't You Hear His Children's Complaints?

- *“Why do we live in tents when the other families of Israelites live in nice houses?”*
- *“Why don't we have farmland and fields like the others? We don't even plant seeds and grow crops like other families do.”*

Why? Because the Father Knew What Was Best!

When God's Judgment on Israel was executed, Jonadab's family could pack up and go to Jerusalem for safety and be spared of being taken away to Aramean and Babylonian captivity, which is what happened to the other families

The Rekabites weren't attached to their nice things like the others (houses, land, and material wealth). The other Israelite families felt safe where they were (Jesus said to remember Lot's wife when you fall in love with “stuff”, Luke 17:32-33)

Fathers, You Can Be a Modern Day Jonadab

- **Build Your Life and Home Around God's Word; Start Where You Are Now, Philippians 3:13-14**
- **Do Not Tolerate Sin In Your Life (Remember you are being watched and imitated, 2 Corinthians 3:2, 1 Corinthians 11:1)**
- **Be Intentional About Your Future Generations**
Put some spiritual ethics in place for your families benefit, 2 Timothy 2:2 *"And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses....commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also."*



The Plan of Salvation

Hear the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Believe the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Repent of Sins

Acts 17:30

Confess Christ

Acts 8:37

Be Baptized

Acts 8:38

