

Notes for “Adoption and Single Parenting” Sermon

Introduction:

Genesis 21:1-21 The story of Hagar and Ishmael and God.

A. There is the problem of widows and orphans and the poor.

1. The fact that widows and orphans exist, means death and sin have entered the world. But widows and orphans are not sin. Married couples and single people are not sin. Neither is it sin to care for the widow and the orphan. As we shall soon see, that is a loving thing.

2. I get it. Sometimes we picture in our minds that things should be a certain way, but the picture we have is not always the picture God has in His mind.

B. Now God addresses the problem of the widow and the orphan from His heart. And He wants us all to share His heart of concern for them and to be a solution to the problem.

3. The Apostle James writes, “Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.” (James 1:27)

4. David writes, “Father of the fatherless and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation. God settles the solitary in a home; he leads out the prisoners to prosperity, but the rebellious dwell in a parched land.” (Psalm 68:5-6)

5. And in Psalm 10 he says of God, “to you the helpless commits himself; you have been the helper of the fatherless.”

6. Yes. God is the Father of all. He is the One from whom we get any good parenting inclination. He is the source of the concept of a father’s heart.

7. In Jeremiah 49:11 God tells the Edomites, “Leave your fatherless children; I will keep them alive; and let your widows trust in me.”

8. In Isaiah 1:16-17 we see that God was disgusted by the way the powerful Israelites treated the needy. He advised them to, “Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your deeds from before my eyes; cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow’s cause.”

9. So what is God’s desire for the orphan, the unwanted, and the uncared for? This the primary question. It is to care. It is to love them. It is to assure they become part of a family.

10. What is the primary motivation for all of us? It is to have God’s heart. God looks for the ones with love in the heart. He can entrust His people to them.

11. Whenever thoughtful parents put together a Last Will and Testament, the most important question becomes: If we die young, to whom shall we leave the children?

12. When it comes to loving the needy like God, where is the Church? We should be “all-over” those in need - the widow, the orphan, the sojourner.

13. I’ll confess, I’ve always been leery of adoption. Kind of an, “I’m glad it’s not me!” Mentality. That is not to my credit. I mean, I’ll help. I’ll support you.

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C. It is to be like God to tend to the need of the widow, orphan, sojourner and the lowly. It this attention is a staple for godly living.

14. Foster care is not a sin.

15. Orphanages are not a sin.

16. Have you heard of the Orphan Trains that ran in America from 1854-1929? 200,000 children were moved from cities like New York and Boston to the American West to be adopted.

17. Single mom’s are not sinning. Single dad’s are not sinning.

18. My grandmother had a child out-of-wedlock. It was in 1935. My dad. Certainly that was a sin. However, her commitment to raising her son was not.

19. It is interesting. The Apostle Paul gave advice to the Corinthian Church. He said that a believer who is married to a non-believer, who wants to divorce the believer, that even though they had children together, it would be permissible to take the children and go. It is found in 1 Corinthians 7:12-16.

D. Every single one of us Christians should want to love like God loves. You can do no wrong when you care for widows and orphans, but is there a way you could do your caring better?

20. Is God’s desire that a single person become an adoptive parent? In some instances, for sure.

21. The story of a young woman named Katie Davis.

22. Is it God’s desire only for a man and woman to parent together as father and mother? Apparently not always.

23. Surely, if a man abuses his children, his wife should take the children and leave him. It is her duty. She must protect them from such a *monster*. She commits sin by remaining with him. She must become a single parent, at least for a time.

24. Much good comes from within a household where a godly father and mother love children (natural ones or adopted ones) a household where father and mother train them up in the way of the LORD. YES! This a wonderful reflection of the glory of God.

25. Does this mean that God’s desire is for every child to have godly male and female role models? I think so. It is important to each child’s development no matter whether the child is a boy or girl. However, oftentimes the best male and female role models are found outside of your home. It could be a grandmother, or uncle, or pastor, or Sunday school teacher, or coworker.

26. In Acts 21:8-9, we hear that the evangelist Philip, who was one of the seven original deacons. He had four unmarried daughters. I ask you, would it have been wrong for Philip and his daughters to take in orphans?

27. In the end, though I won’t press this too far, you could argue that God is the Great single parent who adopted us.

Conclusion: