

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: Dads Who Shoot Straight

SERMON REFERENCE: Psalm 127

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #2157

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) There is a war on the family today.
 - i) In the media and entertainment, marriage is often mocked, devoted parents are ridiculed, and fathers are depicted as buffoons or even cruel and vindictive.
- b) The importance of fathers in the home cannot be overstated.
- c) Psalm 127:1-5
 - i) Children are like arrows, and dads are like archers.
 - ii) When dads learn to shoot straight, the kids will hit the mark.
 - (1) An arrow is no more effective than the warrior who shoots it.
 - (2) The bow is not much better than the man who holds it in his hand.

2) THE ARCHER MUST BE STRONG (Psalm 127:4)

- a) No matter how fine the arrow or how strong the bow, it takes skill, practice and determination to make the arrow go where you want it to go.
- b) There may be many reasons why an arrow misses its target.
 - i) There may be some bad arrows.
 - ii) There may be some moving targets.
 - iii) There may be an unforeseen wind that blows the arrow away from the target.
 - (1) None of these reasons diminish the warrior's responsibility; it only increases his responsibility that he might shoot with skill.
- c) A dad's responsibility is to shape, sharpen and shoot these arrows at the enemy.
- d) The archer must be strong spiritually.
 - i) A dad's highest ambition is to be a good husband and father.

3) THE ARROWS MUST BE STRAIGHT (Psalm 127:4)

- a) Children are not born straight arrows.
 - i) Children are not, by nature, arrows; they have to be made into arrows.
- b) An archer cannot shoot straight with crooked arrows.
 - i) Among life's most difficult tasks is shaping, sharpening and shooting the arrows that God has put in your hand.
 - (1) The problem we have in society is not juvenile delinquency but the delinquency of dads; dropout dads, dads who fail to do and be what they ought to be.
 - (2) Ephesians 6:4
 - (a) The word nurture means "discipline" and admonition means "the teaching of the Lord."
 - (3) Colossians 3:21
- c) One of the prime marks of success for any man is whether or not his kids are spiritually sharp and emotionally straight.
- d) There will come a time when the arrows are out of your hand. While the arrow is in your hand, you have a responsibility.
 - i) Many fathers want to give this responsibility to professionals today.
 - (1) A professional storyteller called television.
 - (2) A professional educator.

- (3) You can hire a professional to mow the lawn and wash the car; your child will not have to learn discipline or responsibility.
- (4) A professional can teach him or her how to swim.
- (5) A professional guidance counselor to give your child ideas about his or her future.
 - (a) You cannot pay someone else to do what God wants you to do.
- e) How do you shape and sharpen arrows?
 - i) Begin early.
 - (1) Proverbs 22:6
 - (2) Little children can be shaped and molded very easily.
 - (a) The curiosity factor is very high.
 - (b) The memory factor is great.
 - (c) The trust factor is at its highest point.
 - (i) Matthew 18:3
 - (d) The humility factor is at an all-time high.
 - (i) Little children are not too proud to learn they can take advice, and they have an innate ability to believe.
 - ii) Be creative.
 - (1) Deuteronomy 6:6-7
 - (a) It is so in your heart to teach and share about the Lord that it bubbles out.
 - (b) Share about the Lord when you rise up, when you lie down, when you go out, when you come in, as you walk, as you talk, etc.
 - iii) Work to build character.
 - (1) Most dads are working on sports, grades, health, popularity, etc., but not character.
 - (2) Character is integrity.
 - (3) Who is teaching the following to your children?
 - (a) Contentment and courage
 - (b) Courtesy and discernment
 - (c) Fairness and friendliness
 - (d) Generosity and gentleness
 - (e) Helpfulness and honesty
 - (f) Humility and kindness
 - (g) Obedience and orderliness
 - (h) Patience and persistence
 - (i) Self-control and tactfulness
 - (j) Thankfulness and thriftiness
 - (k) Wisdom and zeal
 - (4) Compliment your children for character qualities.
 - iv) Set limits.
 - (1) 1 Samuel 3:13
 - (2) God set limits on Adam and Eve in the Garden.
 - (3) If you do not set limits on your children, it is a sign that you've rejected them.

- (4) When you set limits, do not just have a lot of little rules, but set some great principles and then adhere to them.
 - (a) If you give in when your children push against these limits, they will lose confidence and have no security.
- v) Assign responsibilities.
 - (1) Give your children regular work assignments.
 - (2) Teach them that there is a link between success and work.
 - (3) Teach them about money management.
- vi) Have a happy home.
 - (1) Let your home be filled with laughter.
 - (2) Your home should be the happiest place in town.
 - (3) Proverbs 15:13-15
- vii) Let them see God at work.
 - (1) They hear sermons and messages at church, but the home is the classroom and the laboratory.
 - (2) How do your children see God at work in your home?
 - (a) They will see God in your worship.
 - (i) They will see when you go to church and when you miss church.
 - (b) They will see your priorities in your worship.
 - (i) They will see how you spend your money.
 - (ii) They will see how you spend your time.
 - (3) Let them see God as a vibrant reality in your life.
 - viii) Cover them constantly with prayer.
 - (1) If you are the archer and your children are the arrows, then the bow is prayer.
 - (a) Prayer is what sends them forth.
 - (2) A father without prayer is like an archer with an unstrung bow.
 - (3) Never, never stop praying.

4) THE AIM MUST BE SURE (Psalm 127:4-5)

 - a) If you are a good archer and have a good arrow, then you still need a good aim.
 - i) You have to have a goal.
 - b) The family is under attack.
 - i) How do we take the institution of the family back?
 - (1) By our kids; a godly seed.
 - (2) How do we shoot down the ideas of the enemy?
 - (a) With our arrows.
 - c) Oftentimes, we're trying to keep our children from the enemy.
 - i) We should aim our children at the enemy.
 - d) Parents, more than anyone else, determine the direction of the arrow.
 - i) 3 John 4
 - ii) We have goals for ourselves; we have desires for our children.
 - (1) We cannot make goals for other people.
 - (2) You have to have a desire before you release the arrows.
 - e) Arrows are not to be collected; they're to be projected.

- i) Parents are to work themselves out of a job.
 - (1) Arrows are to be straightened.
 - (2) Arrows are to be sharpened.
 - (3) Arrows are to be shot.
- ii) As parents, we are to produce kids who can emotionally leave home and come to love someone else more than they love their own parents.

5) CONCLUSION

- a) Dads, ask God to make you a mighty man.
 - i) It is God who gives you strength.
- b) Get to work shaping, sharpening and seasoning your arrows.
- c) Work on your skills at being an archer.
- d) Rethink what your goals and desires are for your family.
 - i) What is your aim for your children?
 - ii) What kind of success do you want?
 - iii) Do you want to raise a man, a lady for God?
- e) If your children are grown and the arrows have gone in the wrong direction, it's not too late.
 - i) You can recover lost arrows.
 - ii) Pray again, and ask God in mercy to give you a new chance, and pray and pray and pray.
 - (1) Psalm 127:1
- f) If you grew up without a father or with a dad who was cruel and vindictive, there's another Father in glory; there is a Father in Heaven.
 - i) Matthew 6:9
 - ii) Psalm 27:10
- g) The Father in Heaven wants to be your Father.
 - i) The only way He can be your Father is if you will become His child.
 - ii) The only way you can become His child is to be born into His family; to be born again.
 - iii) You can be born into His family today.
 - (1) Acts 16:31
- h) To be saved means that every sin is forgiven and that Jesus Christ now lives in your heart and will one day take you home to Heaven.
- i) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- j) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31