

## Sermon: "Dadisms" - 6-17-18 - Mark 4:26-34

Grace and Peace on this Fourth Sunday after Pentecost – Pause and Reflect...

These familiar “Dadisms seem to fit for Father’s day.” Dadisms are typically common phrases spoken by fathers, as “one-liners” which may have been intended to help you in a particular situation while growing up. Most often these phrases seem familiar because you may have heard your dad say them or maybe you are a dad who has said them at some point in your “Fatherhood” career. There are times when these “dadisms” point to a life lesson or they may just be funny.

### **Familiar Dadisms:**

- I'm not just talking to hear my own voice!
- Stop crying or I'll give you a reason to cry.
- Don't forget to check your oil.
- You're only young once.
- The early bird catches the worm, so Rise and shine!
- If your friend jumped off a bridge would you?
- You have things so easy! When I was a kid...
- What part of NO don't you understand?
- I don't care what other people are doing! I'm not everybody else's father!
- Didn't your teacher learn you anything?!
- Two wrongs do not make a right.
- Don't use that tone with me!
- Am I talking to a brick wall?
- Go ask your mother!
- What do you think I am... made of money?
- If I catch you doing that one more time, I'll...
- Who said life was supposed to be fair?
- You will get further if you say please and thank you.
- Don't make me stop the car!
- What did I just get finished telling you?
- My father used to tell me...
- Act your age...
- Just wait until I get you home!
- Be home early.
- Fill your mouth with food and not with words.
- If you forget, you'll be grounded till the end of the world.
- Don't take yourself so seriously, take what you do seriously!
- You're always a winner if you lose with a smile.
- Four things never come back: time, the spoken word, the speeding arrow and a missed opportunity.
- You'll realize the value of money once you get a job.

I am sure you could add to the list. There are many things that come to mind when we think of dad. My dad wasn't one to show his feelings but he did like to build things and he would take me to many of my activities and appointments. When I had the growth spurt during the summer after 5<sup>th</sup> grade, as I mentioned in my digest article, he took me to the doctor. His schedule was little more flexible than my mother's, so he was able to be there to discuss why there was swelling on my knees, especially my right knee. I remember that he was the one who checked me into the hospital when that was decided and brought a portable TV to my room from home, because hospital rooms at that time didn't have TV's – amazing huh?

I read an amazing story of a man who became a father and a widower all in the period of a couple of days. On March 24, 2008, Matt Logelin announced the birth of his daughter on the blog he and his wife had been keeping about the pregnancy process of their baby. Four days later was the obituary for his wife "Liz," who had died of a pulmonary embolism 27 hours after their daughter Madeline's birth.

Maybe you have heard or read about this emotional and difficult story of this young couple, defying the odds to be together and have a child who was premature, but healthy and then in one fell swoop of a Code Blue, this man became a single father and a widower. I know in the past women more frequently died in child birth when medical practices were not as advanced as they are now, but because of these advancements it is rare to hear of women dying in childbirth, especially in the USA, so this story really caught my attention.

In the 10 years since Matt's wife died, he and his daughter Maddie have become advocates for others who grieve, especially parents who have lost children and children who have lost parents. A whole lot of people have been helped through the tragedy they experienced. Matt used his blog, if you aren't familiar with blogging, it is basically a journal online that people can read and connect with by responding electronically. Never in his wildest dreams did Matt Logelin think that the connections he made through his blog would impact his life as they did.

People have been supportive by sending he and his daughter things he needed, he wasn't prepared to be a single father and he let that be known. Matt allowed himself to be vulnerable and open to others which encouraged personal growth for him and for those who engaged with him and also Maddie the little girl who only knew her mother through other people. An interesting note: "Matt doesn't really celebrate Father's Day, because he sees it as a Hallmark Holiday, and believes Fatherhood and parenthood is an everyday experience. There are a lot more details to this story and I have included a link in the sermon I post online for you to read on your own; it is truly a story of growth through tragedy: <https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2011/apr/02/matt-logelin-single-father>

The lessons today are about how the Kingdom of God grows in our world, right alongside of us, like the Mustard Weed – yes I said weed. The Mustard Plant is seen as one of most prolific of all the weeds there is, growing where one least expects it. On my uncle's farm we would walk the fields to pull the mustard weed so it would mix in with the crops and jam up the combines. It is this metaphor that Jesus uses in Mark to compare the Kingdom of God, as a weed that permeates our world in ways we don't see coming and sometimes is annoying.

Yet God enters this world in ways which are mysterious and grows in ways which are unexpected, but the promise is that God is here and so is the Kingdom of God – even in the unexpected and unplanned situations. God works through and in us and we grow, but often we are looking in all sorts of other directions or have different plans when God's seed is planted in us or maybe we aren't looking at all, expecting nothing. Matt Logelin and his wife Liz had planned to raise their daughter Madeline together, but the plans changed – Matt and Maddie's whole world changed when Liz died. There wasn't a Plan B, who has a Plan B, when anticipating the birth of a baby, rarely does one plan on Mom or Dad dying before the child is a few days old.

God's Kingdom Comes, we are promised and we understand more when we are ready to hear it. Parables leave people – leave us befuddled and often confused, they are also an opportunity for teachable moments - the disciples had the opportunity to learn more when

they met privately with Jesus. All are included in Jesus' teachings, but it is those who follow him who are given further insight, it seems to teach them to help others in their confusion.

Another thing that I did with my dad when I was young was plant a garden, really he would till the soil and I would plant the seed. I also remember planting a whole tree line of poplar trees as a wind screen on the 10 acres of property we had. What I find so amazing is that I would suggest something and we would do it – I was just a kid, but I was listened to. I remember spending hours in the dead of the MN winter looking through seed catalogs contemplating the possibilities for the summer planting, this is what I did before the internet. I would show the possibilities to my dad and mom, order the seeds so we would be ready to do the planting. It was amazing to watch things grow; sometimes I would just sit outside and think that I could actually see some of my plants grow.

Really I couldn't see my plants or even the grass grow, and so it is with the Kingdom of Heaven here on earth, we cannot always see it grow but all of a sudden something changes. We prepare and till the soil of faith and something happens, we open ourselves to the positive things when the negative things seem to overwhelm and something happens. We encourage growth by planting seeds and not expecting anything in return, except that God will work, in God's Time and in God's Space. Jesus spent so much time explaining what the kingdom of God looks like, and we still have a hard time understanding this Kingdom of God concept – is it like a mustard seed or something else? What we ultimately have is an unexpected king, whose throne is a cross, and whose final words proclaim forgiveness and unconditional love and a kingdom that will never end – Here is the ultimate "Dadism:" "A Father is neither an anchor to hold us back, nor a sail to take us there, but a guiding light whose love shows us the way." Ultimately this is God - Amen

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