Matthew 9:35-10:8 NIV, KJ

Outline for Sermon for Father’s Day

I. Introduction:

A. Wish all the Dads a “Happy Father’s Day”

B. Fathers don’t get much respect anymore: A perfect example that boys grow up spending hours and hours throwing footballs and going to games with their Dads. And when they make it big on the college scene, before the big bowl game they get interviewed, and the first thing they say is, “Hi Mom!!”

C. But the news on Father’s Day isn’t all bad. Look for illustrations with humor that show what Kids think of their Dads.

D. One you may use: National Center for Fathering conducts Father of the Year

Essay Contests in partnership with local schools. children submitted essays on the

topic, “What my Father Means to Me.” Here is a sampling of essays from past

contests:

a. A first grader writes, “My dad is the best dad ever. I would kiss a pig for

him.”

b. Another first grader writes, “My dad is a Frito‑Lay man. That is an important job because Frito‑Lay means chips, which is food. That is so

important because you could not live without food.”

c. A third grader writes, “The dad in my life isn’t really my dad. He’s my

Grandpa. But he’s been like a dad to me since before I was born . . . I hope

that as I get older Grandpa will teach me all the stuff he knows about woo d, and first‑aid, and everything else he knows about. My Grandpa isn’t my

father, but I wouldn’t trade him for all the dads in the world.”

d. A fourth grader writes, “Sometimes as a joke I’ll put my stinky socks in his

briefcase, so at work the next day he will think of me! He’s always at the

concerts and plays that I’m in, even though he lives about an hour away.” e. A fifth grade girl writes, “. . . You know what else my dad does? He braids my hair. I’m the only girl I know whose dad braids her hair. I think that’s a

perfect dad. He already is the world’s greatest dad to me. I just wanted everyone to know that.”

f. A sixth grader writes, “One time I had an assembly and I was a soloist and

my dad was in the first row and after my song I smiled at my dad and my dad smiled back and started crying. That was the best thing I ever saw.” [(http://www.fathers.com/research/essays.html.](http://www.fathers.com/research/essays.html) Cited in Preaching Now)

E. Father’s Day is known as the day grown kids call home to speak to Dad

F. What do you give to people who have everything?

G. Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness . . . Then he sent them out with

these instructions: “Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the

Samaritans. Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. As you go, preach this message:

‘The kingdom of heaven is near.’ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons.” Then he adds these powerful words, “Freely you have received, freely give.”

H. Here is the motivation for all evangelism, all works of justice, all foreign missions:

“Freely you have received, freely give.”(V8)

II. A. We have so much. That’s the first thing we need to see. We have so much.

B. A visitor from a Third World country came to the United States. As he was riding

through a subdivision, he noticed a car backing out of the garage and he said with

amazement, “You even have houses for your cars!”

C. It reminds me of something humorist Will Rogers once said in the midst of the

Great Depression. Will Rogers‑‑who had seen grinding poverty in other parts of the

world--said of America, “We’ll hold the distinction of being the only nation that ever

went to the poorhouse in an automobile.”

D. Motivational speaker Tony Robbins tells about something life-changing that occurred on Thanksgiving Day many years ago. A young boy woke up with a sense of foreboding. His family was in dire financial straits. They didn’t have much to look forward to that Thanksgiving Day--just a meager meal.

They were too proud to ask for charity. This led to frustration and harsh words

between Mom and Dad. The boy was devastated to watch his mother and father become more and more angry and depressed with each passing hour.

Then suddenly there was a loud and totally unexpected knock on the door. Standing

there was a tall man in rumpled clothing, grinning broadly, and carrying a huge basket. In that basket was a multitude of good foods: turkey, stuffing, pies, sweet potatoes, canned goods! The man at the door said, “This is from someone who knows you’re in need and wants you to know that you are loved and cared for.”

The father tried to protest, but the man holding the basket said, “I’m just a delivery

person. Have a great Thanksgiving.” In that brief encounter, says Tony Robbins, this

young man’s life was changed. The kindness of this stranger would never be forgotten. The young man vowed that some day he would repay that grand gesture. By the time this young man was nineteen years old he had begun to fulfill that promise. That Thanksgiving, with his own earnings, he set out to purchase groceries not for himself, but for two families that he knew were in need. When he arrived at the first house, he was greeted by a Latino woman with six children. Her husband had abandoned the family only two days before. They had no food. You can imagine the pandemonium when this young man went to his car and started bringing in turkey and stuffing and sweet potatoes and canned goods and all the things that he

had bought for this family. The children shrieked, and the woman started exclaiming,

“You a gift from God! You a gift from God!”

“No,” said the young man, “I’m just the delivery boy. This is a gift from a friend.” The

young man was sharing with others because someone first shared with him.

Actually this is the personal story of Tony Robbins himself. He was the boy whose

stressed-out family received the Thanksgiving basket and who turned around and began giving out similar baskets at nineteen years of age. And because, as a motivational speaker, he has achieved astounding success, Robbins also started a foundation that has given Thanksgiving baskets to hundreds of thousands of people over the years. (Tony Robbins, Notes from a Friend (New York: Simon & Schuster,

1995).

III. A. Freely You Have Received, Freely Give

B. We are rich, if we only knew it. That is why we need to listen closely to Jesus’

words, “Freely you have received, freely give.” Here is the motivation for all good works, “Freely you have received, freely give.”

C. Jesus spoke these words to his disciples, he was not talking about financial

blessings. He was talking about the spiritual blessings the disciples had received through him. His love, his grace, his peace. He was asking them to go out into the world to share the faith that he had nurtured in them.

D. God danced the day you were born. You are loved. You are beautiful. You are a gift of God, his own possession. You are a gift to all humankind, God’s gift of love to them. This message reminds us of the mission of Jesus--to share the message that every human being is loved, beautiful, a gift of God, and is a gift to humankind.

IV. A. Conclusion

B. You and I are loved by God. This makes us spiritually rich, if only we knew it. We

have treasures that are not dependent on the stock market or the size of our bank

accounts or the resale value of our house. We are rich because we are loved. We are loved by other people and we are loved by God. We are particularly mindful of our family relationships on a special occasion such as Father’s Day. To know that we are loved is the greatest gift we can receive from a parent. But to know we have a heavenly Parent who loves us is the most wonderful gift of all.

C. In 1995 Cal Ripken, Jr. broke what many believed was baseball’s unbreakable

record--Lou Gehrig’s record for consecutive games played (2,130). Known as baseball’s all‑time Iron Man, Ripkin retired from baseball in 2001 after 21 seasons

with the Baltimore Orioles. His name appears in the record books repeatedly, most notably as one of only seven players in history to amass 400 home runs and 3,000 hits.

Ripken regularly gives the credit for all his accomplishments to the example and teaching of his father, Cal Ripken, Sr. Cal Ripken, Sr., was a former baseball player,

coach, and scout for the Orioles. In 1987 and 1988, Cal Ripken, Sr. managed the Orioles, and both Cal Ripken, Jr. and his brother Billy played for the team that year, a first in baseball history.

In 1996 Cal Ripken, Sr. was inducted into the Oriole’s Hall of Fame and Cal Ripken, Jr.

was asked to say a few words about his father. It was an emotional moment, and the

younger man struggled to find just the right words.

Finally he decided to tell a story about his own two children--Rachel, who was six

years old and her little brother, Ryan who was three. They had been bickering for weeks and one day Ripken heard Rachel taunt Ryan. She said, “You’re just trying to be like Daddy!”

After a few moments, Cal asked Rachel, “What’s wrong with trying to be like Dad?” When he had finished telling this story, Cal Ripken, Jr. looked at his father and said, “That’s what I’ve always tried to do.”

(http://www.gbgm‑umc./simpsonvilleumc/ser111900.html.)

D. This is what Christ expects out of his disciples. He expects us to try to be like Dad. To be like our Heavenly Father who gave Himself so completely for the world. “Freely you have received, freely give.” That’s our challenge. Let’s get with it.