

# Scott's Thoughts

June 16, 2024



*“As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him.” (Psalm 103:13, ESV)*

Father's Day seems to come around with greater speed each year. This Sunday, June 16, 2024, is the

day we set aside to honor Fathers this year. I realize that each one of us has different ideas of what makes a great father, so I've spent the week thinking, “What do I preach about fathers this Sunday that is fresh and new?”

I have great respect for my dad who departed this life in 1987. He lives in my memories. Dad was drafted at age 17 during WWII and served in the Navy. He liked the military but wanted a family. So, after the war he enlisted in the Army because he felt the Army offered a better chance for him to be an involved father. When I was born, Dad was still in the Army and spent a lot of time in the field. When he went to Korea, he was away from home for a full year, but eventually, Dad had to choose between making a career in the Army or being with his family. He felt the pull of family was more important than his desire to continue his career in the military, so he left military life for a civilian one. Dad worked at several different jobs before he found the career he loved and became a firefighter. He retired from the Fire Department after twenty years of service.

Was my father the perfect father? No, but he was perfect for our family. As far as I can remember Dad

never attended a single one of my school activities. That did not bother me because I knew Dad loved every one of us. He proved that every day by working. He not only worked at the Fire Department, but he also had a series of part time jobs that he worked on his days off. These were not glamorous jobs. They were low-tech jobs that anyone could do, but no one wanted to do them.

Over the last month, I have had the pleasure to sit with two of my three daughters and talk with them about my father. They never had the chance to get to know him. I enjoyed filling them in on a man whose father forced him to enter the work force and quit school after finishing the eighth grade. Never-the-less, he did not quit learning and after I left home, he studied and got his GED. He then earned an associate's degree in Fire Science and became an EMT. Before he retired, he became the acting Chief of the Fire Department while they conducted the search for a new chief. Telling my children about their grandfather has been one of the most enjoyable things I have ever done as a parent. Some might have looked at my father and concluded that he was all about work and family came second, but the reality is family was always his top priority.

Our Heavenly Father loves us even more than our earthly fathers and He works every day to protect us and bring us to maturity. He is preparing us to live with Him in heaven forever.

*“To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.” (Philippians 4:20, ESV)*

Thanks for listening and keep on shining.

—Scott