

A FAITHFUL FATHER

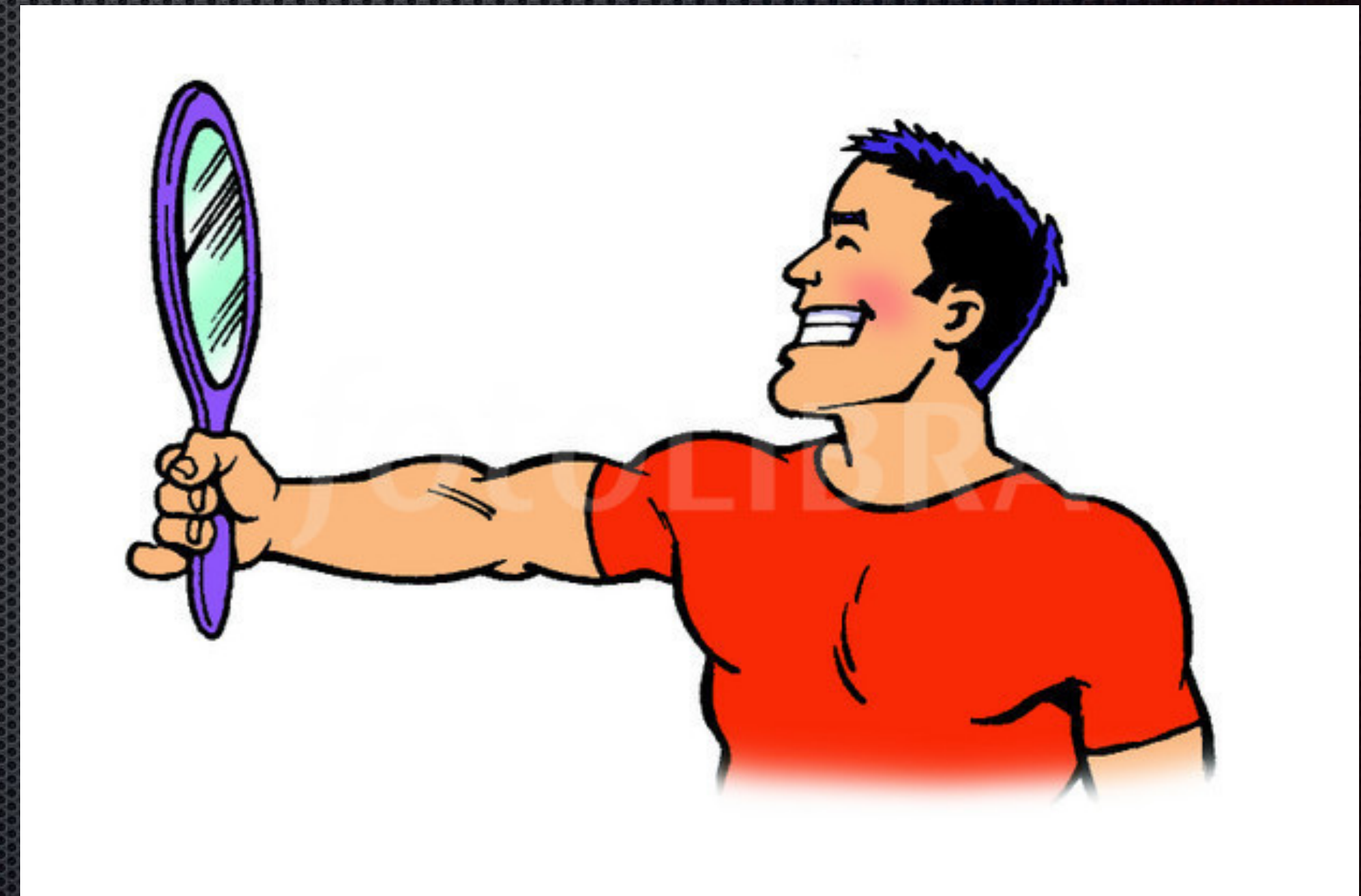


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Prov. 28:19 He that tilleth his land shall have plenty of bread: but he that followeth after vain persons shall have poverty enough.

- A faithful father works on himself. He doesn't make his life about his own achievements or accomplishments, but he lends his life to his family and makes sure they are secure. *Prov. 13:22 A good man leaveth an inheritance to his children's children: and the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just.*
- He doesn't base his life on the lives of vain people. He remains faithful to what is right and is faithful to call out wrong, even if he himself is wrong. *Luke 17:3 Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him,*
- The worst kind of poverty that a man can have is when he is morally poor. These are men that chase after the accolades and prosperity of those that do not follow God's way. *Rev. 3:17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:*



Prov. 28:20 A faithful man shall abound with blessings: but he that maketh haste to be rich shall not be innocent.

- ✦ When one desires to be rich, then that desire is in fact, the desire to be better than others. *1Cor. 4:7 For who maketh thee to differ from another? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it?*
- ✦ A faithful man loves the prosperity of believers and how they came into their own. God's way is the only way that matters and they do not covet the success of the wicked. *Acts 20:32 And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.*
- ✦ When a man is faithful, he will be blessed. When he follows God's plan, his family is blessed because he is teaching by example of how to achieve things the right way. *Prov. 20:7 The just man walketh in his integrity: his children are blessed after him.*



Prov. 28:21 To have respect of persons is not good: for for a piece of bread that man will transgress.

- ✦ A father that has respect of persons or uplifts the unrighteous because of their worldly status gives credence to the wicked. *Psa. 12:8 The wicked walk on every side, when the vilest men are exalted.*
- ✦ When a man covets the possessions or abilities of others, they lack integrity. They will compromise for what they covet. This is why coveting is a sin. When you lift up people because of what they have, you secretly desire to have those things. *Rom. 1:32 Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.*
- ✦ When a man puts himself in this position, he will sin in order to achieve what he covets. This is why we should mark the steps of godly men so that we will desire to do right instead of coveting. *Prov. 24:1 Be not thou envious against evil men, neither desire to be with them.*



SUMMARY

A faithful father puts his family first. His ability to provide, protect, and spiritually lead them is his priority. He understands that he cannot cut corners, bend rules, or compromise in order to do this because God's expectation for him is that he does things His way. Some men, because of fatherlessness or lack of good male authority, pattern themselves after the wrong people and this takes them completely away from God's plan for them. They see what others have done and they covet it. They live their lives based on the accomplishments and achievements they see in others. Instead of focusing on the righteousness of God, they follow after unrighteous men and desire riches, accolades, and the applause of men. Their role models are godless and sinister but because of their worldly success, they become idols and role models to these types of men.

Without proper male upbringing, it's easy to pattern oneself after the wrong people. As time progresses, it becomes even harder to turn away from these patterns in later stages of life. But a faithful father will do whatever is necessary to remove these things that are hinderances to him and his family. No matter how painful it may be, a faithful man is faithful to God and will do His will regardless. When a man forsakes the prosperity of the wicked and seeks the righteousness of God, he will be blessed and highly exalted in his home! But when men cannot shun evildoers and wicked influences, then they will be poor, both emotionally and morally!

Psa. 73:21 Thus my heart was grieved, and I was pricked in my reins.

Psa. 73:22 So foolish was I, and ignorant: I was as a beast before thee.

Psa. 73:23 Nevertheless I am continually with thee: thou hast holden me by my right hand.

Psa. 73:24 Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory.

Psa. 73:25 Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee.

Psa. 73:26 My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever.

Psa. 73:27 For, lo, they that are far from thee shall perish: thou hast destroyed all them that go a whoring from thee.

Psa. 73:28 But it is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord GOD, that I may declare all thy works.