

Father Figure

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Speaker: **James Bronner**

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James Bronner: Welcome to Brothers of the Word because brother, you need the word.

And I think pastor have me to speak today because it's Father's Day and I have the most children out of everybody in the church so they gave me this honor. I'm starting today in the book of Exodus 20:12, you don't have to turn there, you're all familiar with this 10 commandment, and it says, "Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee." And I speak from the subject today of father figure, father figure. And today is Father's Day, and I wanted to start off first of all by giving honor to my earthly father, Nathaniel H. Bronner, Sr. and many of you have never seen his picture. You might not have known the man, but I placed it here on the backdrop for you to even be able to see the treated, the fruit fellow that you sit under here and the church because we don't manage to own our own. God has blessed us with the anointing but we also stand upon the shoulders of a godly father, godly mother, godly grandparents.

What you are seeing is the manifestation of generations, so I wanted you to see my father and his six sons as I speak today, and he was a great man and he made us into the man that we are today. And as another honor so that I may carry his mouth while I'm preaching this message in his actual suit today in, even though the waist and the jacket wear a little tight on me because I have gained a few pounds in the last few years. But even though it may have a few holes in it from months through the years, and even though the fit may be a little tight, I tell you, the anointing fits perfectly in, the matter fits just right and I wear it and honor and out of respect for him for he was a good father.

They also asked my three sons to sit up here with me today, and their uncle's places as a visual of fatherhood. Sometimes you need to hear on message but other times you need to see a message, so even as Brother Ivan has his daughter, some, are they playing with them. It's fitting for you to see the image of fatherhood. And my three boys, all three of them want to be ministers and somewhere they got the strange idea that they will one day start a church and the three of them could pass through it together as brothers. I don't know where they got that idea from.

And I'm serious they came out with that and told us that. We didn't even suggest it to them. And I heard on the radio this week the question told to listeners of what makes a good father, what makes a good father, and different listeners called in, they gave different answers, different opinions, different viewpoints, and as I thought to myself driving along in my car, how would I answer that question. I thought about the fact that I had one of the best fathers that a man could have on the earth. I thought about the fact that that was my son's brother, and they have their first-born children and that they came and asked daddy that question, how

would I answer. I thought about that a lot of young man having their first child came to me as a father of many and has asked me, how do I be a good father.

After contemplating in it, the answer I came up with was the most effective father is an example of the type of man that he would want his son to become or his daughter to marry and spends enough time with his child so that they can intimately know his person. I'll read that again, the most effective father is an example of the type of man that he would want his son to become or his daughter to marry and spends enough time with his child, so that they can intimately know his person. And you don't have to do everything that you want them to accomplish in life but you do need to display a nature of it. If you don't go to college but you want your children to go to college, you need to let them see you reading books and attending seminars to at least show them that learning is important and you want to keep bettering yourself. If you want them to be honest, then let them see you being honest in those small situations of life. You go to the movies theaters and you look on the board and they say, five are allowed to get in free and you know your child is six, don't sneak them in, teach them a lesson of honestly. And a small thing, if you want your child to be a good spouse, show them what a good spouse that's like in the home. And I drop five of my kids off at a Christian Church Camp earlier this week, and there was a mother at the table in front of me and I had to wait on her to finish her processing there and she was paying for her kids for the week, keep in mind this is at a church. And, as soon as she finished writing the check, the lady behind the desk said, did you add in the money for the fieldtrip they're taking on Friday and the parent cursed and said, "Did you know I didn't?" And she look toward me and saw so the pastor's brother, she says, "Oh Jesus, forgive me for cursing and saying that."

But we have to provide an example of what we want our children to do and I'm sure she's telling her children all the time, don't curse no matter how mad you get, but her standing there at that table and heard mama cursed over little check mistake. Imagine what they're going to do when they stop there to. And boys, this is not rehearse to have—if you all ever heard daddy say even one curse word, have you ever heard daddy curse? All right, that's unrehearsed. They scared me there for a minute and it was thinking about—I was thinking back, did I say anything, I thought Joseph wondering that. But if I want them to be clean of tongue, then when something makes me mad, I've got to control my temper, control my tongue and show them by example.

And, the biggest problem today is not prodigal children as we hear about the story in the Bible of the Prodigal Son, but I tell you it's prodigal fathers. Prodigal fathers are perhaps the leading cause of prodigal children, so I'm speaking to fathers today on father figure, but it's a message primarily to the father and not the child. Father figure, I want fathers to figure on their actions being more lasting than their words. I want fathers to figure that even if they have divorced their wife, they can't divorce

their children. I want fathers to figure that their time with their children is more important than things or money. I want fathers to figure the things that they do in the lives of their children when they are young will have a lifelong impact. I want fathers to figure that more will be caught by their children from their lifestyle than taught from their words.

And earlier this year, the Trumpet Awards that's spearheaded by Ms. Xernona Clayton, they gave us our family an award and the category of spiritual enlightenment, and Ms. Clayton, she talked before she gave us the awards. The worse that she spoke, they were more meaningful to me personally than the beautifully sculpted award and trophy that they presented to us in front of all who did the distinguished gifts. Her words meant more to me than the television coverage and the recognition in front of Hollywood celebrities performing there. They brought tears up to my eyes. What she said was when she presented the award, she said that I came to this city a long time ago as a young woman, and she said that I met Mr. Nathaniel Bronner, my father. And even though he had stores all of the city and was a successful businessman, she said, "That's not what he talked about to me." She said that, "What your father talked to me about was how proud he was of his six sons." And he told me, he said, "Ms. Clayton, even though I'm building this big business, what I most proud of are those six sons and I'm training them up to be somebody one day." And, that touched me more than all of the accolades that she could have given us, all of the awards. It didn't matter who else was there to see it. The words of a proud father did something to my soul. I felt as though I was even speaking from the great just letting us know how proud he was of us.

And the pastor and I we have a health food business today because we saw our father take sick people tease and trenchers all of our life. We saw him hold free health seminars to educate people on health and we are two brothers in business together and three brothers in this ministry together because we saw our father and his brother unite and not argue and started to run a business together as family. My brother Bernard started Upscale Magazine because he saw my father and my mother around the dining room table creating and laying out magazines for our annual beauty shows. And raise your hand in here if you are a person that you can remember a person's face better than you can remember the name, just raise your hands right now that fits you. You can remember the face better than you can their name. All right, just put your hands down, that was about 90% of the people in here. And as I was preparing for this message, God woke me up early one morning and dropped something into my spirit and basically, what he put in my spirit was, words to your children versus actions are like the difference between remembering people's names or their faces. Let me repeat that, I want you to catch this, this is not something that I came up with or read somewhere, this is something that God impressed upon me early one morning. And he impressed on me that, words to your

children versus actions are like the difference between remembering people's names or their faces.

There are people that I went to school with that I run into now and it may have been 20 years since I've seen them in school but I will remember their face. I can't quite call the name, but I say I know that person, I remember the face and this is how it is with our children. They may not remember the lesson you tell them about to love their neighbor, but 20 years from now they will remember you cursed enough their mama. They may not remember the lesson you tell them about honestly, but if they see you steal something, 20 years later, that image will be still emblazed in their minds. They may not remember the lesson you tell them about helping those in need, but if you take someone who has nowhere to go and help them to get on their feet and get back into the life, 20 years from now they will remember the face of that person that was in need that you helped. And I remember 30 years ago, my mother going with me in the car one Christmas and she may not even remember, but I remember that I'm all about five years old and she put me on the car and we went out and found a family that didn't have the money to buy their children toys. And, I can't tell you the name of that little boy and girl today, but I still can remember the look on their faces when we walked in their house and we took them out to the mall and bought them clothes and bought them shoes and bought them toys. I still can see the look on their faces after 30 years. I can't remember a name, the past, but I can remember the look on their faces and the joy it brought to them. And, I can't remember even one of my nursery school teachers names right now. I can't tell you where my class was in the building, I can't remember the name of the book that I studied from, but I'll tell you what I do remember is my mother taking me to daycare everyday, dropping me off. Before I got out of the car every single day, she would have the same words that I still remember over 30 years later and she would look at me everyday before I got out to the car and said, "Baby, I love you and so does God."

And now, 30 years later, I drop my kids off for the camp for the summer and before they reach out the pool, the handle to get out of the car, I look at them and tell them those same words that I love you and so does God, and we all had paper routes growing up. I can't remember most of the names of my customers that I served, but what I do remember is the story of my brother Bernard going out early one blistering cold morning to throw his papers and my mother went with him and she looked at her child shivering. She took off the scarf from around her neck and wrapped it around his little head and I can guarantee you even though he may not know his customers name but he still remembers that warmth on his face from his mother scarf and daddy, he took us to a lot of health lectures. I remember very a little of the two-hour long sessions, but what I do remember is daddy getting up early walking outside in the fresh air and coming back in and doing yoga, I remember going 1629 and seeing him standing on his head there. I remember him

making and drinking fresh vegetables juice of carrots and apple and celery drinking it everyday.

And daddy, he took me to some golf tournaments when I was little. To this day, I can't tell you any of the player's names that were playing, but what I do remember is three times a week, my father taking me out the golf course and him walking barefooted in the grass carrying a little metal golf club case, he refuse to take a cart because he wanted to exercise. Here, he was out of millionaire walking barefooted around the course man, everybody else had on shoes, and I remember him talking me out those three times a week. And I can't remember any of the scores, I can't remember who won or lost on any given day, but I remember playing golf with my father. And I remember him helping me over the hills of life and I remember as my little legs were faster than he has, as we got to some of the hills on the course, I can remember me going ahead of him. and him in his later years I can remember him grabbing on to the back of my pants to allow me to help pull him up the hills of those courses and he helped me over the hills of life and I helped him up in the hills of the course.

And I can't remember much of my father's lessons on being frugal with money and saving for rainy days or even the name of the person that gave me my first house mortgage, but what I do remember is daddy being a multimillionaire and never owning a new car. I remember shopping with him for his clothes never Saks Fifth Avenue, but in family dollar. I remember never ordering his own meal, but always just asking for an empty plate and taking the excess and leftovers from our plates. That's what I remember 20 and 30 years later. Am I kidding mama, I'm not making any of this stuff I'm telling you today.

And I went to a nursing home with four of my kids, the YEP program on yesterday. And the kids they pass out Father's Day gifts to 40 elderly fathers there and as they gave them the gifts, they would tell them they were from the Arc of Salvation and, we just want to let you know that we love you and God loves you, and we wish you a happy Father's Day. And my kids even the very next day can't tell you the name of one of those people in that nursing home. They probably can't even tell you the name of the nursing home itself, but they will never forget the image of those faces as they lighted up when they saw a little one showing them love, handling them a gift and telling them that I love you. And parents, I ask you. what do your children see on your face at home? Even our heavenly father gave us permission to call his name Yahweh or Jehovah or God, but no man could see his face and live the sight of his face would change your life for all eternity. The closest man got to see in his face was seeing just his back part. What face are you showing you children at home? I can't remember all of the names, I can't remember all of words, but I will never forget the faces. Fathers are like heroes to their young children. My son Joshua, he often asked me, "Who do you think would win daddy, you are superman.

Who's faster, you are the flash. Who's stronger, you are Batman." And of course being his daddy I always say, "Of course me boy."

But, can you imagine how it would twist their minds if they saw their heroes on TV doing things that were meant for villains to do, and so it is in their home with fathers. There's nothing wrong with watching sports on TV, but out of me and my other four brothers, only one of us out of all five of us watches any sports at all on television and we lived in a society where over 90% of males watch some kind of sports at least on TV. The primary reason only one of us out of five watches sports on TV is because our father never watch sports on TV with us. Not only—do I not watch any sports, but none of my three boys watches any sports on TV, and I bet you that they won't even watch them when they grow up because they didn't watch them with daddy. But I do play sports with them like my father did with me and they all like to play with the father. And you all just shout it out loud, where do you want to go to college when you grow up Joshua?

Joshua Bronner: Georgia Tech.

James Bronner: John, where do you want to go to college when you grow up?

John Bronner: Georgia Tech.

James Bronner: Joseph, where do you want to go to college when you grow up?

Joseph Bronner: Georgia Tech.

James Bronner: And I didn't ask any of them to say that. This is from their own choosing. I never told them to go to that school, but where do you think their daddy went to school, Georgia Tech. It shows you the impact of your actions over your words, father figure. Nowhere in the word of God does our heavenly father asked us to do anything that he is not the image of themselves, even Jesus, the greatest man of all of history, he only did what his father, he saw what his father do. He only said and did what he saw and heard his father in heaven do. He even followed his father. Abraham was the father of a nation and God blessed his descendants forever because he lived up right before God and he told his children and his children's children the ways of the Lord. Through him came Isaac and Jacob, and the 12 tribes of Israel forming the Jewish nation. Moses was one of the greatest leaders of the Bible parting the Red Sea, allowing the people to walk through on dry land, performing the 10 Plagues of Egypt miracles, and receiving the Law of God written by the very finger of God. I was reading in the word one day that Moses had two sons Gershom and Eliezer, and it kind of struck me because I said I haven't heard a lot about these two sons.

And I researched to see what became of the sons of one of histories best leaders without question. The research showed that they became regular man like accountants and other regular task. And that kind of grieve me, I said, he was such a great leader. It's hard to believe that they didn't do more than just count this and that. And I meditated on how this could have happen and revelation hit me that even though Moses was the law bringer to the entire nation, he did not obey all of the Law of God given in Genesis Chapter 17 to circumcise males on the eight day of life. He broke the law to a nation, but yet didn't fully practiced it in his own home and in Exodus Chapter 4, God was about to take his very life because he had not circumcised his son and his wife, Zipporah had to circumcise the boy and lay the bloody skin at his feet. What face are you showing your children at home and God had to use and raise up Joshua to take over for Moses, a man not of his own ruins, instead of this own son, but the Bible says that Moses laid his hands and he walked with Joshua. He told an imparted wisdom into Joshua and Joshua was able to go on through Moses example of a great leader and become a great leader in general himself.

And I asked you fathers today, what kind of example are you showing your children, for they will remember the face much more than the words. I thank you today for joining Brothers of the Word because brother, you need the word.