

“As a Father Carries His Son”
by Jeff Chacon

1. Background of Deuteronomy 1

- a. For the last 40 years, the Israelites have been wandering in the desert. This was their punishment for not believing that God was on their side and that He could give them the Promised Land, in spite of the lopsided military odds against them.
- b. Now, Moses is preparing the people to try it again:
 - i. They need to cross the Jordan River and defeat the indigenous armies there (the Amorites and Anakites).
 - ii. So, Moses is going to remind them of what happened the first time:

2. Deuteronomy 1:26-31

- a. “But you were unwilling to go up; you rebelled against the command of the LORD your God. 27 You grumbled in your tents and said, 'The LORD hates us; so he brought us out of Egypt to deliver us into the hands of the Amorites to destroy us. 28 Where can we go? Our brothers have made us lose heart. They say, 'The people are stronger and taller than we are; the cities are large, with walls up to the sky. We even saw the Anakites there.' ” 29 Then I said to you, "Do not be terrified; do not be afraid of them. 30 The LORD your God, who is going before you, will fight for you, as he did for you in Egypt, before your very eyes, 31 and in the desert. There you saw how the LORD your God carried you, as a father carries his son, all the way you went until you reached this place.”
- b. This is a classic issue of faith vs. fear... (wax)
- c. But it's also an issue of trust vs. mistrust in God's love for us.
 - i. Q: If God is our loving Father, then why are bad things happening to us?
 - ii. Verse 27 = “You grumbled in your tents and said, ‘The LORD hates us; so he brought us out of Egypt to deliver us into the hands of the Amorites to destroy us.”
 - 1. Q: Have you ever felt that way?
 - a. My life is really hard – and God is doing nothing about it! He must hate me!
- d. Verses 29-31 = “Then I said to you, "Do not be terrified; do not be afraid of them. 30 The LORD your God, who is going before you, will fight for you, as he did for you in Egypt, before your very eyes, 31 and in the desert. There you saw how the LORD your God carried you, as a father carries his son, all the way you went until you reached this place.”
 - i. Moses says:
 - 1. Don't be afraid – God is going before you and will fight for you!

2. Think of how God has already carried you, as a father carries his son!
 - a. Israelites:
 - i. The Red Sea
 - ii. Water out of a rock
 - iii. Manna for food
 - iv. quail for meat
 - v. military victories
 - b. Share how God has carried me...
 - c. Q: How about you? Q: Has God carried you across one finish line after another? That's the power of his love for you!
3. Transition => An amazing illustration of the power of a father's love is the modern story of Dick and Rick Hoyt:

"Rick Hoyt was born with his umbilical cord wrapped around his neck, cutting off oxygen to his brain and leaving him a quadriplegic with cerebral palsy. When Rick was eight months old, the doctors informed his parents that he'd be a vegetable all of his life and that they should institutionalize him.

But Dick and Judy Hoyt had connected with their wounded infant, and were determined to raise him as normally as possible. Because Rick couldn't speak, school officials mistakenly thought he couldn't comprehend, but his mom and dad believed he could, and so they taught Rick the alphabet and eventually convinced local authorities that he could attend public schools like any other child.

When Rick was ten years old, a group of engineers at Tufts University chose to come to the family's aid. They built an interactive computer that allowed Rick to write out his thoughts using the slight head movements that he could manage. Anxiously awaiting their son's first words, Dick and Judy were surprised by his wit when those first "spoken" words on his new communicator were "Go Bruins!" "Right then we learned that Rick had a love for sports," Dick says.

At the age of 15, Rick told his father that he wanted to participate in a five-mile benefit run for a local lacrosse player who had been paralyzed in an accident. Dick was no runner, but he agreed to push Rick in his wheelchair. They finished next to last, but that night Rick told his father that when they were competing, he didn't feel handicapped.

Dick wanted his son to have that feeling as often as possible, so they began running the 6k, the 10k, and the marathon. Eventually, they set out to face the most challenging race there is, the iron-man triathlon: 2.4 miles of swimming, 112 miles of

biking, followed by a full marathon – 26.2 miles of running. They crossed the finish line together, and have been crossing finish lines together ever since.”

4. What an amazing example of a father carrying his son across one finish line after another, because of his great love for his son!
 - a. And that’s how our heavenly father is with us – carrying us across one finish line after another, because of his great love for us!
5. (Show short video: “Team Hoyt”)
6. Some thoughts:
 - a. We are all like Rick Hoyt (the son):
 - i. Spiritually paralyzed!
 - ii. Unable to live the Christian life w/o God! (wax!)
 - iii. Spiritual maturity:
 1. Is not about needing God less...
 2. It’s about needing Him more – letting God carry us and fight our battles for us!
 - i. Share: I need God more than ever! (wax)
 - ii. That’s Moses’ point to the Israelites in Deut 1 – “Let God carry you!”
 - b. And God is like Dick Hoyt (the father):
 - i. Able and willing to push us, pull us, and carry us across every finish line!
 - ii. God loves to save us! (And be our hero!)
 1. Psalm 18:1-19 (preach!)
 - a. Vs. 19 = “...he rescued me because he delighted in me.”
 - i. Q: Why does God rescue us?
 1. Because he has to?
 2. Because he promised he would?
 3. Because he has to obey the Bible? ☺
 - ii. A: No! Because he delights in us! (preach!)
 - b. One reason life is so hard is so God can save us!
 - c. Every hero’s gotta have:
 - i. a dragon to slay
 - ii. and a maiden to save!
 1. Satan’s that dragon!
 - a. and we’re that maiden!
 - d. Stop waiting for all the dragons to go away!
 - e. And start learning to let God save you by depending on him! (wax)
 - iii. God hurts when you hurt – more than you’ll ever know!
 1. Matthew 15:29-32 = “Jesus left there and went along the Sea of Galilee. Then he went up on a mountainside and sat down. 30Great crowds came to him, bringing the lame, the

blind, the crippled, the mute and many others, and laid them at his feet; and he healed them. 31The people were amazed when they saw the mute speaking, the crippled made well, the lame walking and the blind seeing. And they praised the God of Israel.

32Jesus called his disciples to him and said, "I have compassion for these people; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat. I do not want to send them away hungry, or they may collapse on the way."

2. Jesus was concerned about their physical well-being!
3. Jesus has compassion on:
 - a. our physical needs
 - i. illness
 - ii. aging
 - iii. handicaps
 - b. our emotional needs
 - c. our social needs
 - d. our spiritual needs
4. Read lyrics: "For Those Tears I Died"

"You said you'd come and share all my sorrows.
 You said you'd be there for all my tomorrows.
 I came so close to sending you away.
 But just like you promised, you came here to stay;
 I just had to pray.
 And Jesus said, "Come to the water, stand by my side.
 I know you are thirsty, you won't be denied.
 I felt every tear drop when in darkness you cried,
 and I strove to remind you that for those tears I died."

 - a. Quote 2 Cor 1:3-4 = "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, 4who comforts us in all our troubles..."
 - i. M.P. = God wants to comfort you! (Let him!)
- iv. God loves "the little things about us".
 1. Genesis 2:19-20 = "Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. 20 So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field."
 - a. (Teach...)

- b. Rick Hoyt's first words (at age 10 when got new computer): "Go Bruins!"
- c. Tyler's first words...
- d. My first real prayers...(USD)
 - i. "God I don't know you, but I believe in you. Please help me!"
- e. Like our children's cards to us: not masterpieces - but priceless to us!
 - i. That's how God views:
 - 1. Your prayers!
 - 2. Your service!
 - 3. Your meager efforts!
 - 4. Your little sacrifices every day!
 - 5. M.P. = God loves the little things about us - because he's our Heavenly Father!
- v. God knows the longings of our hearts!
 - 1. Rick Hoyt longed for the thrill of competing in athletics.
 - a. To cross that finish line and feel victorious!
 - 2. Q: What do you long for?
 - a. Significance? (men)
 - i. A man longs to be somebody's hero!
 - b. Security? (women)
 - i. A woman longs to be swept off her feet!
 - ii. Song lyrics: "I'm With You", Avril Lavigne
 - 1. "I'm standing on the bridge
I'm waiting in the dark
I thought that you'd be here by now
There's nothing but the rain
No footsteps on the ground
I'm listening but there's no sound
Isn't anyone tryin' to find me?
Won't somebody come take me home?
It's a DAMP cold night! (I said, "DAMP" ☺)
Trying to figure out this life
Won't you take me by the hand
Take me somewhere new
I don't know who you are
But I... I'm with you
I'm with you." (wax!)
- vi. Final point: God will carry us across the finish line spiritually!
 - 1. 1 Thes 5:23-24 = "May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit,

soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.”

- a. Holiness is a partnership between us and God
 - i. (Like farming)
- b. But God is doing the lion’s share of the work!
 - i. We’re like Rick Hoyt (the son)...
 - 1. God is like Dick Hoyt (the father)...

7. Close

- a. “This ‘Father’s Day’, we want to say: “Thank you, God, for carrying us across one finish line after another. We love you too.”
 - i. Pray (Tyler Chacon)