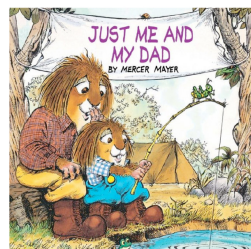


# Weekly Action Plan

One of my favorite childhood books was Mercer Myer's classic "Just Me And My Dad". It's a story about a boy (Little Critter) and his Dad's adventure on a camping trip. At every turn the overly enthusiastic boy, eager to tackle each camping task (finding a camping site, setting up the tent and launching the canoe etc.), fails miserably with each attempt. The Dad's response in each episode (except for the canoe launching) is met with a smile of understanding. This is really what gives the story its pop. The Dad models what so few experience in life. Loving patience.



As I talked about on Sunday, because we live in an "instant" society (instant food, the internet, credit cards all provide what we need and want in very little time) we have become very impatient people. I believe that translates into our expectations in relationships too. Think about it, most of us grow weary when others can't seem to see the obvious issues that are so plain to us in their character and behavior. It's especially frustrating when after helping or offering advice we see little or no change.

This past Sunday we explored the importance of friendship in the book of Job. Unfortunately much of the examples that Job's friends offer us are not good. One thing they did get right was when they first came to him they offered no words of advice or wisdom for seven days. They just sat and mourned with him. What patience! It's the high point of their interaction with him that unravels very quickly.

Patience is an essential component to real friendship. Why? ***Because God IS patient with you and I.*** Be honest about your own growth and maturing process. As you reflect on how quality change in your own life wasn't "instant" and God has patiently worked in your life to bring about those changes, commit yourself to extending the same patience and grace to others. Friendships won't survive without it.

## Overheard:

"Job says a lot of hard things about God, but he says them to God. He never stops praying. He stays in that relationship. He says, 'I don't understand,' but he never stops praying. I'll tell you something. ***If you're not getting anything out of going to God's throne of grace in prayer, I can tell you you're not going to get anything from staying away from it.***"

-Tim Keller "Job" 12/18/13

***Talk it out:*** Make some time to sit down at a kitchen table, at a coffee shop, or at the beach and explore with someone some of these questions:

- Thinking over your life, who are some of the people that best demonstrated patience with you?
- What triggers cause you to become impatient?
- How did your parent's patience/impatience rub off on you?
- What stories in the Bible best demonstrate God's patience?
- Consider how Job's patience and endurance pay off. He doesn't quit and is rewarded for it. Talk about a time when your patience and endurance has paid off.

***Pray it in:*** Make some time this week to pray. Thank God for His patience and grace in your life. Thank Him for some of the people who have been patient with you. Ask God to help you become more aware of His patience and grace in your life. ***Ask God to help you see where and with whom you could demonstrate more patience with.***

***Store it up:*** Committing verses to memory is a key way to hold on to the truths of God that we need to be regularly reminded of. Here is a great one for this week: ***"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience."*** -Colossians 3:12

*I'm always grateful for the privilege of praying and working with all of you! - Noah*