



ACCUSE            BLIND  
 CONSISTENT  
 DIVIDED          FATHER  
 HEALING



The title of Father is a kind of confusing one in our culture, but perhaps even the title of God, is even more confusing in our culture. For many, Father or God conjure up negative feelings. But what are those feelings based on? Negative experience? Cultural stigmas?

During Jesus' ministry there were constant attempts to discredit him as the Messiah, to ridicule him for not fitting the people's preconceived idea of what a Messiah would be or do. But that never deterred Jesus from continuing his mission. Perhaps this image of consistency is what we lack in too many fathers today. The role of father requires a lot of sacrifice and perhaps even being labeled by some negative stereotypical icons.

Jesus had many opportunities to "defend his name" when those who should have known better were attacking him; but he chose rather to stay consistent.

Even today, many fathers who are honored by their family are best honored for their consistency and the dependability more than any other attribute. What an amazing example of Godliness! We see this illustrated nicely in the Prodigal Son (**Luke 15**), who became an icon of consistency to the wayward son.

It's hard to stay focused on doing good when people accuse you of doing what you do because of evil motives, but in the end, people will know us by the fruit we display (**Matt 7:16**); and it was by Jesus' fruit that they should have recognized him!

**Isa 42:1-4**, "Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will bring justice to the nations. He will not shout or cry out or raise his voice in the streets. A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out. In faithfulness he will bring forth justice; he will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on earth. In his teaching the islands will put their hope."

Fathers, let our model of consistency bring hope to the next generation.

Read **Luke 19:41-44**

Describe your father:

List as many attributes as you can from Jesus' act of healing on the Sabbath (**Matt 12:9-13**):

Compare **1 John 3:1** with **Eph 6:1-4**, what makes them similar? What makes them different?

What do you think Jesus wanted the people to know about his reference to **Hos 6:6** while he was healing (**Matt 12:7**)

Outline **Isa 42** from Jesus' reference to it in **Matt 12**, how do his actions complete the passage?