

THE GREATEST CRISIS FACING AMERICA

(A Patriotic sermon)

TEXT: Luke 1:13-17

INTRODUCTION: In this election year, feelings are running strong as to what is the greatest **need** facing our country. Probably a majority of Americans feel it is the sluggish economy with a stubbornly high unemployment rate. “It’s the economy, stupid!” is still uppermost on the minds of many.

Others – especially in our border states – feel strongly that immigration reform is the greatest crisis we are facing as a nation. For the first time in our nation’s history, a sitting cabinet member has been found been charged with contempt by the U.S. House over this issue.

But to the perceptive Christian in our beloved country, the greatest crisis we are facing is the absence of functional fathers. The social, economic, and spiritual cost of dysfunctional dads is mind-boggling. Without a doubt, America’s greatest need is for a modern-day John the Baptist to *“turn the hearts of the fathers to the children.”*

OUTLINE: Humanly speaking, the remedy for America’s ills rests with **fathers**. What kind of men are needed to turn the tide in our country?

I. **Spiritual Men**

- A. Saved (v. 16 *“turn to the Lord their God”*)
- B. Separated (vv. 15a, 80)
- C. Spirit-filled (v. 15b)

II. **Devoted Fathers** (Ephesians 6:4)

- A. Avoiding exasperation (*“provoke not...to wrath”*)
- B. Nurturing
- C. Admonishing (discipline)

CONCLUSION: What is the goal and purpose for godly fathering? *“To make ready a people prepared for the Lord”* (v. 17c). There are two possible scenarios for the fulfillment of this objective:

- 1) Revival (which often begins with young people)
- 2) The Second Coming of Christ which ushers in the Kingdom

Our secular, godless culture does not have to claim our children as spiritual casualties. God is calling all dads to turn their hearts toward their children, so that the current crisis can be averted and our children’s hearts will be turned to the Lord.

