Our scripture this week comes from Proverbs 20:7. While you’re finding that – One evening a father, looking to impress his son, stepped out on the back porch. In his best voice, he hooted like an owl. His son was impressed. All of a sudden, the father heard an owl answer. So he hooted again and again the owl answered! The child was delighted. The next night, his son asked him to do it again. The owl answered! And so it went night after night. A while later, his wife was chatting with the neighbors wife who lived on the other side of the woods. With some exasperation, she said, “Lately, my husband spends all his nights talking to owls.” “That’s odd,” said her friend, “so does my husband.”

**Proverbs 20:7 The righteous *man* walks in his integrity; His children *are* blessed after him.**

 Today is Father’s Day. We’ve been blessed today with gifts and special music. Some will go home and be blessed with gifts, maybe a cookout. Hopefully, the children will come around. It can be a day of great happiness!

Of course, there are many who no longer have their fathers. The days of cookouts and gifts are gone, perhaps replaced with a trip to the cemetery to dust off the headstone and call up some quiet memories; perhaps to shed a tear or two and remember the love of your father.

 Our scripture says a righteous man walks in his integrity. The Bible doesn’t leave us to guess what a righteous man looks like. Psalm 1:2 tells us “But his delight is in the law of the Lord, And in His law he meditates day and night.” A righteous man meditates on God’s word, he delights in God’s way. In Psalm 5:8, we read “Lead me, O Lord, in Your righteousness because of my enemies; Make Your way straight before my face.” God delights in those who long to follow His way. The righteous man doesn’t plead his own way be made straight, but God’s way. He seeks to do God’s will. Isaiah 26:7 says, “The way of the just is uprightness; O Most Upright,
You weigh the path of the just.” The righteous man knows the path because he seeks the Lord.

 Proverbs 11:3 tells us about the path of integrity. “The integrity of the upright will guide them, But the perversity of the unfaithful will destroy them.” The righteous man gets this integrity through wisdom. Proverbs 9:10 says “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.” And a wise father gains his wisdom by observing Psalm 1:2 and delighting in God’s word.

 I’ve never met a man I considered wise who didn’t know the Lord. Many of us were or are blessed with a father who gained wisdom because he first feared the Lord. Children with such a father are blessed with the knowledge of right and wrong. They’re blessed with a father who disciplines them. Our scripture says that these children are blessed because of the father’s walk with God in integrity. I was blessed with a father and grandfather of integrity, who did right even when no one was looking. Who kept their word, even to their own hurt. My father stumbled at times, but he always rose. Proverbs 24:16 says, “For a righteous man may fall seven times And rise again, But the wicked shall fall by calamity.” I was blessed to witness my father’s walk.

 Today, fathers… take time to consider your walk. Is it a righteous walk? Proverbs 13:22 says “A good man leaves an inheritance to his children’s children, But the wealth of the sinner is stored up for the righteous.” What memory will your children hold while dusting off your headstone?

 Children, love your fathers. No man walks perfectly. Today, if he’s still here, forgive if needed, then love him. No matter how he stumbled, love him for rising. If he’s gone, release him, forgive his trespasses, then love him.

 God didn’t make any perfect fathers… but I have it on the highest authority that He didn’t make any perfect mothers, daughters, or sons either… Fathers, if you’re still drawing breath, it’s not too late. Let God remake you and start that walk of integrity that will leave an inheritance to your children’s children. Today is the day. Make it right today.