

## **ANOTHER PREACHER STORY**

It seems as if everybody has a preacher story and most of us do not want to hear another one. But this one is different. It makes a powerful point. Told by an elderly man to a preacher.....

(This story is attributed to Ben Hooper. Two-term governor of Tennessee)

“I was born an illegitimate child. I never knew who my father was, and that was very hard on me. The boys at school had names they called me, and they made fun of me. When I walked down the main street of our little town, I felt that people were staring at me and asking that terrible question, “I wonder who the father of that boy is?” I spent a lot of time by myself and I didn’t have any friends.

“One day a new preacher came to town and everybody was talking about how good he was. I had never gone to church before, but one Sunday I thought I would go to hear him preach. He was a good preacher, and I kept going back. Each time I would go late and leave early so I wouldn’t have to talk to anybody. Then one Sunday I got so caught up in the preacher’s message I forgot to leave, and before I knew what was happening, he had said the benediction and the service was over. I tried to get out of the church, but people had already filled the aisles and I couldn’t get past them.

“Suddenly I felt a heavy hand on my shoulder. When I turned that big tall preacher was looking down at me and asking, ‘What’s your name, boy? Whose son are you?’ I just shook when he asked that question. But before I could say anything, he said. ‘I know who you are. I know who your family is. There’s a distinct family resemblance. Why, you’re the son –you’re the son of God!’

Those words changed my life.

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