

"Honor your father and your mother!!" (Slide 1)

Reading: Psalm 103:1-14

Proverbs 22:6 (Slide 2)

***Train up a child in the way he should go,
Even when he is old he will not depart from it.***

Now that I'm older, this verse means a great deal more to me than it did the first time I heard it as a young man.

When we're young we feel we know the way but so often the path we choose is laid with a great many obstacles that take us further from the way we should go.

Solomon is speaking from reflection and experience. He has a new perspective that perhaps if we were to ask him, "What do you think now about what your father said?" He would reply; "He was right!" Personally, I would have the same reply about my earthly father and mother.

The way is traveled through experience and maturity and we often lack those important navigating tools.

Though David made mistakes, He truly loved His son when he passed along this advice:

1 Kings 2:1-4 (Slide 3)

1 As David's time to die drew near, he charged Solomon his son, saying, 2 "I am going the way of all the earth. Be strong, therefore, and show yourself a man. 3 Keep the charge of the LORD your God, to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, His commandments, (Slide 4) His ordinances, and His testimonies, according to what is written in the Law of Moses, that you may succeed in all that you do and wherever you turn, 4 so that the LORD may carry out His promise which He spoke concerning me, saying, (Slide 5) 'If your sons are careful of their way, to walk before Me in truth with all their heart and with all their soul, you shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.'

Much of the good that came into Solomon's life was the direct result of the relationship David had with God. In fact, the kingdom, even after his great sin, was not taken from him in his lifetime because of David, his father.

Solomon made many mistakes as King.

Leading is often difficult. Parenting isn't easy either. In our country it is much more difficult today than ever before.

Parents do make mistakes. Yet, children often overcome those mistakes because of the love and nurture demonstrated to them by their earthly father and mother.

Solomon is saying that we are to do our best in training our children. Some will depart from the way but will return because of our love, nurturing and training. Still others, despite the love, nurturing and instruction will never return to the way.

Eli was a priest from the tribe of Levi and one would think he would be an expert on parenting. Yet, he made mistakes with his sons that caused irreparable harm.

The Bible calls his sons ***“worthless men”*** and when you read about the things they had done you realize that this is an accurate description.

Where they needed a firm hand and strong chastisement, Eli failed. Therefore, we learn what God’s judgment is toward the house of Eli.

God speaking to Samuel, the protege of Levi, after calling him as prophet says in:

1 Samuel 3:10-14 (Slide 6)

10 Then the LORD came and stood and called as at other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for Your servant is listening." 11 The LORD said to Samuel, "Behold, I am about to do a thing in Israel at which both ears of everyone who hears it will tingle. (Slide 7) 12 In that day I will carry out against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. 13 For I have told him that I am about to judge his house forever for the iniquity which he knew, because his sons brought a curse on themselves and he did not rebuke them. (Slide 8) 14 Therefore I have sworn to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be atoned for by sacrifice or offering forever."

It was a tough thing for the young prophet to hear and even a tougher thing for him to tell his mentor Eli. But eventually he did tell him and Eli accepted the judgment of God.

One would think that this became a time of reflection for Eli. This is what I should have done in raising my children.

Above all else, set an example by putting God first!

1 Samuel 2:27-29 (Slide 9)

27 Then a man of God came to Eli and said to him, “Thus says the LORD, ‘Did I not indeed reveal Myself to the house of your father when they were in Egypt in bondage to Pharaoh’s house? 28 Did I not choose them from all the tribes of Israel to be My priests, (Slide 10) to go up to My altar, to burn incense, to carry an ephod before Me; and did I not give to the house of your father all the fire offerings of the sons of Israel? 29 Why do you kick at My sacrifice (Slide 11) and at My offering which I have commanded in My dwelling, and honor your sons above Me, by making yourselves fat with the choicest of every offering of My people Israel?’

Putting God first means everything else is second, even our children. If we want them to follow God then by example we honor God above everything else.

Eli knew his son’s were wicked yet did nothing about it. He knew they defiled the temple and had abominable relationships with women who served at the doorway of the temple. Instead of removing them from priestly duties he honored them above God by letting them continue in service.

Deal with Sin

God made it clear that not only did Eli not do anything about the sin of his sons, in essence, he actually participated in their sin:

“making yourselves fat”

My parents would have immediately confronted me with this level of disrespect towards God and one way or another would have dealt swiftly with my wrong doing.

Godly parents set Godly examples.

My brothers and my sister and I were truly blessed to have Godly parents. There are things I miss a great deal about my parents. My mom’s teaching by example is much like:

Psalm 119:9 (Slide 12)

How can a young man keep his way pure?

By keeping it according to Your word.

She taught His way in word and in deed. Not only by what she said but how she said it. She was a very intelligent person with a kind nature. A kindness she expressed to everyone most often speaking softly yet unapologetic regarding her faith.

In reflecting on the times I spent with my mother growing up and even in adulthood, I typically don't think about her last days. She had developed dementia and sometimes I wasn't even sure she knew who I was and I know more often than not she didn't know where she was even though she had lived in the same house for many years.

What I remember and cherish is her love for God, her devotion to the church by not only attending every service but in her way, giving one hundred percent of her participation.

She loved nature and the beauty of flowers in which she was an expert caretaker. She loved her family and her grandchildren and I am sure was in an often prayerful attitude for our success.

What I miss most about my dad is not necessarily his advice but his steadfastness. Though much of the world was changing he did not. He still perceived what should truly be regarded as an immovable approach to life in all godliness.

I can only imagine, that though he's been gone for 14 years and that there has been a coming out of many

societal improprieties, that he would have the same godly approach to what he would be witnessing.

Did they make mistakes in parenting, I'm sure they did and when I was younger I thought they did. But as I have gotten older I don't remember any of them. In fact, I would be hard pressed to name one.

They were great at this:

Proverbs 22:6 (Slide 13)

***Train up a child in the way he should go,
Even when he is old he will not depart from it.***

No wonder God commands:

Exodus 20:12 (Slide 14)

"Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the LORD your God gives you."

(which is the first commandment with a promise)

Ephesians 6:2b

May we heed that command whether our mother and father are still with us or have gone to their reward. Let's

honor them by teaching our children and grandchildren the way of the Lord God.

I didn't do a Mother's Day sermon and though it is past I say to all the Mothers;

Happy Mother's Day!!

And to the Fathers:

Happy Father's Day!!

Invitation

Today we should Honor our Heavenly Father by being obedient to His will. If you have not been baptized into Christ Jesus having your sins remitted, don't delay, do it today.

If we have not followed His commands as we should though we are christian, let's Honor God by turning back to Him and once again travel that narrow road. Can we pray for you and with you?

Until the Lord comes: make your wish known before He returns.

Reading:

Psalm 103:1-14

***1 Bless the LORD, O my soul,
And all that is within me, bless His holy name.***

***2 Bless the LORD, O my soul,
And forget none of His benefits;***

***3 Who pardons all your iniquities,
Who heals all your diseases;***

***4 Who redeems your life from the pit,
Who crowns you with lovingkindness and compassion;***

***5 Who satisfies your [a]years with good things,
So that your youth is renewed like the eagle.***

***6 The LORD performs [b]righteous deeds
And judgments for all who are oppressed.***

***7 He made known His ways to Moses,
His acts to the sons of Israel.***

***8 The LORD is compassionate and gracious,
Slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness.***

***9 He will not always strive with us,
Nor will He keep His anger forever.***

**10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins,
Nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.**

**11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
So great is His lovingkindness toward those who [c]fear
Him.**

**12 As far as the east is from the west,
So far has He removed our transgressions from us.**

**13 Just as a father has compassion on his children,
So the LORD has compassion on those who [d]fear Him.**

**14 For He Himself knows [e]our frame;
He is mindful that we are but dust.**

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