



CrossRoads Notes:

Turn your Bibles to Proverbs 13:22

Title: Legacy of Biblical Proportion

Theme: Fathers Living Biblically Before Their Children

Listen as I read Proverbs 13:22, “A good man leaves an inheritance for his children's children...”

Introduction: *“Inheritance” (nahal) here can be used figuratively meaning to leave a good heritage for our children. A man can choose to leave a good or bad heritage for his children to follow. God’s Word promises to “[punish] the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate [Him], but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love [Him] and keep [His] commandments (Exodus 20:5b-6).”*

Interrogative Sentence: *Just how do we live in a way that leaves a godly legacy? There is no greater heritage to have than that of a Christian family.*

Transitional Sentence: The Bible gives four Christian character traits that can build a lasting legacy for the Lord. The first is to speak and live with Christian integrity. (1 Chronicles 29:17) (Psalm 41:12) (Psalm 25:21)

The Word “integrity” (*tom*) used often in the Book of Proverbs and Psalms protects a man’s soul from the flesh, the snares of the world and the lies of the devil because his hope is in the Lord Jesus Christ. (The Complete Word Study of the Old Testament; Gesenius’ Hebrew-Chaldee; Dictionary of Biblical Languages)

A father must not boast of having a car yet fail to make the time for his son to learn to drive it in the proper season of his life. A father must not boast of having a skill or trade and not take time to teach it to a child who desires to learn it. A Christian father must not promise to take his child somewhere or do something special and not make the time to fulfill the promise. Children will trust a dad who chooses to use his God given resources for the good of the children he is called to raise. A Christian father with Biblical integrity will not set before his eyes that which is vile. The New American Standard Bible has the best translation with “I will set no worthless thing before my eyes...” A Christian father will not allow wickedness to have dominion in his heart and he forbids it to be even placed before his eyes. Jesus taught, “The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness (Matthew 6:22).” (The truths found in this portion of the message came about as I have studied the NIV Bible; The Expositors Bible Commentary; Barnes Notes; The Treasury of David; The Complete Word Study of the Old Testament)

Transitional Sentence: *A father with a heart for Biblical integrity will enjoy a lasting legacy and will live a life that serves the Lord with intensity. (Colossians 3:23-24; Proverbs 14:22; Mark 10:43)*

A Christian father will strive to live before his children a life of servanthood with ambitions of serving for the purpose of glorifying Christ before those he serves. He serves hoping that the people he works for might ask about the things of God or take notice that he is actually serving the Lord who gave him his opportunities. A Christian who has been Holy Spirit taught on how to do his work as working for the Lord is enthusiastic, eager to get to work and do his work. He serves with intensity no matter what he is asked to do. The happiest janitor is one who cleans the office, the shop or bathroom as though Christ is standing right there beside him. The most diligent father is the one who manages his affairs of life and business in way that expresses recognition of daily accountability.

Pastor Rick Warren recently read a study of youth that were asked, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" Not one child has ever said, "I want to grow up to be a servant." Our American dreams and way of thinking have caused our children to place their hearts on being celebrities, winners and worldly leaders.

One of the most intense and hardest working preachers I know today is Rick Warren. He writes this about his dad, "My father was an incredible servant of God. He served others and he never became famous. He wasn't particularly brilliant, but he was a great man because he served with intensity. He was a carpenter and in his lifetime he helped build over 150 different churches all around the world and build water towers in towns ravaged by earthquakes... He paid for most of his personal expenses on those missionary outreaches out of his own pocket, just for the privilege of serving others and Christ." Rick Warren is a hard working pastor with a heart to serve other pastors, a legacy of his dad who passed on to be with the Lord.

Psalm 37:18 says, "The days of the blameless are known to the Lord and their inheritance will endure forever." The greatest inheritance a Christian father can receive outside of Christ Jesus is sons and daughters who know the joy of doing all their labors as unto the Lord and sharing the message of Christ's love to a lost a dying world.

Transitional Sentence: *A Christian father speaks and lives with integrity, serves with intensity and gives with generosity.* (2 Corinthians 9:6-11) A Christian father is a man who gives to the Lord's work in every way because it is the Lord's work, he does not give to get but for the glory of Christ. He gives much and reaps much. A Christian father gives deliberately to please God, not grudgingly and not from compulsion. He knows that God does not accept a gift of money, talent, time and energy that is not given out of a joyful heart. He gives with purpose in his heart by thinking about the need, how to give sacrificially for the glory of God and knowing exactly what the Holy Spirit prompts him to give. He knows that if there is any begrudging, reluctance or regret in his giving. He asks the honest question, "Why is not my heart to give joyful of my finances, time, energy, talents and abilities to the Lord's work?" Then he invites the Holy Spirit to give him the faith he needs to be the giver the Lord wants him to be. A Christian father wants his children to see him give with a right heart before God, not to please man or out of personal honor and recognition.

A man who gave generously and enjoyed a legacy that was passed on to his next generation was King David. Solomon, David's son became king after David and was the one chosen by God to build a house of worship. It is in 1 Chronicles 22 and 28 we read of David's heartfelt desire to build a temple for the Lord his God and it is there we read of David hearing the Word of the Lord saying that he would not be the one to build the temple, his son Solomon would build it (1 Chronicles 28:3,6).

The Bible says, "David made extensive preparations before his death (1 Chronicles 22:5)." Through his authority he appointed stonecutters to prepare dressed stone (1 Chronicles 22:2). He supplied great amounts of iron, bronze and wood (1 Chronicles 22:3-4) (1 Chronicles 22:14-15). David provided marble in large quantities as well as stones of various colors. Let the Holy Spirit enable you to catch the heart of a father who has a heart after God. After David had provided through his political authority the Bible says David in "...his devotion to the temple of [his] God [gave from his] personal treasures gold and silver... as well (1 Chronicles 29:3)." 1 Chronicles 29:3-4 tells us that David gave from his personal funds "...over and above everything [he] had [already] provided..." through his political authority. The amount he gave personally was in modern day measurements 3.6 million ounces of gold and 8.4 million ounces of silver. This means that David gave generously 110 tons of gold and 260 tons of silver.

After making such a generous donation David asked the question, "...Now, who is willing to consecrate himself today to the Lord? (1 Chronicles 29:5) The Bible says, "...the leaders of families, the officers of the tribes... officials in charge of the king's work gave willingly... toward the work on the temple..." (1 Chronicles 29:6-7) 1 Chronicles 29:9 goes on to say, "...the people rejoiced at the willing response of their leaders, for they had given freely and wholeheartedly to the Lord." David also prays to the Lord to keep this desire in the hearts of the people (1 Chronicles 29:18). David being a loving father wanted a Godly legacy to be passed on to his children prays for Solomon saying, "And give my son Solomon the wholehearted devotion to keep your commands, requirements and decrees and to do everything to build [the kingdom of God, worshipers for the Lord]."

Today the New Testament church is not a building but people who have in repentance accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and Lord. Christians give to the Lord by supporting any work that glorifies Jesus Christ before the children of God and those in the world. Just as God used David in one part of his work, in provision and then He used Solomon in the tasked of getting the work accomplished, the Lord has set people in different places of service unto Him.

A Christian father who wishes to leave a legacy of providing for the Lord's work will be seen by his children as a generous provider and worker unto the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ. (The truths found in this portion of Scripture came about as I have prayerfully studied The NIV Bible; King James Bible; Tyndale Concise Bible Commentary; New American Commentary; Matthew Henry Commentary; A Commentary, Critical and Explanatory; The Bible Knowledge Commentary; Barnes Notes)

Transitional Sentence: *A Christian father speaks and lives with integrity, serves with intensity, gives with generosity and succeeds with humility.* (Colossians 3:12; James 4:10) “Humility” (*tapeinophrosune*) as it is used here means to have the correct estimate of ourselves. This involves the confession of sin and deep realization of our unworthiness to receive God’s grace.

Glad Tidings ran the story of Doctor James Simpson, the man who discovered that chloroform could be used to render people insensible to the pain of surgery. This discovery made it possible for people in the late 1800’s and many years beyond to go through the most dangerous operations without pain and suffering during the procedure.

Once during a lecture at the University of Endinburgh, Dr. Simpson was asked by one of his students, “What do you consider to be the most valuable discovery of your lifetime?” To the surprise of his students, who had expected him to refer to chloroform, Dr. Simpson replied, “My most valuable discovery was when I discovered myself a sinner and that Jesus Christ was my Savior.”

A Christian father knows ultimately what matters is what God thinks about him. The Holy Spirit has illuminated the truth of Proverbs 15:33 deep within his heart, “The fear of the Lord teaches man wisdom, and humility comes before honor.” He knows that if he serves the Lord with his God given talents, abilities and Holy Spirit given gifts, the Lord will lift him to the place in life where God’s wants him to be. He knows the truth of 1 Peter 5:6, “Humble yourself, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that He may lift you up in due time.” A Christian father recognizes the Lord’s presence in all his ways. (The truths found in this portion of the message came about as I have studied the NIV Bible, The Complete Word Study Dictionary; Encyclopedia of 7000 Illustration; A Commentary, Critical and Explanatory)

In Closing: *A legacy of Biblical proportion must be based on speaking and living lives of high integrity, serving with intensity, giving generously and succeeding with humility.*

One such Christian father who left a Christian legacy for his descendants to follow was Jonathan Edwards. He was an uncompromising theologian and pastor who lived to please God and was a man of prayer. His descendants included thirteen college presidents, sixty-five prominent lawyers, thirty-two noted authors, ninety physicians, eighty-six state senators, thirty judges, three congressmen, one vice-president of the United States and two hundred ministers of the gospel.

The family line of Jonathan Edwards experienced the promised blessings of God. (Exodus 20:4)

Fathers, God gives you this day an opportunity to choose your family’s legacy. It must be established in a relationship with Jesus Christ!