

# Family Series (Richardson Baptist: Message 1)

"Parents, we MUST Start Somewhere... Why Not Here"

Psalm 144

There will always be variables but with each variable God has a solution but the solution cannot be FRUITFUL without abiding in Jesus.

We will not only be accountable with what we have heard and seen... but we'll also be accountable for what we could have heard and seen, had we listened more for His voice and less of our own.

May the great Shepherd be the very one to lead, feed and meet our daily and everlasting needs.

King David asked God to prepare him and rescue him

from lies, liars and manipulators for God's glory and the sake of his children, community, commerce and country (Psalm 144).

"A man who wanders from the WAY of understanding will rest in the assembly of the dead" (Proverbs 21:16).

We always drift toward our focus. And when we lose focus on our assignment, and shift our focus on something of less value, we usually drift toward things that will eventually cause us trouble. Wisdom keeps us focused on the right things.

Notice what the passage said and what it doesn't say. It doesn't say, "understanding" but it says, "the WAY of understanding." He who drifts off the path—to understanding—will always gravitate toward corrupt thinking and the ways of deception and death.

Think about it like this: The path—to the path—is far more important than the path itself. Why is it more important? The path—to the

path—will always lead us to Jesus first, and from His presence and ways, we'll have all we need for the path He's chosen for us to walk down each day. Let me share it like this...

THE PATH — we are taught to trust in the Lord with all our heart, and lean not upon our own understanding, in all our ways we acknowledge Him. (This is the WAY of understanding (Proverbs 21:16) and seeking first the King and His ways Matthew 6:33.) When on this path seeking Him, it leads us to Him and then leads us — TO THE PATH (the course and

purpose He's chosen for us to walk in and the path for which He provides everything we need for the good work He's called us to. (Proverbs 3:5-6 ; Proverbs 2 ; Psalm 143:7-8 ; Matthew 4:4 & 6:33 ; Philippians 1:9-11 ; Hebrews 12)

This principle is illustrated so beautifully in the giving of manna...and more importantly, the instructions of gathering the manna each day. God told the people that He gave them manna to humble them...to teach them how to trust Him and every word that proceeded out of His mouth.

Therefore, the humility was to be found in trusting God and His instructions and applying what He said. The manna would only sustain them if they carefully followed God's instructions, as it applied to collecting the manna each day. What God said about the food was far more important, and it would sustain them in life and beyond, than the bread itself. Therefore, again, we see it, the path—to the path—is far more important than the path God has chosen for us. Manna was part of their path, their course, but the path (seeking, hearing, trusting, honoring and obeying ) — to the path of

collecting the manna was of more value to the Lord and them, than we often grasp or consider today. It's the good fight...of ever day life, that helps us run our race with joy and keep the faith all the days of our lives.

#nestingwithjesus

#proverbs #proverbs21

#thepathtothepath

It's hard to fathom how people can hurt a little child... much less a grandmother doing the unthinkable to her grandchildren. But pride and power and self-centered living has caused so many to abandon the God given



gift of natural affection for their own. In our #nestingwithjesus reading yesterday we were told how a grandmother, Athaliah, Ahab's daughter and King Ahaziah's mother, killed all her grandsons and the other royal heirs, with the exception of one, when she saw an opportunity to seize the power of the throne. Greed and selfishness led her to take drastic steps to abandon her family to go after what she always wanted. Her desire to rule and make life all about her superseded any love and compassion and duty, as a mother, to protect her own family. She cut all ties and

freed herself to run after her dreams. What a tragedy... a tragedy we repeatedly see among us even in our day. Ladies, guard your hearts, for out of it proceeds all the issues of life. This culture we live in will push and manipulate you to think you're missing out on a big world out there. Ask the Lord to cultivate in you—a heart that deeply and tenderly loves your family—and that He will grow that love with grace upon grace. And that He'll surround you with other women, young and old, that will encourage you to love and live well. You are a difference maker... for this generation and the ones to

come.

Modern day dads and moms, along with grandparents, have a hard job. Being a dad and mom in today's world is tough duty. I'm grateful for the parents the Lord gave me. They taught me such a balance in life. My dad taught me how to be a man... and they both taught me to always do my best to protect and provide for my family. When I was a kid, my dad warned me about hanging out with the

wrong crowd and to be careful of being guilty by association. They taught me about dope pushers and street corner thugs... about predators and manipulators. They protected me, the best they knew how, because they loved me. They chose to invest in my future by being involved in my daily life. My dad taught my brothers and I how to hunt and coached us on the ball field. They were involved in everything we did. They knew where we were and what we were doing [and who we were doing it with]. They were protecting us... and I made every effort to do the same with my girls.

But a modern day dad and mom, who wants to protect their sons and daughters, must get actively involved in a somewhat unfamiliar game called... social media. Especially dads and granddads... they need to know what a #selfie means. They also need to be familiar with terms like #hashtags and IG (Instagram) and FB (Facebook) and Snapchat and Kik... if they want to protect their children and grandchildren. The thugs and predators and manipulators of this age have a quick and easy access into the minds of our kids and homes by simply

clicking a button.

Daddy, you are their protector... don't lay down your sword for no one, including the government, school system, and especially to modern technology because it's unfamiliar to you. From one dad to another... get involved and buy yourself a tool, get the apps your kids and wife are using and keep up with them... or don't let them have access to these things without your personal involvement. Be accountable, be a blessing, be a loving dad... be their protector. Ask God to train

your hands for war, your  
fingers for battle, your mind  
for truth and your heart to be  
a warrior in this modern day  
cultural war that you and  
your children are involved in.  
#nestingwithjesus  
#psalm144 #pray

King David asked God to  
prepare him and rescue him  
from lies, liars and  
manipulators for God's glory  
and the sake of his children,  
community, commerce and  
country (Psalm 144).

Can I suggest a prayer for  
you and your family? It's a  
prayer that Moses penned...

one that can be a tremendous treasure to you and a rich blessings those you lead. It's humbling for sure but so helpful...and I pray it will encourage and equip you.

- In the follow Psalm he asked...

- "Let Your work appear to Your servants, and Your glory to their children. And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands for us; Yes, establish the work of our hands" (Psalm 90:16-17).

- Let's break down the



request, He asked:

- 1. Give us, Your servants, light to see You and Your work.

- 2. Make us a light that Your glory may shine, in and through us, that those who follow us, (our children and brethren) will see You, Your works and the wonders of His glory in us.

- Now take a minute and go read psalm 144 and don't miss the results of Him rescuing us from lies and falsehood.

- Kingdom work, done the kingdom way, under

kingdom wisdom, is followed by kingdom glory! One of the biggest problems we could be facing with those around...is that they haven't seen His glory because they haven't seen us at work for Him. They've seen us work but have they seen us surrender our work to Him? They've watched us work but have they noticed Him at work? May I suggest that it could be, they haven't seen Him at work in us because we haven't asked Him to let His work appear to us nor have we asked Him to manifest His glory, through our work, to our children.



May we ask for His favor and that His beauty be upon us! May He light a fire in us and use it to illuminate a path for generations to follow.

- Daddy and momma... I encourage you to take the lead and start asking Him to deliver you from lies and falsehood and that He will make His work appear and then get busy with what He shows you.

- (Psalm 144 ; 128 ; 127 ;  
Isaiah 49:1-3)

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A little poem to encourage:

"Whatever wall you're  
climbing or the valley you're  
walking through...

Don't let those watching,  
manipulate or be a  
distraction... for you.

Some will cheer you on and  
others are there to simply  
see you fall...

But only you have the power  
to give... so give,