

Deuteronomy 6.4-9

Fathers!

This is the Lord's plan and will for the growth of the kingdom of God. It is centered around the family and it starts with Fathers. There are two things that will ultimately change the course of this nation, revival and awakening. What we will be considering this morning touches both. Revival that changes our hearts will awaken the hearts of those with whom we live life, and nowhere is it more important than in the bounds of your family and within your own home.

I. IT STARTS WITH GOD.

a. It must be doctrinal

- i. Everything in the world begins and ends with the God who is. It is no mistake that the Bible begins with the existence of and declaration of God's uniqueness and absolute supremacy.
- ii. Moses commands them to hear

iii. He commands them to hear that God is one.
The central declaration of the Jewish faith, the "shema" is this simple truth. God is one.

1. He is the true one
2. He is the supreme one
3. He is the only one!
4. There is no room for any other, there is no countenance given unto any other, the literal statement of the first commandment is "you shall not set any gods before my face." ie: do not ask me to recognize any of your false gods as real, for they are not and will never be.

iv. This simple truth kills all other religions, all other faiths, all perversions of Christianity. For God is one and must be acknowledged as such with our whole lives.

b. It must be vital

- i. Any hope of true reform and a good future for this land, for your family for your soul begins with the same starting point.
- ii. Apart from God at the center everything else will be out of order, out of balance and out of everything.
- iii. All other attempts to reform this land will end in its destruction. Every dictator, every tyrant every evil begins with good intentions. We must recognize the truth that we are always one generation away from extinction. That the church, from a human perspective, is always one generation away from gone. It falls to us to be faithful in these days with the truth and with the tools that God has given us.

2 Timothy 2:2 (NKJV) ² And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

II. IT MOVES TO YOU

a. It must be YOURS

- i. You shall love the Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength (and when Jesus quoted this text, he added) and with all your mind.
- ii. This kind of supremacy touches every area of your life.
- iii. There is no place where you are allowed by God to simply half love Him. To just sort of be ok with the idea of God. He calls us to love Him supremely because He alone is worthy of that love.
- iv. If you don't DO this intentionally, you cannot speak this effectively.

- 1. Does not mean perfection
- 2. Does not mean in a fashion aimed at show
- 3. DOES mean it is the intention of your heart, mind, soul and strength.

b. It must be loved.

- i. Treasure the words of God
- ii. Treasure the time you get to spend with him

- iii. Let it be the joy of your life and the desire of your heart to be with God at all times.
- iv. Remind yourself of the truth of God and of the delight that it is to your heart and the rest it is for your soul.

III. IT MOVES THROUGH YOU

a. Teach these things to your children

- i. Diligently - this means with purpose and intention. Be sure that you are actively instructing your children in the things of God. This is not accidental, it does not happen apart from YOUR intention.
- ii. Continually - note the times,
 - 1. Talk in your home
 - 2. When walking
 - 3. At bedtime
 - 4. At breakfast
 - 5. Always is the intent here

- iii. Incidentally - They are the stuff of life and you will find times that are spontaneous and even seemingly accidental where the truth of God is the perfect answer. But these are times you must be both looking for and prepared in your own heart for. What is inside of you is what comes out in these moments, nothing else. So be careful what you put in, for that is all you have to take out.

- iv. Openly - what I mean by this is that there needs to be constant reminders set before you. Your home is to be built on the Word of God and prayer. There should be no part of your life that is excluded from the instruction of God's truth to your family and circle of influence.

IV. IT CHANGES THEM

Ephesians 4.6

- a. We are given two things halves of the coin here a negative statement "do not do this" and a

positive "but rather do this". Both halves are equally important.

- b. Negative. Do NOT provoke them to wrath. This means that you must not act in such a way that your life and interaction is intentionally aimed at making your child angry.
 - i. Does not exclude correction both verbal AND physical (more on that later)
 - ii. Does not exclude moments when your child becomes angry
 - iii. Does not exclude their sinful anger or rebellion
 - iv. DOES mean that you must be the adult. You are forbidden from being petty or mean spirited in your dealings with your children.
 - v. You may not according to God act in a manner and attitude that you know will make them fill with wrath and anger. Your aim should be to draw them to you and to God, NOT to drive them away from both.
 - vi. It means that you must not make them bitter about you, about life, about God.

vii. Grace and mercy are the rule as the flavor of your interaction with all, but especially with your children.

c. Positive - Bring them up

i. There are two halves in this instruction to do here in the NT statement of the OT principle, training (or discipline) and admonition or instruction. The first what you DO TO them, the second is that which you say to them, what you teach them.

1. Training. This encompasses whole of the instruction that has been given, but it also includes that specific goal of a father's role. You have the responsibility, dad, to be this for them all the days of your life. That changes as they grow, but you are still the touchstone for them about what is real and what is not. If your faith is weak, empty or hypocritical, they will see that and they will attach to their own faith. Remember that this is the point of impact for an entire

generation. The power of a father to shape the lives of his children cannot be overstated.

Proverbs 22:6 (NKJV) ⁶ Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.

2. Be the gatekeeper for your child. Do not just let them run wild in the streets

a. Stand watch over who is allowed to be their close companions.

1 Corinthians 15:33 (NKJV) ³³ Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits."

b. Be the guardian over what they see, hear and read

c. Be mindful of the pressure of the culture to warp them and be aware of what is being taught in the classroom.

- d. Exercise your power to say NO.
If you are wrong, they won't die, if you are absent or negligent, they might.
- ii. Discipline is all about what you do TO them.

1. Physical correction is both instructed by God and needed by them. Now I am aware that this is politically unpopular and potentially dangerous for you in these times, but understand that God is not to be mocked or disobeyed. Physical discipline done right IS love

Proverbs 13:24 (NKJV) ²⁴ He who spares his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him promptly.

- i. Do not ever strike your child when you are angry,
- ii. Be clear, calm and direct.
- iii. Speak to them about why they will be spanked

iv. Afterwards, hug and hold them and pray with them. Make certain that what you do you do in love.

2. God provided a reset button on the bottoms of children. It will set in their hearts the truth that he needs to hear.

Proverbs 22:15 (NKJV) ¹⁵ Foolishness *is* bound up in the heart of a child; The rod of correction will drive it far from him.

Proverbs 23:13–14 (NKJV) ¹³ Do not withhold correction from a child, For *if* you beat him with a rod, he will not die.
¹⁴ You shall beat him with a rod, And deliver his soul from hell.

3. Be certain that if you will not discipline your child, you will be chastised by God THROUGH them!

Proverbs 29:15 (NKJV) ¹⁵ The rod and rebuke give wisdom, But a child left *to himself* brings shame to his mother.

V. IT CHANGES THE WORLD

- a. Fathers matter, the single largest common denominator in our prison system is not abuse, drugs, alcohol, race or socioeconomic status. It is fatherless homes.
- b. The vast majority of the culture has turned fatherhood into something laughable, something despicable, something vile... but God is a Father. It is something that we are challenged to reclaim from the culture. Note that it does not begin in Hollywood. They have only as much power to change the culture as we allow them. It begins in your home. It begins in your life. It begins in your own heart.
- c. Fathers have the charge of their own families, no one else will be held accountable for your family. It is your responsibility. Understand that you will stand before God and give an account for the

family that He entrusted to you. You, not your wife, not your kids teachers at school, not their friends who led them astray, you.

- d. Fatherhood is a high calling. It is the highest calling a man can aspire unto, for it is the chance to raise up a generation that loves the Lord and a chance to sow seeds unto the great harvest that will bear the fruits of righteousness.