

Morning Sermon June 17, 2018
"Aiming Your Arrows" Psalm 127

I. *Without God, forget accomplishing anything, forget even defending yourself –*

<A Song of Ascents. Of Solomon.> Unless the LORD builds the house, They labor in vain who build it; Unless the LORD guards the city, The watchman stays awake in vain. (Psalm 127:1 NKJ)

A Song of degrees for Solomon.

Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: Except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh *but* in vain. (Psalm 127:1 KJV)

The Hebrew in this verse, in the Title of the Psalm, makes it uncertain whether this is a Song David, the father, wrote for His son Solomon (who would build the House or Temple in Jerusalem) or whether it is a song Solomon wrote for his sons, probably many, who were building their own houses ...

Ultimately, which of these two kings wrote this Psalm matters little, because its truths apply to ALL men:

1. *We cannot build a solid house, or home, or raise children to know the LORD, without God, or without Christ –*

"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. (John 15:5 NKJ)

2. *Think of what that greatest of the Sons of David, the Son of God, our LORD Jesus said about this –*

"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: ²⁵ and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. ²⁶ But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: ²⁷ and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall." (Matthew 7:24-27 NKJ)

3. *We need God, His help for any kind of success – Give us help from trouble, for the help of man is useless. ¹² Through God we will do valiantly, for it is He who shall tread down our enemies. (Psalm 60:11-12 NKJ)*

II. *Aim to balance your work efforts –*

It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows; for so He gives His beloved sleep. (Psalm 127:2 NKJ)

1. *We must be moderate, even meek, in our efforts about and for the things of this world –*

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. (Matthew 5:5 NKJ)

"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. (Matthew 6:33 NKJ)

2. *But meek does not mean LAZY –*

*Go to the ant, you sluggard! Consider her ways and be wise, ⁷ Which, having no captain, Overseer or ruler, ⁸ Provides her supplies in the summer, *And* gathers her food in the harvest. ⁹ How long will you slumber, O sluggard? When will you rise from your sleep? ¹⁰ A little sleep, a little slumber, A little folding of the hands to sleep-- ¹¹ So shall your poverty come on you like a prowler, And your need like an armed man. (Proverbs 6:6-11 NKJ)*

"If to the left or right I stray, that moment, LORD, reprove, and let me weep my life away for having grieved Thy love." C. H. Spurgeon

III. *Take time to sharpen and aim your arrows –*

Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb is a reward. ⁴ Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one's youth. ⁵ Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them; they shall not be ashamed, but shall speak with their enemies in the gate. (Psalm 127:3-5 NKJ)

⁵ Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them! Psalm 127:5 ESV

1. *Count your children a reward, a blessing from God –*

Max Heine in "Children Blessing or Burden" puts it like this -- Children Are BURDENS! "It is no exaggeration to say that they require everything from a to Z. They need to be Answered, Bathed, Combed, Diapered, Encouraged, Fed, Groomed, Helped, Instructed, Judged, Kissed, Led, Managed, Nurtured, Observed, Praised, Quiet, Reminded, Spanked, Trained, Utilized, Valued, Wedded, X-Rayed, and Yearned-for-Zealously!" There may be some controversy regarding

which of these duties are father's vs. mother's but parenting involves us in all of them, P too should include PROVIDED for and PRAYED for!

How many of you still pray for your children, grandchildren and great grand-children?

2. Sharpen your arrows –

Verse 4 – “As arrows.” Children are compared to “arrows.” Now, we know that sticks are not by nature arrows; they do not grow so, but are made so; by nature they are knotty and rugged, but by art they are made smooth and handsome. So children by are rugged and untoward, but by education are refined and reformed, made pliable to the divine will and pleasure.” George Swinnock

A. Sharpening means teaching, leading, pastoring, dad you are pastor and maybe even patriarch to your family, consider what David TAUGHT Solomon, even as David was older, close to death –

"Only may the LORD give you wisdom and understanding, and give you charge concerning Israel, that you may keep the law of the LORD your God. (1 Chronicles 22:12 NKJ)

B. Consider how Solomon took these words to heart and benefitted greatly from his father's teaching –

- When Solomon was given a blank check by God, basically told pray for whatever you want, here is what he prayed –

"Therefore give to Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?" (1 Kings 3:9 NKJ)

- Oh, how God answered this PRAYER –
And God gave Solomon wisdom and exceedingly great understanding, and largeness of heart like the sand on the seashore. (1 Kings 4:29 NKJ)

C. Leading also means by example –

- David defeated Goliath – 1 Samuel 17

- David fell to sin with Bathsheba –
- This ruined his family to the point one of his sons died fighting against him –

And ten young men who bore Joab's armor surrounded Absalom, and struck and killed him. (2 Samuel 18:15 NKJ)

But the king covered his face, and the king cried out with a loud voice, "O my son Absalom! O Absalom, my son, my son!" (2 Samuel 19:4 NKJ)

There were definitely arrows in David's quiver that missed the mark! Even Solomon may have fallen in a way similar to David –

For it was so, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned his heart after other gods; and his heart was not loyal to the LORD his God, as was the heart of his father David. (1 Kings 11:4 NKJ)

IV. Let and pray your children would be arrows for Christ

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Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, "Come and see."² And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer. (Revelation 6:1-2 NKJ)

1. Christ has a bow – Revelation 6:2
2. Our foe (enemy) is Satan, his evil forces –

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. (Ephesians 6:10-12 NKJ)

3. Oh, that our children might stand with us in this fight –

Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them; They shall not be ashamed, But shall speak with their enemies in the gate. (Psalm 127:5 NKJ)

- Desire this above all that your children will know God –

Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise *man* glory in his wisdom, Let not the mighty *man* glory in his might, Nor let the rich *man* glory in his riches;²⁴ But let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me, That I *am* the LORD, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight," says the LORD. (Jeremiah 9:23-24 NKJ)

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