

Introduction

Our parenting demands self-denying love, patience, humility, self control, submission, gentleness, faithfulness. **And**, none of these are natural to us!

What gets in the way of good parenting is NOT a lack of opportunity, it's NOT the character of the child (however young or old or rebellious or obedient they may be). What gets in the way of parenting is ONE MAIN THING: the character of YOU AND ME as the parent.

Background to This Parenting Sermon

- Parenting —a few helpful reminders. **Children are...**
 - A blessing from God
 - A stewardship before God
 - A process with God
 - A rescue toward God – from themselves

What is successful parenting?

"TO BE FAITHFUL TO GOD'S WORD
BY HIS GRACE AND FOR HIS GLORY"

Different stages of parenting in development, growth and instruction...

- ❖ Stage 1 - Give me your **attention** (Discipline & training phase (approx age 1-5))
- ❖ Stage 2 - Give me your **mind/heart** (Catechism – instruction, teaching, let me teach you what to believe & why to believe it (approx age 6-11))
- ❖ Stage 3 - Give me your **hand** (Come! let me show you how to live out what I've taught you to believe) (approx age 12-18)

THESIS — Parents: we will glean **3 applicational principles** from Luke 6 **so that** we can be FAITHFUL PARENTS as we *evangelize* our kids, *instruct* our kids & seek to help them grow in grace.

THE BIG POINT >> **"PARENT: BE FAITHFUL TO GOD AS YOU TEACH YOUR CHILDREN."**

I. PARENTS: REFUSE HYPOCRISY! (39-42)

"A judgmental spirit often reflects a self-righteous, unreflective, insensitive heart" (Darrell Bock)

Parents: remember that the same grace that can rescue & save them is the same grace *you need*.

Parents: your duty is to live out a holy life -- you can't give to them what you don't have.

1. Deut 6.4-9 - parents view of God
2. Prov 23.12 (self) & v.13 (children)
3. Prov 19.18 (word to parents) & v.20 (kids obey)
4. Ephesians walking in the Spirit (5:18); then, teach and train kids (Eph 6.4)
5. Ex 12:25 — you shall observe this rite (Passover); and when children say to you, what does it mean (v. 26-27); see also Ex 13:8, 14.

II. PARENTS: AIM FOR THE HEART! (43-45)

- Children are all born with a sin nature and *automatically* believe two lies...
 - ❖ **1. autonomy** –
 - ❖ **2. self sufficiency** –

The heart:

Tedd Tripp says: "The decisions and choices we make in life originate with what we love and desire. And the Bible calls this "source" the HEART.

This is why the Bible says: guard your heart *with all vigilance* (Prov 4.23)!

1. Deut 10.16 - so circumcise your heart (heart change); Jer 4.4 - wash your heart from evil so that you may be saved!
2. Prov 23.26 - give me your heart, my son ...
3. Matt 15:18-19
4. Prov 4.23 - watch over your heart (Prov 4.4; 4:21; 6:21)

So, how people/ kids speak reveals what's in their heart! How they act reveals what's in their heart. It's the screen that reveals what's in the hard drive of their heart. Not sharing, lashing out in anger, talking back in frustration, disobedience, lying, manipulation, slamming the door, unwillingness to go to church, grumbling about obeying Dad's commands are all *revealers* of what's on the inside ... in the heart! The main issue isn't so much the action [=behavior], rather, it's the heart, the root that leads to that action.

1. **Of young kids:** Discipline them when they disobey. Discipline from Proverbs:

- a) if you withhold the rod you hate your son but if you love your son you discipline him DILIGENTLY (Prov 13.24)
- b) the heart of a sinner rages against the Lord (Prov 19.3)
- c) Discipline your son while there is hope & don't desire his death (Prov 19.18)
- d) Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it (Prov 22.6)
- e) Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child, but the ROD OF DISCIPLINE will remove it far from him (prov 22.15) [parenting is a faith-act; believing God's word!]
- f) DO NOT hold back discipline from the child, although you strike him with the rod he will not die (Prov 23.13); you shall strike him with the rod and rescue his soul from Sheol (Prov 23.14)
 - (1) The process of spanking a child? Gather the facts, Reach the heart, Expose the sin, Prove it biblically, spank the child with the rod, Express tender love, Give the gospel; Pray with them; reassure of your love.
- g) the rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child who gets his own way brings shame to his mother (Prov 29.15)
- h) Correct your son and he will give you comfort and he will also delight your soul (Prov 29.17)

❖ Your great role is to be the *instrument God uses to bring the gospel to your child*. Your child must know that there is grace, forgiveness and mercy for those who turn to Christ!!!

1. **Of older children:** train, educate, instruct, disciple them from

Proverbs. Here are some examples of instructing older children...

- a) hear my instruction (Prov 1:8)
- b) listen to wisdom (Prov 2.3)
- c) trust in God (Prov 3.5)
- d) Pay attention (Prov 4.1)
- e) Stay away from all sexual immorality (Prov 5.8)
- f) Don't be lazy (Prov 6.6-9)
- g) Flee loving money (Prov 11.28)
- h) Pride will destroy (Prov 16.18)
- i) Lying lips bring judgment (Prov 19.9)
- j) Your sin will bring great hardship (Prov 13.15; Prov 22.8)
- k) Don't forget the power of your tongue (Prov 18.21)
- l) be modest & pure (Prov 11.22)
- m) Fear the LORD (1:7 & 9:10)

III. PARENTS: LOOK FOR OBEDIENCE! (46-49)

A final word for busy mothers —

A final word for those with prodigal, wayward children —

A final word for the grandparents —

"Parents, Oh how much ought you to be continually devising for the good of your children! Often devise how to make them "wise children"; how to give them a desirable education, an education that may render them desirable; how to render them lovely and polite, and serviceable in their generation. Often devise how to enrich their minds with valuable knowledge; how to instill generous, gracious, and heavenly principles into their minds; how to restrain and rescue them from the paths of the Destroyer, and fortify them against their sinful temptations. There is a world of good that you have to do for them." [The Puritan Parents' Lesson Plan]