

THE BIBLE VIEW

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Training Children

F. Quarles, 1871

Be very vigilant over thy child in the April of his understanding, lest the frost of May nip his blossoms. While he is a tender twig, straighten him, while he is a new vessel, season him. Let his first lesson be obedience, and his second shall be what thou wilt. Give him an education from good, clean books. Season his youth with the love of his Creator, and make the fear of his God the beginning of his knowledge. If he has an active spirit, rectify it and curb it, but reckon idleness among his chiefest faults. Show him both the spade and the plow, and prepare him as well for the danger of a skirmish and the honor of receiving a prize.

But, I Raised Him Right!

Bill Brinkworth

Luke 7:36-48 answers a question some have. They wonder, "Why are so many second-generation Christians not having the same fervor and excitement about the things of God and serving Him as their parents did?"

In those Luke 7 verses, we see a very sinful woman. Many have supposed from her description that she was a harlot. When the woman found out Jesus was nearby, she visited Him. She wept as she washed Jesus' road-weary feet with her tears and anointed him with ointment. Because of her apparent love and respect for Jesus and her broken-heartedness over her past sins, Jesus forgave her.

A parable (Luke 7:41-42) given by Christ explains the key to her broken spirit over her guilt. The Saviour's teaching story taught that the one that was forgiven the most was the most appreciative and loving of the Saviour.

This explains why some today that have a most sinful, terrible past were the most appreciative when they got saved. Drunkards have gotten saved from the clutches of alcohol, and when they get saved, they have a different, hopeful future. Adulterers that have seen relationships crumble from their rampant sin have become faithful, loyal husbands after they became born-again. Violent men have become excellent, peaceful fathers after the Saviour came into their lives and changed them from the inside out. Millions upon millions of sin-torn lives have been transformed when they trusted the Saviour's sacrifice and were pardoned from their sins.

After these rescued souls got closer and learned about what God wanted for them in their lives, they made things right that were wrong. They usually concluded that it was exposure to the world that encouraged them to make the wrong turn in their lives. To prevent their loved ones from

repeating the same wrong decisions, they did all they could to keep others from going the wrong way.

Parents made sure their children were in church. Families had daily Bible-reading devotions. Financial sacrifice was made to send children to Christian schools so they would not be polluted by secular education.

With all the effort, quite often those second-generation Christians, although they may have gotten saved, still go in the wrong direction. It is often the case that the children, although insulated from powerful, sinful influences, get the desire to “taste” the things of the world. The allure of the shiny things of this world has often led the second generation right back into the mire from which the first generation was rescued.

Why does this happen so often? Unfortunately, our sinful nature often prohibits us from learning from those that have learned a lesson the hard way. We ignore advice from those that have already traveled the wrong road and have to learn the lesson for ourselves – the dangerous way.

It would save much heartache, grief, and destroyed lives if people would listen to those that are warning them of the wrong direction they are headed. We do not have to repeat the errors of others!

“Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.” — *Colossians 3:20*

Cost of a Child

Cameron, 1871

“How much does that little girl cost!” said a mother, as she and I passed a little child leaning against an iron railing.

“Cost?” I said. “You mean with her shoes and socks, her plaid dress, and ribbons in her hair?”

“That is her least cost,” replied the mother, “nor was I thinking of them, but what pain and suffering she costs; what fatigue and watching; how much of a mother’s anxiety; how much of a father’s toil; how many prayers; how many fears; how many yearnings; how much patience; how much responsibility; how much instruction; how much correction; how much love; how much sorrow; how many teachers; how many sermons; how many Sunday school classes. Those things will cost her parents the most.”

When a lady once told Pastor Sharpe that she would not give her children religious instruction until they had attained the years of discretion, the preacher replied, “If you do not teach them now, the devil will!”

— *J. Whitecross*

Won by His Parent’s Love

Charles H. Spurgeon

A young man, who had grown up, left the parental roof. Through evil influences, he became skeptical of the things of God. His father and mother were both earnest Christians, and it almost broke their hearts to see their son

so opposed to the Redeemer. On one occasion, they induced him to go with them to hear a celebrated preacher. He accompanied them simply to please them and for no other motive.

The sermon happened to be upon the glories of Heaven. It was a very extraordinary sermon and was designed to make every Christian in the audience look forward to Heaven.

The young man was much gratified with the eloquence of the preacher, but nothing more. He gave him credit for superior oratorical ability and was interested in the sermon, but felt none of its power.

He chanced to look at his father and mother during the discourse and was surprised to see them weeping. He could not imagine why they, being Christian people, should sit and weep under a sermon which was most jubilant in its strain. When he reached home, he said, "Father, we have had a capital sermon, but I could not understand what could make you sit there and cry, and my mother too."

His father said, "My dear son, I certainly had no reason to weep concerning myself, nor your mother, but I could not help thinking through the sermon about you, for I have no hope that you will ever see the bright joys which await the righteous. It breaks my heart to think that you will be shut out of Heaven."

His mother said, “The very same thoughts crossed my mind, and the more the preacher spoke of the joys of the saved, the more I sorrowed for my dear boy that he should never know what they were.”

That touched the young man’s heart, led him to seek his father’s God, and before long, he was at the same church, rejoicing in the God and Savior whom his parents worshipped. His parent’s love for him is what showed him the way to the Saviour’s love.

“A mother holds her children’s hands for a while, but their hearts forever.”

“Too Little” Children

Author Unknown

*Said a precious little laddie,
To his father one bright day,
“May I give myself to Jesus,
Let Him wash my sins away?”*

*“Oh, my son, but you’re too little,
Wait until you older grow,
Bigger folk, ‘tis true, do need Him,
But little folk are safe, you know.”*

*Said the father to his laddie
As a storm was coming on,
“Are the sheep safely sheltered,
Safe within the fold, my son?”*

*“All the big ones are, my father,
But the lambs, I let them go,
For I didn’t think it mattered,
Little ones are safe, you know.”*

*Oh, my brother! Oh, my sister!
Have you too made that mistake?
Little hearts that now are yielding
May be hardened then — too late.*

*E’er the evil days come nigh them,
“Let the children come to me
And forbid them not,” said Jesus,
“For such shall my Kingdom be.”*