

J.J.

WISE ADVISE FROM A FATHER (Proverbs)

ANNOUNCEMENT :

Prayer for Malunes family who's transferring houses

Prayer for Rebecca who's transferring to Montreal

INTRODUCTION :

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY TO THE DCF FATHERS (These are the photos I found in a hurry)

So when I searched my Bible concordance on the word “father”, I discovered something pretty amazing.

- The word “father” has been mentioned in the Bible 1126 times compared to the word mother which was only mentioned 320 times. If my calculations are correct, that’s 72% difference.

Note : It doesn’t mean that the role of the mothers aren’t as important as the father. What I’m saying is that the father’s role is just as important or even so in the Bible.

Note : If you remember the 10 commandments, the first 4 commandments deals with our relationship with God. The last 6 commandments deals with our relationship with men.

***The first of those last 6 commandments is :**

Exodus 20 : ¹² “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.

Deuteronomy 5 : ¹⁶ ‘Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may be well with you in the land which the LORD your God is giving you.

***This commandment is also mentioned in Ephesians**

Ephesians 6 : ² “Honor your father and mother,” which is the first commandment with promise: ³ “that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.”

***Note :** We are very familiar with this commandment to honor our father and mother.

But what specially caught my eye is this :

...that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.

...that your days may be long, and that it may be well with you in the land which the LORD your God is giving you.

...which is the first commandment with promise: ³ “that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.”

Note : It is the command with a promise that everything will be well with you and you may live long on the earth.

Now : The question that comes into mind is , “How do we honor our fathers and mothers”, in this particular occasion, “our fathers”?

Question : Is it just showing respect to our father? Yes, that's honouring the father.

But : What if a son is respectful to the parent and yet bad towards his teachers or is flunking school because of laziness or sheer “I don't care attitude”. Does that give honor to the father?
Certainly not.

So I looked into the Bible and by the leading of the Holy Spirit, I went to the Book of Proverbs.

Here : I found a treasure chest of advice on how we can make our fathers happy... for life. That if we follow this practical advice...then the promise *“that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.”*, is yours to claim.

Background on the book of Proverbs :

1. This is one of those books in the Bible where most of that is written here, you can't interpret according to context.

Which means : It is not contained in a story, or a prophecy, or a narrative or whole passages.

Note : The book contains random advices from the writers of the book.

2. It's called wisdom book

3. I say “writers” because people think that the book was only written by King Solomon.
Yes, most of what is written in this book is by King Solomon.

Some of the writers were what they called :

1. **Wisemen** : They wrote Proverbs 22:17 up to 24:

***These wisemen were perhaps :**

**1 Kings 4: ²⁹ And God gave Solomon wisdom and exceedingly great understanding, and largeness of heart like the sand on the seashore. ³⁰ Thus Solomon's wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the men of the East and all the wisdom of Egypt. ³¹ For he was wiser than all men—than Ethan the Ezrahite, and Heman, Chalcol, and Darda, the sons of Mahol; and his fame was in all the surrounding nations. ³² He spoke three thousand proverbs, and his songs were one thousand and five.*

2. **Agur** : He wrote Proverbs 30:1-33

Note : No one knows who this is...

But the rest was written by Solomon.

Apparently : When Solomon wrote the advices in Proverbs, **it is a father giving advice to a son.**

WISE ADVISE FROM A FATHER

PRAY

***Look at this :**

Proverbs 1: ¹ The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel:

*² To know wisdom and instruction,
To perceive the words of understanding,*

Note : He's giving the reason/objective/purpose why he wrote the book of proverbs WHICH IS WISDOM, INSTRUCTION, UNDERSTANDING...I like how he calls himself son of David.

***Then it shows his primary audience :**

*⁸ My son, hear the instruction of your father,
And do not forsake the law of your mother;*

Application : Isn't this true? That if you are a good dad, your primary concern is the good welfare of your family, specially your children.

Note : THESE ADVISES are not in sequential order nor this is comprehensive. I only chose the ones that deal with father and child relationship in the book of Proverbs. I would enumerate them quickly because it is straightforward.

AGAIN: These advises are pretty simple but very practical and if we follow them then the promise :*which is the first commandment with promise: ³ "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth."* is yours.

WISE ADVISE FROM A FATHER

1. Know and fear the Lord.

*Proverbs 2 : ¹ My son, if you receive my words,
And treasure my commands within you,
² So that you incline your ear to wisdom,
And apply your heart to understanding;
³ Yes, if you cry out for discernment,
And lift up your voice for understanding,
⁴ If you seek her as silver,
And search for her as for hidden treasures;
⁵ Then you will understand the fear of the LORD,
And find the knowledge of God.*

Note : One of the things that our dads would want us to do is to make wise decisions. Wise decisions only means making the right choices.

***So : How do you make wise decisions?**

Proverbs 9: 10 "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

IMPORTANT : If you know who the Lord is and you just want to please Him (fear the Lord), then you will be making wise decisions.

***So : How will you know the Lord and His will? THROUGH HIS WORD!!!**

2 Timothy 3 : ¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

***If you are making wise decisions in your life, then it honors your mom and dad**

*Proverbs 10 : A wise son makes a glad father,
But a foolish son is the grief of his mother.*

Again, what's the result of honoring your father and mother?

³ "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth."

But it all starts with knowing and fearing the Lord.

2. Don't run with the wrong crowd.

*Proverbs 1: ¹⁰ My son, if sinners entice you,
Do not consent.*

*¹⁵ My son, do not walk in the way with them,
Keep your foot from their path;
¹⁶ For their feet run to evil,*

Note : If you want to HONOR YOUR FATHER, make sure you choose the right friends. Friends who will influence you to become a better person rather than make you do stupid or foolish things.

Note : One of the greatest influence in our lives would be our peers.

Illustration : I was reminded of this in a newspaper article about an old carnival headliner nicknamed "Cannonball." In his younger days he was blasted out of a cannon 1,200 times. When asked why he did this, he replied, "Do you know what it's like to feel the applause of 60,000 people? That's why I did it!"

Note : A number of us would do foolish things just to gain the approval or admiration of our friends.

There's a photo that I stuck in the mirror of Mica which says :
(Show photo) Let your life honor God even if you have to do it alone.

Note : Some people would do foolish things just to gain the applause and approval of their peers.

3. Accept correction and discipline.

*Proverbs 3: ¹¹ My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD,
Nor detest His correction;
¹² For whom the LORD loves He corrects,
Just as a father the son in whom he delights.*

Note : Most of the time, when a father disciplines you it's because he wants the best for you. It's because he loves you. That's what our Father in heaven does.

Hebrews 12: ⁷ Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father? ⁸ If you are not disciplined—and everyone undergoes discipline—then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all.

Illustration : As parents it's hard for us to see our children undergo hardship. But there are times, you don't have to come to the rescue always.

Pinoy drama : "Ayokong maranasan niya ang hirap na dinaanan ko."

There was this child who saw a cocoon and he saw that there was movement inside because the butterfly inside was having a hard time getting out of the cocoon. What the child did is help the butterfly by opening the cocoon. The butterfly came out but it just fell to the ground and wasn't able to fly. Why? It's because the struggle in the cocoon builds the strength of the butterfly in order for it to fly.

Note : I remember when Zak was struggling after graduation from university. He was renting his own apartment and he was getting odd jobs here and there just to make ends meet. My wife was crying and we were tempted to help but I said to my wife, "That's good for his character." True enough. Now he is married to a godly woman who knows and loves Jesus Christ. By God's grace. This is their anniversary. They are following Jack Ramsay's financial baby steps... no debt... By God's grace, God has helped them pay now all their student debts and now they are working on building a six-month emergency fund. He just got his driver's license. They bought a small second-hand Honda fit.

Teach your children (connected with no.2) to be more concerned about their character and not their reputation.

A note to fathers :

Proverbs 13 : ²⁴ Whoever spares the rod hates their children, but the one who loves their children is careful to discipline them.

Note : You have to discipline your children specially when they are young.

Proverbs 22: 6 Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.

Proverbs 19 : ¹⁸ Discipline your children while there is hope.

Otherwise you will ruin their lives.

Note : You can't discipline them when they are much older already.

***Special note :** But make sure you are disciplining them and not abusing them.

Ephesians 6: ⁴ And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord

Examples : When you are disciplining your children, don't verbally abuse them by calling them names... like "You are stupid (bobo) "You are good for nothing (walang kuwenta)" "Demonyo ka" and etc etc.

Remember : Attack the problem, not the child.

Tip :

- a) Explain to them why you are disciplining them.
- b) Never use your hand for disciplining. Use a tsinelas or a belt so that when it comes to correction, they will not associate your hand for hurting.
- c) If you are going to spank, don't hit any other part of the body except the "seat of wisdom" (buttocks). It has enough flesh to absorb spanking. But make sure when you spank, you hit them enough that it will hurt so that they will remember.
- d) Make sure that you have exhausted all resources to correct a bad behaviour, if it doesn't work, then you can spank.

Proverbs 22: ¹⁵ Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will drive it far away.

Note : Some of us think that our children can do no wrong and when they do foolish things, we even find it cute.

Illustration : I saw this kid hitting his dad and the dad was still laughing, finding it cute. This is the opportune time we can teach our children what hands are for. We tell our children "Hands are for loving and not hurting."

The usual excuse : They are just children, they don't know what they are doing...BUT THAT'S PRECISELY THE REASON WE TEACH THEM WHAT THEY NEED TO DO.

Or don't worry, he will outgrow it...of course not, they will grow with it.

- e.) Then assure them that you love them and the reason you are disciplining is because you want them to grow the right way.

**Proverbs 29: ¹⁷ Discipline your children, and they will give you peace of mind and will make your heart glad.*

4. Listen to your father's advice.

Proverbs 4: 1 Hear, my children, the instruction of a father,

And give attention to know understanding;

2 For I give you good doctrine:

Do not forsake my law.

3 When I was my father's son,

Tender and the only one in the sight of my mother,

4 He also taught me, and said to me:

" Let your heart retain my words;

Keep my commands, and live.

5 Get wisdom! Get understanding!

Do not forget, nor turn away from the words of my mouth

Note : The fact that our fathers are older than us and have more experience in life than us, that's enough reason we should listen to his advice. Don't just shrug it away. Think about it carefully. Put it in your heart.

5. Work hard (for students : study hard)

Proverbs 10: 5 He who gathers in summer is a wise son;

He who sleeps in harvest is a son who causes shame.

In short : During harvest time, what you should be doing is harvesting.

Now : When someone is harvesting, he makes sure that he covers everything. He just doesn't leave one part of the field and say, "That's alright"

Application : If you are a student, what you should be doing is studying hard. If you are an employee, you should also be working hard.

I quote this to my kids :

Proverbs 6 : 6 Go to the ant, you sluggard;

consider its ways and be wise!

7 It has no commander,

no overseer or ruler,

8 yet it stores its provisions in summer

and gathers its food at harvest.

9 How long will you lie there, you sluggard?

When will you get up from your sleep?

10 A little sleep, a little slumber,

a little folding of the hands to rest—

11 and poverty will come on you like a thief

and scarcity like an armed man.

6. Treat your father with respect (and your mothers too)

Proverbs 19: ²⁶ Children who mistreat their father or chase away their mother are an embarrassment and a public disgrace.

Nowadays : This is a rampant problem with the children. I was watching this Dr. Phil show where the kid is just mistreating his mom and the mom can't do anything about it.

Even : Hollywood and TV shows glorify kids who disrespect their parents specially the fathers. They show dads who are just so inutile or who looks dumb and etc and the kids are just having a grand time disrespecting them.

Note : I don't let my kids answer back in a disrespectful way (or dabog). I allow them to negotiate.

I allow them to negotiate but not to make dabog.

Lastly, this advise is not from the father but from the mother.

7. Find a good spouse.

*Proverbs 31 : ¹⁰ Who can find a virtuous and capable wife?
She is more precious than rubies.*

*Proverbs 5: ²⁰ For why should you, my son, be enraptured by an immoral woman,
And be embraced in the arms of a seductress?*

Note : Ask any parents, one of their greatest concerns is that their son or daughter will marry the wrong person.

Personally : There is one great criteria that I always tell my children when it comes to finding a partner. "Make sure that they love the Lord Jesus Christ." Because you will never know a person until you marry them. But if they truly love the Lord Jesus Christ, then you can be sure of what you're getting into.

Why? It answers everything. He will be a good husband if he loves the Lord. She will be a good wife because she loves the Lord.

Ephesians 5: ²² Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord.

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her

When I was younger, I love reading books. One of the quotes that was permanently seared in my mind

"99% of a man's success and happiness will depend on the woman he marries."

I praise God, I married a good and godly woman...not perfect...but knows and loves Jesus!

During dating stage : When your body is full of oxytocin, the love hormone because of a relationship, you will see the person as perfect. **That's why you don't make decisions based on emotions alone...**

(show outline again)

Note : If you do all of these things...then you will honor your father and mother.

***Remember :** It all boils down to the principle of
Exodus 20 : 12 "Honor your father and your mother,

One of the things you should ask in making a decision. Ask yourself, "Will this action of mine give honor to my dad?"

CONCLUSION :

As the Bible shows, we don't only have an earthly Father but a heavenly Father.

***Now, do you want to please Him? How?**

Matthew 17: 5 While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!"

***Do you want to honor our Father in heaven? How?**

John 5: 23 that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him.

Remember : If you want to please the Father, to honor the Father, to go to the Father, it is through our Lord Jesus Christ.

John 14: Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Remember : Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God is the Father's demonstration that He loves us so much.

Romans 5: 7 Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

John 3: 16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

This is how much our Father in Heaven loves you.

PRAY FOR THE DADS

S.G.D.