

June 18, 2023
God's Good News Story
Royal Advice For Father's Day
King David & King Solomon

As you are well aware, today is Father's Day. So I would like to share with you some wise advice for fathers particularly, but these principles can easily be applied to everyone here.

Over the last few weeks we have looked at the positive and negative aspects of two of the greatest and most powerful Kings in all human history – David and his son Solomon. David is known as a “*man after God's own heart*”, and Solomon as “*beloved of the Lord*” and the *wisest man of all time*. So, these two Kings should have some very helpful and wise advice for not only Fathers, but for us all. The amount of good advice and examples from these two are more than I can address in a single sermon, so I will just hit the highlights and the most helpful points. To be honest, these two men were NOT perfect. They failed miserably at times. But we can learn both from their successes as well as their failures. The goal is to follow their good examples and to avoid the bad.

Let's start off with a passage from the book of Psalms, which lays the foundation for a godly home. The Psalms are most often associated with King David, he is the most prolific of the Psalm writers, but this one is by Solomon...

Psalm 127: A Song of Ascents, of Solomon

¹Unless the LORD builds a house, They who build it labor in vain; Unless the LORD guards a city, The watchman stays awake in vain. ²It is futile for you to rise up early, To stay up late, To eat the bread of painful labor; For He gives to His beloved sleep. ³Behold, children are a gift of the LORD, The fruit of the womb is a reward. ⁴Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, So are the children of one's youth. ⁵Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them; They will not be ashamed When they speak with their enemies in the gate.

**Using this passage as our Kickoff point
Let's see what are some “Do's” and
“Don'ts” for Godly Homes & Families**

**1. DO: Choose to Build your home and family
According to God's Plan
DON'T: Depend on your own plans or the worlds.
It will lead to disappointment and disaster.**

Starting with Psalm 127 what does that look like...

- This passage indicates that God not only wants to help us build our families for success He desires to do so. It brings God pleasure to lead His children to have a blessed home and family life. It is also evident that God's plan for the continuation of families is to have children who also follow their parent's example and thus bring honor both to God and their parents.

- b. Other verses from the Bible add to this principle by showing the characteristics of righteousness, justice, wisdom and a strong foundation on God's Word.

Jeremiah 22:13-14... *“Woe to him who builds his house without righteousness And his upper rooms without justice, Who uses his neighbor's services without pay And does not give him his wages, Who says, ‘I will build myself a roomy house With spacious upper rooms, And cut out its windows, Paneling it with cedar and painting it bright red.’*

Proverbs 24:3... *By wisdom a house is built, And by understanding it is established;*

Matthew 7:24-27... ²⁴ *“Therefore, everyone who hears these words of Mine, and acts on them, will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ And the rain fell and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock. ²⁶ And everyone who hears these words of Mine, and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. ²⁷ And the rain fell and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell—and its collapse was great.”*

These words were from Solomon. But he was blessed to have a good (reasonably good) example in his father King David. Again, David was not perfect, but being “**A man after God's own heart**”, gave Solomon a strong foundation.

A secondary, but important point is that our children, loved ones, etc., can greatly benefit our godly example and behaviors, but they also will suffer from our disobedience. If we fail to build our lives and homes on God's word we set our children up to potential disaster and failure. Be a godly role model and follow God's plan!

**2. DO: Give good, godly advice to your family
DON'T: Leave it to your loved ones to find their own path, or to allow the world to give them advice on living. That is a sure recipe for disaster.**

Listen to King David's advice to his son just before his death...

1 Kings 2: 1-4... *As David's time to die drew near, he commanded his son Solomon, saying, ² “I am going the way of all the earth. So be strong, and prove yourself a man. ³ Do your duty to the LORD your God, to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, His commandments, His ordinances, and His testimonies, according to what is written in the Law of Moses, so that you may succeed in all that you do and wherever you turn, ⁴ so that the LORD may fulfill His promise which He spoke regarding me, saying, ‘If your sons are careful about their way, to walk before Me in truth with all their heart and all their soul, you shall not be deprived of a man to occupy the throne of Israel.’*

A. **Instill courage and bravery, not fear in your loved ones.** In this passage he is specifically addressing a young man so he uses the term “prove yourself a man”. But the encouragement to be strong applies to females just the same. The point is Be Your Best, don’t live in fear and cowardice. It doesn’t teach a ‘toxic’ masculinity or ‘toxic’ feminist...It simple means be strong...

- * Be strong in your faith in God,
- * Be strong in your character, integrity and morals,
- * Be strong in protecting your loved ones.

B. Do your duty to walk in God’s statutes and commands. We need to teach and expect our loved ones to be people who fulfill their duty. Their duty to God, to their family and to good citizenship.

3. DO: Set your children and loved ones up for success

DON’T: Focus all your attention on your own personal dreams and success, look out for their future and give them the best foundation to have a godly, successful and blessed life.

I touched on some of these points in the first two sections, but it deserves more attention. That is a key word, ATTENTION.

- a. Pay attention to your children (loved ones), let them know that you care and that you are focused on helping them to achieve their best for God.

That doesn’t mean that we become ‘helicopter parents’ and always give up our plans for them. No, there needs to be a balance. As a parent, guardian, friend or co-worker,

we should balance our time between enjoying our life and achieving the goals God has for us with helping others to be successful as well. There is room at the top for us all!

- b. Pay attention to King David as an example. We saw in the previous point how he gave great advice to his son for dealing with life. He also set Solomon up to live out the meaning of his name. “Solomon = peace or peaceful”

Read these words from 1 Chronicles 28

1 Chronicles 28:1-12...1 David summoned all the officials of Israel to assemble at Jerusalem: the officers over the tribes, the commanders of the divisions in the service of the king, the commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds, and the officials in charge of all the property and livestock belonging to the king and his sons, together with the palace officials, the mighty men and all the brave warriors. 2 King David rose to his feet and said: "Listen to me, my brothers and my people. I had it in my heart to build a house as a place of rest for the ark of the covenant of the LORD, for the footstool of our God, and I made plans to build it.

3 But God said to me, 'You are not to build a house for my Name, because you are a warrior and have shed blood.' 4 "Yet the LORD, the God of Israel, chose me from my whole family to be king over Israel forever. He chose Judah as leader, and from the house of Judah he chose my family, and from my father's sons he was pleased to make me king over all Israel. 5 Of all my sons--and the LORD has given me many--he has chosen my son Solomon to sit on the throne of the kingdom of the LORD over Israel.

6 He said to me: 'Solomon your son is the one who will build my house and my courts, for I have chosen him to be my son, and I will be his father. 7 I will establish his kingdom forever if he is unswerving in carrying out my commands and laws, as is being done at this time.'

8 "So now I charge you in the sight of all Israel and of the assembly of the LORD, and in the hearing of our God: Be careful to follow all the commands of the LORD your God, that you may possess this good land and pass it on as an inheritance to your descendants forever. 9 "And you, my son Solomon, acknowledge the God of your father, and serve him with wholehearted devotion and with a willing mind, for the LORD searches every heart and understands every motive behind the thoughts. If you seek him, he will be found by you; but if you forsake him, he will reject you forever. 10 Consider now, for the LORD has chosen you to build a temple as a sanctuary. Be strong and do the work." 11 Then David gave his son Solomon the plans for the portico of the temple, its buildings, its storerooms, its upper parts, its inner rooms and the place of atonement. 12 He gave him the plans of all that the Spirit had put in his mind for the courts of the temple of the LORD and all the surrounding rooms, for the treasuries of the temple of God and for the treasuries for the dedicated things.

David went to great lengths to supply and prepare Solomon to do great things for God. He gathered the materials, designed the plan and encouraged Solomon to be wholehearted in doing what God had called him to do. A key point here is that it was God who gave Solomon his calling. In verse 6 it clearly says that God is the One

who called and chose Solomon, remember God named Solomon 'Jedidiah' = beloved of the Lord. The take away is that we as parents or friends or advisor, it's not "our" plans that we set up others to achieve, it is God's plans for them. We are to be God's supply-chain managers and workers.

Help others to be the best for God and they can be, in the process you will be blessed and be found faithful by God in your own calling as well.

There is so much more to be said, but I will close now. Remember:

- 1. DO: Choose to Build your home and family according to God's Plan**
DON'T: Depend on your own plans or the worlds. It will lead to disappointment and disaster.
- 2. DO: Give good, godly advice to your family**
DON'T: Leave it to your loved ones to find their own path, or to allow the world to give them advice on living. That is a sure recipe for disaster.
- 3. DO: Set your children and loved ones up for success**
DON'T: Focus all your attention on your own personal dreams and success, look out for their future and give them the best foundation to have a godly, successful and blessed life.

Follow God's Plan, Its Always Best