Words We Give Our Children May 30, 2021

*1 Kings 2:1-12 Series: Cracks in the Foundation*

Do the hard thing. – John Stott

Intro: Words from beyond the grave

1. Tell your children that true strength is in the Word
2. Beware of the counterfeits to biblical courage

v. 2 *Be strong, and show yourself a man …*

v. 3 *and keep the charge of the LORD your God*

Joshua 1:7 *Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law …*

Joshua 1:9 *Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you...*

1. Don’t shy away from God’s commands

v. 3 *walking in his ways and keeping his statutes, his commandments, his rules, and his testimonies*

1. Faith must be rooted in God’s actual words

v. 3 *as it is written in the Law of Moses*

Deuteronomy 17:18 *he shall write for himself in a book a copy of this law, approved by the Levitical priests.*

Ephesians 6:4 *Fathers … bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.*

* What are some of the views of strength and courage that our world holds up today?
* Why does a life of faith and obedience require courage?
* Why do both we and our children need to engage the written Word of God and not just Christian thoughts and ideas? What has helped you do that? Where do you still struggle?
1. Tell your children that true blessing is in the Lord
2. There’s blessing in obedience

v. 3 *that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn*

Psalm 1:1-2 *Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.*

1. There are promises reserved for those who seek them

v. 4 *that the LORD may establish his word that he spoke*

v. 4 *If your sons pay close attention to their way, to walk before me in faithfulness with all their heart and with all their soul, you shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.*

Isaiah 48:18 *Oh that you had paid attention to my commandments! Then your peace would have been like a river, and your righteousness like the waves of the sea …*

* Where does the world teach that blessing comes from?
* What are some ways that we communicate that obedience to God actually leads to liability in life rather than blessing?
* What helps you remember that a life of faith is a pursuit of blessing not just an avoidance of guilt?
1. Cleanse your words of the sins that will corrupt your legacy
2. Solomon’s inheritance was corrupted by vengeance

v. 5 *you also know what Joab the son of Zeruiah did to me*

v. 5 *avenging in time of peace for blood … shed in war*

v. 5 *putting the blood of war on the belt around his waist and on the sandals on his feet*

v. 6 *do not let his gray head go down to Sheol in peace*

1. Solomon’s inheritance was corrupted by hypocrisy

v. 8 *there is also with you Shimei the son of Gera … who cursed me with a grievous curse*

v. 8 *I swore to him by the LORD, saying, ‘I will not put you to death with the sword.’*

v. 9 *You will know what you ought to do to him, and you shall bring his gray head down with blood to Sheol.*

1. Solomon’s inheritance was corrupted by a selfish view of God’s gifts

v. 6 *Act therefore according to your wisdom, but do not let his gray head go down to Sheol in peace.*

v. 9 *do not hold him guiltless, for you are a wise man.*

1 Kings 3:12 *Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you.*

1. Guard the words you give your children

Ephesians 4:29 *Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.*

John 1:14 *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

* What effect would it have had on Solomon to be told he had to start his rule by killing his father’s enemies?
* How would David’s words about wisdom have corrupted the way Solomon would understand the wisdom God gave him?
* How can you be more careful with your words?
* What does it mean to call Jesus “the Word”?

Study ahead: Next week, we’ll study 1 Kings 3:1-28

Notes