

Saving the Souls of Our Sons and Daughters

(Lesson Eight: Compiled by Paul R. Blake from material prepared by Jeff Asher)

Introduction:

- A. For Parents: Tragically, most Christians have never introduced a single person to Jesus Christ. There are three principal reasons for this:
 - 1. First, the average Christian is living a defeated, spiritually impotent, fruitless, worldly, materialistic life. He is not walking in the fullness of the word of God and at his heart does not truly depend on its power.
 - 2. The second reason is that the average Christian is afraid to risk asking another to obey the Gospel: fear of rejection, fear of harm to the relationship, fear of failure
 - 3. The third reason is a lack of training. They have never learned how to begin a conversation about Christ, how to explain the gospel simply and clearly, and how to lead a person to make a decision to obey Christ by faith.
- B. How to prepare yourself to ask your children to obey the Gospel
 - 1. Recognize and acknowledge their maturity and accountability
 - 2. Be Interested and listen respectfully to what they have to say about what they believe and where they are in the faith
 - 3. Accept the differences between you that have no impact on fellowship.
 - 4. Don't make assumptions about your children, and avoid preconceived notions about them based on their age
 - 5. Share more meaningful conversations with them about their life, your life, and your faith. Developing a relationship and connection takes time, energy, and willingness for both parties to contribute. Recent research on social media platforms shows that a person must give seven things before asking for something back.
- C. Questions to ask your children
 - 1. What did you think of the service (lesson, class, singing) today?
 - 2. Do you see yourself becoming a Christian in the future?
 - 3. What have done to prepare for that wonderful goal?
 - 4. What do you believe you need to do before you are ready to obey the Gospel?
 - 5. What can I do to help you to get there?
 - 6. Can I take you to talk with the preacher, your teacher, or one of the elders about this?
- D. For children - Luke 2:39-52
 - 1. WWJD: What Would Jesus Do?
 - a. A very popular slogan among professed Christians; tens of millions of wrist bands sold
 - b. The WWJD cultural movement was born out of Charles

Sheldon's 1896 novel: "In His Steps," whose lead character suggested that if each person asked "What would Jesus do?" with each decision they made, then the world would be a much better place. The plot line is commendable. However, the novel is weak as it was written in the late 19th century after many of the denominations

abandoned evangelism for the social Gospel. The book is filled with references to missions and ministries designed to alleviate the suffering of the masses. Today, the story is modernized to deal with AIDS, racial discrimination and homelessness.

- b. Subjective and self-serving; based on the individual judgment
2. It should be WDJJ - What Did Jesus Do?
 - a. Objective and God-serving; based on what is written about Jesus
- B. Jesus Is an example to youth
 1. You do not need a bracelet or T-shirt to stimulate your spirituality.
 2. You simply need to follow the example of Jesus.
 3. His was a life worthy of imitation

I. JESUS SET THE EXAMPLE OF A PURE AND HEALTHY LIFESTYLE

- A. Jesus grew just as other children grow.
 1. Jesus, like all infants at birth, was in need of a mother
 - a. Luke 2:6-7, 22
 2. As He grew, He did chores and played games with His younger brothers and sisters and neighborhood children
 - a. Mark 6:3; Matt. 11:16-17
 3. It is difficult for some to think of Jesus as an ordinary child, but that's exactly what He was - Isa. 7:14-16; Heb. 2:17
- B. Jesus "grew" and "increased" in stature - Luke 2:40, 52
 - a. "Grew" translated (12), increase (7), give the increase (2), grow up
 - b. "Increase" translated to cause to grow, augment, to increase, become greater, to grow, increase (Strongs)
 - c. He did not engage in questionable, self-destructive, selfish, or sinful activities, but instead matured into a strong, healthy young man

II. JESUS SET THE EXAMPLE OF OBEDIENCE TO PARENTS

- A. Jesus obeyed unto His parents - Luke 2:51
 1. "Subject" is translated as: put under' (6), be subject to (6), be subject to (7), submit one's self to (8) (Strongs)
 - a. A Greek military term meaning to arrange as troop divisions in a military fashion under the command of a leader. In non-military use, it was a voluntary attitude of giving in, cooperating, assuming responsibility, or carrying a burden
 2. It is interesting to note that this statement is made of Jesus at the age twelve, a time when most authorities want to attribute rebellion against parental authority to something that is natural and to be expected in the teenage years.
- B. He kept the fifth commandment - Ex. 20:12
 1. It is called the first commandment with promise - Eph. 6:2
 2. Jesus demonstrated that the lessons that come from obeying your parents prepares your heart to obey God - John 8:29; Luke 2:52

III. JESUS OBSERVED THE LAWS AND CUSTOMS OF HIS PEOPLE

- A. Jesus obeyed the law and observed the customs

1. His parents had him circumcised - Luke 2:21
 2. He went up to the Temple upon His parents' instructions - John 7:14
 3. He kept the traditions of the people - Matt. 17:24-27
 4. He respected the authority of the government - Matt. 22:21
- B. People, young and old, are either respected or disliked in a community based on their regard for what is right - Prov. 12:8; Luke 2:52
1. Jesus showed all of us how to respect the law and customs without giving endorsement to them when they were in the wrong.

IV. JESUS IS THE EXAMPLE OF FAITHFUL WORSHIP OF GOD

- A. Jesus was taken to worship God from the beginning of His life before He was able to decide for Himself.
1. On the eighth day he was circumcised - Luke 2:21
 2. On the 40th day, His parents presented Him in the Temple - Luke 2:23; Lev. 12:2-3, 8
 3. He was taught the practice of weekly attendance and participation at the synagogue - Luke 4:16
 4. His parents took Him to the religious feasts from His youth - Luke 2:42
 5. He was not given the choice while He was a dependent of His parents
 6. The point is that He showed us that learning the habit of regular attendance at worship in childhood will remain with us into adulthood
- B. Jesus understood the spiritual implications of serving God - Luke 2:49
1. Many attend worship for social, political, and even personal reasons
 - a. Matt. 6:1-18, 23:57
 2. Jesus showed us that worship is about God, not us - Luke. 2:49
 3. Jesus worshiped in spirit and in truth - John 4:24
- C. The habit of attending worship services is best developed in youth
1. Ecc. 11:9 - 12:1; Prov. 22:6; Luke 18:21; Acts 26:4; Psalms 71:5
 2. The formation of such a habit is directly attributable to the influence of parents - 2Tim. 1:5, 3:14-15; 1Sam. 1:19-29
 3. Why do you think God chose Mary and Joseph to be Jesus' parents?

V. JESUS SET THE EXAMPLE OF BIBLE STUDY

- A. Jesus not only grew physically, He grew in spirit, wisdom, and favor with God - Luke 2:40, 52
1. I am not going to speculate on how He grew in these areas; I will simply accept what is written. It says He grew in these areas; and, so can all other youths
 2. Spiritual growth comes by study of the Word - 1Peter 2:2
 - a. Jesus studied - Luke 2:46-47
 - b. Jesus read the Bible - Luke 4:16
 - c. Jesus prioritized His life in order to have time to study. He learned a trade (Mark 6:3); however, it did not take precedence over His Bible study.
 3. Young people can make the same choices - Matt. 6:33; 2Tim. 3:15
- B. Jesus sought heavenly things first

1. Jesus wanted what His Father wanted first - Luke 2:46
 2. By learning this lesson early, Jesus prepared His heart to do the difficult things that the Father would require later - Matt. 26:39, 42
 3. To satisfy every whim at the sacrifice of the Father's business is a bad habit to begin.
- C. Jesus made a conscious decision not to sin - 1Peter 2:21-22; Heb. 7:26-27
1. He made this decision in youth - 2Tim. 2:22; Isa. 7:15-16; Psalms 25:7
 2. Young people can resolve to follow the example of Jesus in choosing not to sin - Dan. 1:8; 1Cor. 10:13, 15:34

Conclusion:

- A. What did Jesus do?
 1. You can do what Jesus did.
 2. Will you do what Jesus did?
- B. You will never make a more meaningful decision, a more important choice in your life, than do obey the Gospel of Jesus Christ
 1. You have no reason strong enough, no goal worthy enough, no person important enough, and no activity noble enough to turn away from the call of Jesus Christ for you to be baptized.
 2. You have everything to gain and nothing important to lose.