

Sermon: Deuteronomy 21:18-23

A word to kids

1. We are all children
2. This passage clearly communicates God's clear displeasure with disobedience to our parents
 - a. Deut 5:16 Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, so that your days may be long and that it may go well with you in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.
 - b. Paul points out that this is the first commandment with a promise in Eph 6:2
 - i. This passage is not talking about a toddler who has learned the word "no" or a little boy who hits a playmate or an adolescent girl who rolls her eyes
 1. This passage is about a young adult who is old enough to be known as a drunkard and a glutton (vs 20)
 - ii. God takes the disobedience of children very seriously
 1. But we must not make the mistake of thinking that this action against a disobedient child is to be taken out quickly or lightly. It is clear from this passage and other biblical passages about parenting especially in proverbs that parents are to speak with and instruct their children, exhort them with patience and love and when necessary employ physical discipline in the form of spanking
 - a. But this passage does show us that that disobedience can reach a point where the talking is over
 - b. But we're not under the Old covenant any more right?**
 - i. That is correct but before we diminish the severity of this law we need to recognize that even though God has not given the church the right to put anyone to death **HE** still has that right and he will demand the life of all people who do not repent and turn to Jesus including those disobedient children
 1. Romans 12:8 And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God

gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. ²⁹They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, ³⁰slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, ³¹foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. ³²Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.

2. God is the one who says that those who disobey their parents deserve to die
- ii. And every child here need to know that rebellion against your parents put you in danger of God's Just wrath
1. So we must ask every child here-
are you under the wrath of God
 - a. Does your obedience to your parents show tht you have been born again and that you have a new heart or does your disobedience show that you are under the wrath of God and though it may not be ok for your parents to put you to death for your rebellion it is perfectly ok for God who judges perfectly to kill your body and send your soul to hell.

- b. You need to confess your sins and repent and put your hope and trust of the sacrifice of Jesus for the forgiveness of your sin
 - iii. For some of us older children we need to look back at our youth and acknowledge that at 13 or 16 or 19 in our rebellion God would have been totally justified in demanding our life from us but he was merciful and allowed us to live long enough to receive forgiveness through the gospel of his son Jesus.
 - 1. If you don't believe me that god takes seriously how young people respect the authority in their lives go home and read 1 kings chapter 2 where Elisha is walking along and a group of 42 boys begin harassing him telling him to go away and mocking his baldness. Elisha then curses them in the name of the lord because when you send away God's messenger you send away the one who sent him and so he curses them not because he couldn't take a little teasing but because they did not honor the authority god had placed among them. Two bears came out of the woods and mauled those boys
 - 2. You see God's word calls all people to repentance and i would warn you that you will invite terrible consequences in you life if trudge forward in dissobedience and rebellion
 - a. Proverbs 30:17 The eye that mocks a father and scorns to

obey a mother will be picked out by the ravens of the valley and eaten by the vultures

- iv. Listen to me! God is tender with Children but he does not change his standards for children. Are you obedient to your parents? If you are not you are under the wrath of God and your in your sins and I would admonish you **Take seriously God's death sentence on disobedience**

A word do parents

1. Really what I said to children should have been hitting every parent like a trumpet blast because when we realize that our children have life and death in front of them, when we understand that their options are disobedience and stoning or obedience and blessing it should greatly effect how we labor on their behalf
 - a. We must remember that our children are eternal beings and
2. This text assumes involved and obedient parents.
 - a. It does not assume that this child has been neglected, abused and exasperated but rather that the parents here have obeyed Deuteromy 6 and 11
 - i. Deut 6:[4](#)Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is One.[a](#) [5](#)And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.[b](#) [6](#)These words I am commanding you today are to be upon your hearts. [7](#)And you shall teach them diligently to your children and speak of them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. [8](#)Tie them as reminders on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. [9](#)Write them on the doorposts of your houses and on your gates.
 - ii. [18](#)Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as reminders on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. [19](#)Teach them to your children, speaking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. [20](#)Write them on the doorposts of your houses and on your gates, [21](#)so that as long as the heavens are above the earth, your days and those of your children may be multiplied in the land that the LORD swore to give your fathers.

- b. If the parents of this child who is to be stoned were not faithful parents then it would be the parents who were in need of correction
 - i. In this passage we see that both mother and father have been speaking to the child -presumably teaching him the law of God and doing the whole talk about it when you lie down and when you rise up” thing
 - ii. We see in this passage that both parents had employed the loving and biblical means of discipline
 - iii. Vs 20 the parents say to the elders that their son is stubborn and rebellious
 - 1. You can't know if someone is stubborn and rebellious unless you have been instructing them and disciplining them and they keep going against you
 - iv. Vs 20 the child won't listen to them

c. We must dispel 2 myths

- i. Myth 1- bad children always abused, neglected, and exasperated
 - 1. No! You can get a bad child from any home, from any class, from any neighborhood because
 - a. I know this because i have met kids who came out of the same home one was off the rails one was a responsible contributing member of society
- ii. Myth 2 - there is a direct correlation between faithful parenting and faithful children
 - 1. Now there is *some* correlation between faithful parenting and faithful parenting but it is not a guarantee that if you do your a faithful parent your kids will love jesus and want to live for him
 - a. I am not great with computers so don't come to me for advise but I do know one thing about computers and that is that they only do what they are asked to do. Translation: if my computer doesn't do what I want it to do it is because I did not ask it in the right way - the error is on me
 - i. Not so with children
 - 2. From one, two, or three years old children are making decisions with eternal consequences
 - a. Kids can decide between right and wrong from a very early age

- i. Some will choose to do what is right some what is not
- 3. Ephesians 6:1 tells children to obey your parents in the lord for this is right
 - a. If you could ust parent your children to holiness why would the Holy Spirit waste the ink to tell children to obey.
- 4. What happens in the church when we buy into this lie is that we become terribly self righteous and judgmental
 - i. Kid comes creaming through the sanctuary playing a boisterous game of tag while adults are conversing and we think, "where are their parents"
 - ii. Teaching sunday school and a two or three year old has decided that today they aren't going in there and we think to ourselves "my kids would never have been allowed to do that
 - iii. And that really is the issue isn't it? The issue is not what the kids are doing but what the parents are doing (or often not doing) in response
 - 1. And because we know that eternity is at stake and that we need to give our children every opportunity to be made aware of their need for a savior we need to be able to pry ourselves away from the conversation, or more likely the television, the social media post of the jobsite to make this moment one of the "when you lie down and when you rise up and when you walk in the way" moments
 - iv. So the perfection of the child is not the standard but rather th faithfulness of the parent
- 5. The second thing that happens when we believe this myth is that we bear an unnecessary weight of false guilt
 - a. In the christianlife there is plenty of real, and legitimate guilt - god is holy you are not you have sin

and perhaps your sin has been against your children and for that you need to repent but to live in the “if I had only’s” or the “I should have’s” is a terrible place to live

b. One area that we add false guilt is with the sin’s of children and parents concluding that it must be my fault.

i. How do I know this, it’s because many of you have come to know and love the Lord in spite of godless parents and in spite of imperfect but God-fearing parents

ii. Now if you have a short fuse with your kids repent. If you have been over-emphasizing work so your kids are neglected repent but if in the normal toils of life you have been striving to raise your children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord don’t heap false guilt on yourself with every sinful decision your children make and don’t heap blame on others who are raising little sinners too

6. Also this myth keeps us from being over-involved parents

a. How can we ever expect to teach our children about life if we never let them live

b. Natural consequences are the best tools you have as parents and yet in our desire for our kids to be perfect we struggle to let them fail.

i. Are you supposed to want to know about your kids yes - but as one preacher put it “you are never going to micro-manage your children into righteousness”

1. This is not how God deals with us- he does not lump us on the head for every infraction. He tells us we won’t get away with anything but he doesn’t send the thunderbolts every time we sin. He is patient and long-suffering

d. WE cannot neglect faithfulness

i. How does the Bible define faithful parenting - to speak and insist that your children listened to

1. This is the assumption of the passage
 - a. The father is speaking The mother is speaking (vs 18)
 - i. Proverbs 1:8 Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and forsake not your mother's teaching,
 1. Ephesians 6 "honor your father and your mother
 2. So this is not a responsibility on one or the other parent
 - b. The father and mother are disciplining (vs 18)
 - i. So discipline and speaking/instruction/warning are different (there is overlap but they are distinct)
 1. Discipline comes when the child has not listened to the words - it is the enforcement of the words and it's a loving act
2. Can I suggest three things that you are talking to your kids about
 - a. 1. God - the creator
 - i. Tell them that they were made by God, that they too have creativity because they were made by God in his image. They should delight in all that God has made and how they were made to find delight in it
 1. If the only time we hear about God is how mad he is when we sin that is painting such a distorted picture about who God is
 2. Oh that we would talk about God in all the areas of our life that are good it would be so much more natural to want to talk about him when things are not good
 - b. 2. God the redeemer
 - i. This is the God who moves into history to buy back his kids who were separated from him by their sin

1. The israelites were supposed tell their kids they were slaves and that God had saved them
 - a. Our kids need to hear from us about our past not so we can relive the glory days but so that we can tell them that Jesus saved us
- c. 3. God the Sovereign
 - i. the God who rules over everything
 1. The book of proverbs
 - a. How to stay out of a gang
 - b. How to seek wisdom
 - c. How you trust the lord
 - d. How you guard your heart
 - e. How you guard against the immoral woman
 2. Christian parenting is not about sheltering you kids but about making sure that the first time your kids are exposed to radical sin and its effects is from you
 - a. You talking to them about what happens when we hang out with the wrong crowd, you tell them about the immoral woman before they ever meet her so that when your kids meet the gang or the immoral woman they recognize them and my mom told me about you my dad warned me about you
 - i. And they said you would kill me
 3. Ben what does this have todo with the sovereignty of GOD?
- d. Since God is over everything he is aware of all the pitfalls and all the sins we can fall into and he has given us the resources to avoid and overcome them

- e. Charistian parenting must also understand that words must be reinforced with discipline and particularly corporal discipline or spanking
 - i. I do not mean abuse of any kind, or injury of any kind. I am not giving licence to outbursts of anger or to flying off the handle in the name of God
 - ii. What i do mean is that if you only talk and don't back it up with painful consequences
 - 1. Failure to discipline your children with painful consequences is teaching them that they are living in a world where there are no painful consequences for disobedience - that is not the real world
 - 2. So in a controlled and non injurious environment where they can learn how to obey
 - iii. Proverbs is so good for teaching us how to do this and for exposing the lies of our modern way of thinking
 - 1. Our society says that physical discipline is unloving- God says proverbs 13:24 whoever spares the rod hates his son. But he who loves him is **diligent** to discipline him.
 - 2. Our society tells us that kids are full of all kinds of good that needs to be discovered- God say in Proverbs 22:15 **Folly** is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline drives it far from him.
 - 3. Our society says discipline is ineffective- God is diligent both to speak and to discipline over and over
 - a. Moms you feel like a lunatic because you are doing the same thing over and over but diligent discipline has an effect it might take 20 years
 - b. Proverbs 23:14 If you strike him with the rod, you will save his soul from Sheol.
 - c. Several of you have come to know Jesus as your savior because of the faithful discipline of your parents
 - 4. Our society says that spankings encourage violence- god says Poverbs 29:15 **The rod and reproof give wisdom**, but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother.

A word to everyone

- 1. All this points to Jesus
 - a. Vs 18-19 have turned from disobedience to full on debauchery
 - b. And this is exactly what people called Jesus but it was not true

- i. He never disobeyed - Luke 2 says he obeyed his earthly parents and philippians 2 says he obeyed his heavenly father and became submissive even unto death
- c. But that is true of Jesus is that he was hanged on a tree and thus was cursed by God
 - i. Galatians tells us that Jesus took the curse of the law
 - ii. He took the penalty for disobedience in children and for unfaithfulness in parents
 - iii. He became the curse bearer