

Home Improvement 2014: *GOD'S Plan for the family CAN be lived out!!*

Text: I Kings 2:1-4, Psalm 103:11-18, Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Introduction:

Read **Ephesians 6:1-4**

1. If you asked most people in this city what kind of plan they had for their family, they would be hard-pressed to give you any answer. How are they raising their children? What are their goals?
2. Most would revolve around money. They want their children to go to college so they can make a good living and own cars, houses, and lots of stuff plus take great vacations. REALLY?
3. Do you see a problem there? NONE of those things will bring contentment or happiness. The American dream is officially a nightmare. Folks, the DREAM is all about STUFF, money, toys, etc.
4. There is nothing wrong with owning a house, driving a nice car or SUV, but I want to challenge all of you to something more. Prepare your children for LIFE, now & forever, not just *stuff collecting*.
5. **Prop. : “One of our greatest responsibilities as parents is to point our children towards the Heavenly Father, encouraging them to seek Him.”**
6. **Trans.:** There are three rather simple reminders that we are going to examine that come from the final words of King David, the great psalmist, that give us direction for what to teach & live out.

I. Remind children that life is brief and ends in physical death – I Kings 2:1-2a

1. This may sound rather fatalistic, but we are ALL going to physically die short of the Rapture
 1. What are you teaching you children about being prepared for physical death and the Rapture?
 2. Do you fear death yourself and thus are passing this on to the next generation?
2. King David, on his deathbed, seems to understand death & wants his son to as well – **I Kings 2:1-2a**
 1. David had lost children, friends and family in battle, sickness, old age and now was about to die
 2. I use a passage penned by David at graveside services to show life's brevity – **Psalm 103:13-16**
 3. Such is our lives & here is another scripture that shows why David didn't fear death – **Psalm 23**
 4. David had faith in God when he saw death around him and even as he faced leaving this life
3. The way of all the earth is to die and stand before the Lord: ***Do you fear that or welcome that?***
 1. If you have been born-again in Christ, you need not fear physical death
 2. Physical death for those who have been born-again is our time to receive the promise completely
 3. While the exact procedure of our soul going to God is a mystery, Jesus assures us we'll be there
4. We are saved by grace, then called to live a new life in Christ that must be evident to all who see us
 1. If we claim Christ yet don't have confidence of salvation, it will be evident to our children
 2. It will also be related to this next reminder that is not being lived out in our own life:

II. Remind children to walk in the ways of the God of Jesus Christ – I Kings 2:2b-3

1. Not just any god: It is time to be very specific as the number of false gods grows around us
 1. Its not Allah, or one of the gods of the Hindus, nor the god of money, power, fame or evolution
 2. This is the God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, David, Isaiah & JESUS - **I Kings 2:2-3**
 3. Solomon was being tasked with leading the emerging nation of Israel & it would be challenging
2. This same God whom I serve is also the One who gave these words - **Deuteronomy 31:7-8, 23**
 1. Joshua was tasked with leading the brand new nation of Israel after Moses was “retired”
 2. Joshua was going to lead Israel into a land of false gods and fierce people
 3. He was to “be strong and courageous” and walk in the ways & laws of this God, the great I AM
3. In the Law of Moses, God gave Israel and all who follow Him this command - **Deuteronomy 6:4-9**
 1. Jesus reminded His followers of this in **Matthew 22:37-40**

2. David echoed this command in words we have from him found in **Psalm 103:11-12, 17-18**
3. As we study God's Word, we are to live it out before the eyes of our children constantly
4. The key to forgiveness is to fear the LORD and seek His Son that He sent to die for us
 1. Here is passage that you should know and teach to your children constantly - **John 3:16-17**
 2. Jesus is the game changer in this life and has been since His resurrection from the dead
 3. Look at what Peter proclaimed just months after the cross & empty tomb - **Acts 4:10-12**
5. Parents & grandparents, your children need to see Jesus and God's ways in your life
 1. There is another reminder that is so key to have at your core and teach to the next generation:

III. Remind children this God ALWAYS keeps His promises – I Kings 2:2-4

1. God made a conditional promise to David that Solomon was asked to heed – **I Kings 2:2-4**
 1. Solomon did not walk faithfully his entire life and God required a penalty to be paid
 2. Yet, God never forgot His promise to David and fulfilled it some 900 years later in Jesus
 3. Here is the wild way God kept this promise – **Luke 1:26-33**
2. Yes, Jesus is the ultimate proof of the faithfulness of this God; the cross & empty tomb fulfilled this
 1. One of THE most important promises to teach our children and grasp ourselves is so simple
 2. Jesus, the carpenter, promises us something so much better yet to come - **John 14:1-3**
 3. Are you living like you believe this promise? Are you praying, "Maranatha!" (LORD, come!) daily?
3. Paul gives us a little more information about how this promise will unfold - **I Thessalonians 4:13-18**
 1. We are living in the season of the Rapture, folks!
 2. Evil is increasing; the earth is showing signs of birth pangs; apostasy (**church false teachings**) grows
 3. ***Our children don't need six-figure incomes, they need a hope beyond this life! They need JESUS!***
4. Parents & grandparents, time is running out: in the name of Jesus, please get a new spiritual focus!

Conclusion:

1. The best way to remind your child of all of the above is to live each and every day fully devoted to the Lord Jesus Christ. Your children know what is most important to you. You can't fool them!
2. It really is NOT all that hard. It will involve you changing some priorities daily and on Sundays.
3. What is so important in your temporary life here to keep you from honoring the eternal God and His Son, Jesus? Get into God's Word daily, set aside a time of prayer daily & be in worship weekly!!!!
4. If you need some help getting this into your life, Susan and I would love to help you. First, I would love to pray for you today. The Holy Spirit will come and help you, but you need to ask for help.
5. Come so we can pray together about your commitment to this wonderful, loving God for this or any other need that you might have in your life or that of a loved one. Come as we stand and sing.