Seasons of Parenting

Roger Shouse · Psalm 127:3–5 · Series: **Gospel Meeting with Roger Shouse**

INTRODUCTION

- Number one, that children are a gift from the Lord, and it's a non-returnable gift. Once you're a parent, you're always a parent.
- Your role as a parent changes. Changes through the seasons. And when we don't get that, we make a lot of mistakes.
- It's God who defined the family. It's God who designed the family. It's God who knows what family is supposed to be like.

1 Spring: The Time of Teaching

1 Kings 1

- The goal is get them to be disciples of the Lord. We're raising a generation to know the Lord. That is the key.
- The home is where they first learn. It's where they first learn everything. It's where they first learn about God.
- One way or the other, your child's going to learn about God the right way from you or the wrong way from the world.
- Spring is the time in which we are teaching them.
- The emphasis in the spring is teaching over and over and you mom and dad are the first examples of what a Christian is.

2 Summer: The Emphasis Is Upon Reasoning

Luke 2:52; Proverbs 1:8; Luke 4:16

- Now, if you didn't plant well in spring, summer's going to be hard.
- There's a transition to thinking for self. And during the summer, the emphasis is upon reasoning.
- And so we're reasoning during this time period. And so it is here that character is built. It is here where they begin their habits.
- He came to Nazareth where he'd been brought up as was his custom. Now, we don't use that word. We'd say his habit.
- During this period of the summer, this is when you're reasoning with your kids about how to worship God.
- It's during this time period that you're developing within them a heart of a servant.

3 Fall: You Become an Advisor and Counselor

Matthew 19:5; Ecclesiastes 3:7

- If you didn't plant well in the spring, fall is going to be painful for you because it's at this time period that the kids now are grown up.
- He's not talking about location but maturity and a separation of a home.
- During this time period your role changes. You become an advisor and a counselor.
- There's a time to speak and a time to be silent. The problem is we don't know what time it is.
- You can be different. You can be odd, but you still go to heaven. It's when you cross the line with the Bible that something needs to be said.
- We cause difficulties when we don't know when to speak, when not to speak.

4 Winter: The Children Now Parent the Parents

1 Timothy 5:4; Psalm 92:12–15; Hebrews 13:7

- If you didn't plant well in the spring, winter can be very lonely at this time period.
- During this time period, the children now parent the parents and this becomes hard for some of us older folks.
- Your relationship with each other is imperative at this time.
- Understand, there is no retirement from Jesus.
- You may not be able to do lots of things you once did. But you can still do something for the Lord.
- Shame on us if we give no thought to handling the baton to the next generation.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Hope it makes you realize, okay, I'm planting. I better get busy doing what God wants me to do.**

MY NOTES