The Way They Should Go Requires Radical Parenting

Joshua Creel · Jeremiah 35:1–19 · Series: **Parenting**

INTRODUCTION

- Train up a child in the way he should go, and even when he is old, he will not depart from it.
- When it comes to the way they should go, it's going to require some radical things on our part. It's going to require some radical parenting.

1 Jonadab Was a Man of Faith and Courage

1 Kings 16:31–33; 2 Kings 10:15–16

- Jonadab was a man of faith and courage. And Jonadab's faith and courage meant something for his life, and it meant something for future generations as well.
- Thus Ahab did more to provoke the Lord God of Israel than all the kings of Israel who were before him.
- Is your heart right as my heart is with your heart? And Jonadab answered, It is.
- And so Jehu, with the help of Jonadab, had destroyed the Baal worshippers in Israel at that time.

2 The Descendants of Jonadab Obeyed Their Father

2 Kings 24:1–4; Jeremiah 35:6–11

- This is a picture of God's judgment coming upon the southern kingdom because they had utterly turned away from God.
- We will not drink wine. For Jonadab, the son of Rechob, our father, commanded us, saying, You shall not drink wine, you or your sons forever.
- But in tents you shall dwell all your days, that you may live many days in the land where you sojourn.
- For all these many years, and again, 250 years since the time of Jonadab, we have done nothing but live in our tents.

3 Jonadab Went to Radical Measures

Jeremiah 35:7; Jeremiah 35:18–19

- What typified society in the days of Jonadab? Wickedness. Forsaking the Lord. Serving the Baals.
- He did whatever it took to get his family out of the world. And of course, in doing so, he was setting an example himself of living radically.
- Rarely do we follow commands unless we see the value of those commands.
- Jonadab said, this is for your future well-being. This is so that you can live many days in this land.
- Jonadab, the son of Rakhab, shall not lack a man to stand before me always.

4 If We're Going to Parent Radically, Wake Up

Hebrews 10:24–25; Ephesians 5:11; Joshua 24:15

- If we're going to parent radically like Jonadab parented, then we've got to wake up.
- Brethren, if we're not fully aware of just how dangerous our world is for our children, then we won't parent radically.
- What is the impression we leave with our children? When we say, it's okay, do this instead.
- Let's set the bar as high as we can. Let's say our kids here, they can be pure.
- Parenting is a choice. The choice didn't end when we had the children. The choice is a constant choice.

5 Be Willing to Live Radically Yourself

Luke 14:27

- But that's meaningless if you're not willing to live radically yourself.
- Why do we not want to demand too much from our children? Because we don't want to demand the same from ourselves.
- Living as a Christian is a radical calling. Let there be no mistake about it.

6 Emphasize Value, Not Rules

- Emphasize value, not rules. The point is not to lay down a law and say, do this, do this, do this.
- There's value in living the way in which God has called me to live.
- I am charged with expressing that value to my children. That yes, God's ways are best, that God's not the dictator in the sky.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Would you listen to Him to have your soul saved? Would you listen to Him? Repent of your wrongs. Believe in Jesus as His Son, and be baptized, to have your sins forgiven, cleansed, and to be His child.**

MY NOTES