What Will You Leave Your Children?

Robert Harkrider · Luke 15:11–24 · Series: **Parenting**

INTRODUCTION

- And when he spent it all, and he finally the scripture says, came to himself. What did he remember? He remembered home.
- The question really might be asked of each of us today, what will your children remember?
- As parents, being a parent is much more than just bringing a physical child in this world.

1 The Role of Parents Is a Serious Responsibility

Hebrews 12:9; Judges 2:10; Judges 21:25

- As a parent, you stand to have the greatest influence on that child for either heaven or hell.
- We're either leading our children to unfeigned faith in the Lord, or maybe we might be like those of the time of Judges.
- Judges 2 and verse 10 says there arose a generation that did not know the Lord.

2 One Generation Plants the Trees, Another Gets the Shade

Exodus 20:5; Ezekiel 18:20; Proverbs 22:6

- The proverb goes like this: one generation plants the trees and another gets the shade.
- But the reality is the consequences of sin are often passed on to generation after generation.
- What we as parents need to remember is that the patterns that we start may never be broken.

3 Bring Them Up in the Nurture of the Lord

Ephesians 6:4; Proverbs 13:24; Proverbs 29:15

- Ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath, but bring them up in the nurture and the admonition of the Lord.
- The responsibility, therefore, as a parent really is to do some training, to do some discipline.
- You teach the child the standard of right from wrong and the rule of authority.
- The rod and reproof give wisdom. But a child left to himself brings his mother to shame.

4 The Admonition of the Lord

Ephesians 6:4; Deuteronomy 6:4–9

- The word nurture stresses more training by act. The reality is a child needs encouragement.
- So that a parent not only will sometimes say no, but also will say yes and encourage the child in what is right.
- You shall teach them diligently to your children, shall talk of them when you sit in the house, and when you walk by the way, when you lie down and when you rise up.
- As parents teach their children by example, word and reproof.

5 Personal Commitment: I Know What I Believe

1 Peter 3:15; Daniel 3; Matthew 6:33

- When your child looks at you and remembers you, do they remember you being a Christian?
- Can you tell your children, here's why I'm a Christian?
- A kind of commitment that I know what I believe and I know why I believe it, and that settles it.
- Your children know your choices are based on a system that recognizes accountability before God and not simply what society deems is right.

6 A Life Without Hypocrisy and a Godly Home

Deuteronomy 6:8–9; Joshua 24:15

- Are you leaving your child a life without hypocrisy?
- Your words are meaningless if your action doesn't back it up.
- But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.
- Will it be the memory of a godly home? The prodigal son remembered home.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Stop and ask ourselves, what am I really leaving? My children.**

MY NOTES