

June 14th 2009: Deuteronomy 6:1-9: My Dad and mum Know God!

This morning I want to talk mainly.....parents.....prospective parents...grandparents
About the prime ambition that we have for our children

What we want most for them

Rod Stewart....a musician of some fame....has 7 children from 5 different women..
and he has openly stated that his wealth.....has caused his children to lack ambition.

By that he means.....the ambition he has for them...to be famous singers like him

He said recently:

"Ruby seems to be the only one of my children who has some kind of singing talent." **"But unlike me when I started, she's not hungry at all, unfortunately.**

She lives with me, drives a big Land Rover and has everything she wants."

"She's just 19 but she doesn't burn for anything."

- **Another father**.....lives in England.....who is not famous.....
Recently put this notice on the internet

My dream ambition for my children is to make them into hafiz of the Holy Quran so that it may be a means of blessings and saving me from the Fire of Jahannum. I have had a string of quran teachers come to my house in Honslow but they have all let me down one by one. They all made promises and then stayed for a short while and then gone. I feel very badly let down. I am making lots of duas that a kind hearted quran teacher will make the effort to spare one hour daily to teach my four boys (aged 5 to 15).

The distressing thing about that.....is whatever his religious leanings might be
His major concern.....is to save himself.....through the teaching he arranges

He reveals a selfishness...similar to that of Rod.....who seems to want his children to follow in his footsteps.....for his sake more than theirs.

So what do we want for our children ??? and why

Our non-church neighbours.....want their children to have a piece.....of this materialistic prestigious world that we all live in.

They want them to be happy.....comfortable.....successful

And there's nothing wrong with that....**Most Christian parents want that too**

But surely.....we want them firstly to have.....the only thing that is lasting
A relationship with God as their Father.....through Jesus....His Son

We want them to be secure for eternity.....**We want** them to know the daily protection...love....grace....and kindness of Almighty God

The thing is though.....It is not enough to just want it for them

We need to know the joy and reality of having.....relationship with God ourselves
And then be prepared to live out that relationship.....in our interactions with them
SO THEY WILL DISCOVER IT TOO

*(One of the extreme sports....been around.....***BUNGEY Jumping***.....silly*
But I'm confident that if I tried really hard.....I could possibly convince.....to do a....
However if they turned to me.....Don't be stupid !!!!!

If on the other hand if I had two tickets to the football
I would hardly need words.....**Something behind** the words energizing them)

That's how it needs to be when we share with our children about God

From our reading today...that's obviously the pattern God had in mind for His
As they prepared to enter the Promised land

He needed them to be a nation of people who loved Him.....and who brought up their
To love Him too

So in Deut 6.....He gives them thro Moses.....His **blueprint** for God-centred families
And immediately we see.....it begins....parents relationship with God

**Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God
with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These
commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts.**

**We are to love Him and to know Him....in order to show Him
And the more we love.....the more effective we will be**

One commentator said of these verses:

**We are to love the Lord totally, "with all our heart," and to give ourselves to
Him unreservedly. This is the tough one, not because the Lord is so hard to
love, but because we are so prone to self love and selfish pursuits. We are so
like the old hymn says, "Prone to wander Lord I feel it, Prone to leave the
God I love."**

He then went on to say:

The secret to loving the Lord is knowing Him. And the secret to knowing Him is Bible study and prayer. If we do not love the Lord and make Him the supreme priority of our lives, the chances are very high that neither will our children. And, only our love for the Lord will cause us to make the training of our children, or godly parenting, a priority in our lives.

Now that proved to be true for the Hebrews

But in our Society.....where the emphasis is more on indivi decisions...than family
I struggle with the reality.....that there are children brought up by Godly in solid Christian homes.....**who have chosen not to follow**

But I have also come to realize
that those children have grown up knowing....that what they saw in their parents lives
Was obviously beneficial.....

And I believe that the time comes when they contrast.....and they know how blessed they were

And when they have their own.....**Or** at climatic times in their lives
then they remember.....and begin to move back to the Lord....they experienced...thro

There is of course more to God's blueprint.....than just knowing the Lord ourselves....
And living out our faith in the home

**The script also says.....that we must IMPRESS what we know of the Lord...
→the things about Him that we placed upon our hearts...
Upon our children**

The Amplified Version.....puts it like this:-

**And these words which I am commanding you this day shall be
[first] in your [own] minds and hearts; [then]
You shall whet and sharpen them so as to make them penetrate,
and teach and impress them diligently upon the [minds and]
hearts of your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in
your house and when you walk by the way, and when you lie
down and when you rise up.**

What the Amplified does....seeks to give the English.....most interesting Hebrew word

The word impress.....means to whet a knife with a stone...to make it sharp

What we are being told to do.....is to put a lot of thought.....initiative...into
Our sharing of the message of.....with our children

The way of presenting Christian truths...that worked with us...wont nec work with our
The knife that was sharp for us.....May be blunt for them

The message never changes.....but we need to sharpen the way we present it
We need to use the most effective ways we can.....to connect our...with the truth
and that will involve us in a lot of research.....and a lot of thinking

Then along with that...there is the talking of the things of Jesus

Something that we can all do....

Sharing with our childrenWhether we are in the car or in the home

Just how important Jesus is to us.....

Answering their questions.....with all the reverence and seriousness we can muster

I heard of one Mum who felt so inadequate when it came to teaching her children
She had the idea.....that such teaching had to be some formal.....like Sunday School

She had a wise friend.....took her to this verse.....and told her that what God wants
Is just this:---**To hide His Word in our OWN hearts**

Apply it to our Own lives

And then talk about Him to our children all day long.

God knows that.....The best way to give our children loving Christian instruction
by the lifestyle we ourselves lead.

- If we don't want our children to swear and to fight, then we ourselves cannot.
- If we want our children to be honest and to speak the truth, then we ourselves cannot be dishonest and full of lies.
- If we want our children to have a close and living relationship with God, then they must see us having that kind of relationship.

**Gospel musician Hilding Halverson told of overhearing a conversation
between his son and two other little boys. The youngsters were
bragging about their dads. One boy said proudly, "My dad knows the**

mayor of our town!" Another said, "So, my dad knows the governor of our state!" Halverson's son then came up with this touching comment, "That's nothing -- my dad knows God!" Upon hearing this, Halverson quickly slipped away to his room and with tears in his eyes said, "O God, I pray that my boy will always be able to say, 'My dad knows God.'"

Can your children and youth say that about you? They should be able to.