

## 2025-06-28 Turning Our Hearts to the Children

Because today is Children's Ministry workers appreciation day

Ruach Ha Kodesh led me to look at the importance of children's ministry to God

Starting with V'ahavtah

*Deuteronomy 6:5 Love Adonai your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.*

Yeshua declared this to be 2<sup>nd</sup> part of greatest Commandment

The words all your heart, all your soul, and with all your strength

Imply God's intention for His relationship with you

To be a passionate, all-out loving relationship

God wants a loving relationship with you

This refutes the false teaching that the god of the BH is loving

But the God of Tenakh is vengeful, a harsh judge

*Deuteronomy 6:6 These words, which I am commanding you today, are to be on your heart.*

What does it meant that His words should be on your heart?

Not just in your head where you know them

But in your heart where they are meaningful to you

They are the words of the one you love the most

They are written on your heart by Ruach Ha Kodesh

Like a love letter from a beloved significant other

Would be written on your heart

On your heart means you will greatly desire to obey them

*Deuteronomy 6:7 You are to teach them diligently to your children, and speak of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down and when you rise up.*

We are given this long list of when we should speak the Words of God

To emphasize that we should have them always on our minds

Sitting in your house, lying down, rising up

But, notice these are all times parents are with their children

What are we to teach? God's words, all of God's words

But, teaching is not the same as speaking

Teaching implies correction, memorization, explanation, exercises, testing

Examples, debating

So we are to both speak God's Words and teach them

Why does Moses use the word "diligently"

In describing how we should teach our children?

To make sure we do it well

Revealing its great importance to God

In Biblical times children were taught to read from the Torah scroll

They had to memorize the scriptures because no one had their own Bible

Each town would have only 1 scroll in the synagogue

By the time they were grown they'd have memorized all the books of Moses

The only way to study them was to memorize them

Because the scriptures were on scrolls, which made moving from

One place to another in the text very difficult & time consuming

Memorization is evident in gospels where the authors frequently quote Tenakh

Even though they were fishermen, tax collectors, not scholars

They were able to quote scripture because they had it memorized

This memorization of scripture was also of great value when it was time

To share the Good News about Yeshua throughout the world

Apostles didn't have to carry heavy, expensive scrolls with them

Because they had them memorized

BH also teaches us about raising children

*Ephesians 6:4 Fathers, don't irritate your children and make them resentful; instead, raise them with the Lord's kind of discipline and guidance.*

Irritate & make them resentful — parorgizete - provoke them to anger

How can a parent provoke their children to anger?

Abuse, neglect, being controlling, criticizing, demanding perfection

Raising children in the Lord is high priority in the Kingdom of God &

Messianic Movement

We need to impart to our children our heritage, the essence of Messianic  
Judiasm

Because it is clear we are to be a multi-generational movement

How does the Bible say we are to accomplish this?

Rabbi Sha'ul told Timothy how

*2 Timothy 2:2 And the things you heard from me, which were supported by many witnesses, these things commit to faithful people, such as will be competent to teach others also.*

What were the things Timothy heard from Sha'ul? God's word

Rabbi Sha'ul's teachings were to be handed down through 3 generations

1<sup>st</sup> to Timothy, 2<sup>nd</sup> to people taught by Timothy

3<sup>rd</sup> to people taught by the people taught by Timothy

Commit to faithful people means teach God's Word to faithful people

& part of what faithful people must be taught is to "teach others also"

& part of what those "others" must be taught is

For them to "teach others also"

That process is essential for Kingdom of God to continue to grow through the generations

*Proverbs 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go, when he is old he will not turn from it*

That training up process needs to be started in childhood

I am so grateful that we have among us here

Those whom God has called to train up children

& who have answered that call by committing themselves

To serve in our children's ministry, not an easy job

But, our teachers only have an hour per week to teach our children

The primary responsibility to train up your children is on you parents

It's wonderful to see a great turn in the US to Home Schooling

By parents who have accepted that responsibility

Many of them here today

& to be able to host ASA an academy that helps home schooling families

By providing additional mentoring for home schooled children

This proverb also gives me & other parents hope

That, even if a child of yours has turned away from your godly training

They will come back to what they were trained in once they are older

So, parents, don't give up your hope, continue to pray for your children

& show them love

Part of the process of growing up is for a child to establish their own identity

By exploring beliefs & worldviews different from their parents

So they can decide whether to believe what their parents taught  
Or something else

This sometimes causes them to explore other religions/philosophies

Which often freaks their parents out

Bible encourages training up our children

In more ways than just telling us to do it

God created the Biblical calendar to help us

Moadim, Appointed Time celebrations have a community and a home basis

For example, referring to the Passover Seder

*Exodus 12:26 Now when it happens that your children ask you, 'What does this ceremony mean to you?'*

*27 You are to say, 'It is the sacrifice of Adonai's Passover, because He passed over the houses of Bnei-Yisrael in Egypt, when He struck down the Egyptians, but spared our households.'"*...

Moadim celebrations are given to us by God to create curiosity in our children

So they will ask us questions about why we're celebrating that way

This creates a teachable moment

In addition to the Passover Seder other moadim create teachable moments

Why are we keeping Shabbat? Why are we eating matzah?

Why are we bringing the firstfruits of our crops to the Lord?

Why are we counting the fifty days? Why are we sounding shofar on Rosh Hashanah?

Why are we fasting on Yom Kippur? Why are we building a sukkah?

& some of the other holidays create teachable moments

Why are we lighting the Chanukkah candles?

Why are we making noise with groggers?

Bible has a warning for us in the accounts of children not raised well

Cain – murdered his brother

Ishmael – kicked out of his family because he mocked his younger brother

Jacob – also forced to leave his family because he obeyed his mother

Who told him to deceive his father

Ruben – committed incest with his step mother

Simeon & Levi – slaughtered people of an entire city over rape of Dinah

David's son Amnon – raped his half sister

His brother Absalom – murdered Amnon, tried to usurp his father  
 Another brother, Solomon – fell away when tempted by lust  
 Even though David was a “man after God’s own heart” he was a poor father  
 Why? Two reasons – 1<sup>st</sup> he was often away at war  
 & 2<sup>nd</sup> he had many wives & many children so would not have been able  
 To give each child the attention they needed

Bible also has examples of children raised well

Isaac – a man of peace

Joseph - must have been taught by Jacob

To be godly, faithful, a good servant

Yeshua – Joseph & Mary did a great job as parents

What if your children have already grown up?

You may have grandchildren, spiritual children to pray for & train  
*Malachi 3:23 “Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet, before the coming of the great and terrible day of Adonai.*

This great day of the Lord is fast approaching

*24 He will turn the hearts of fathers to the children, and the hearts of children to their fathers—else I will come and strike the land with utter destruction.”*

Turn – return as in repentance, turn as in concern, love

If the hearts of fathers are not turned to their children

God will bring the judgment/curse of utter destruction

I believe this holds for mothers too

What are parents like whose hearts are not turned to their children?

Abusive, neglectful, harsh, unloving, idolatrous, self-centered, selfish

Distracted, they show favoritism, don’t establish rules

& don’t enforce rules, spoil their children, they require perfection

Are demanding, discouraging, demeaning etc.

A curse of utter destruction is a very harsh threat

Shows turning of parents hearts to their children is very important to God

Why would this be so important? Because children must be trained in godliness

For Kingdom of God to grow & continue through the generations

& most children are not born with the Fruits of the Spirit already  
 grown & ripe

& if the hearts of the parents are not turned to the children

That training will not happen or even if they try they will fail  
What about the converse?

If the hearts of the children are not turned to their parents

God will also bring the curse of utter destruction

What are children like whose hearts are not turned to their parents?

First thought – not caring for aging parents

But also, disobedient to what they've been taught

Not continuing in their fathers' godly ways, rebellious, dishonoring,

Abusive, neglectful, idolatrous, selfish, greedy

Not contributing to the passing down of godliness through the generations

Biblical example of godliness not being passed down through the generations

*Judges 2:7 Then the people worshipped Adonai all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders that outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great work of Adonai that He had done for Israel.*

*10 But when all that generation were gathered to their fathers, there arose another generation after them that did not experience Adonai or the work that He had done for Israel.*

*11 Then Bnei-Yisrael did what was evil in Adonai's eyes, and worshipped the Baalim.*

Here's a Biblical example of when godliness did get passed down

Rabbi Sha'ul wrote to Timothy

*2 Timothy 1:5 I recall your sincere trust (faith), the same trust that your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice had first; and I am convinced that you too now have this trust.*

Timothy was the 3<sup>rd</sup> generation in his family to trust in the Lord

What are parents like whose hearts are turned to their children?

They lovingly, patiently provide for & teach, train, discipline their children

What do children need training in?

A long list of things children don't just magically pick up

They need to be taught, trained with words and by example

Be aware example is the most important teacher

Here's my list: to understand plan of salvation, pray, Worship, study Bible

To trust God, To see their need for guidance of Ruach Ha Kodesh

To seek direction from Ruach Ha Kodesh, To repent & apologize  
when needed

Surprising how few seem to know how to do that

When necessary to confront but always in humility

When to confront & when to overlook

To control anger, have patience, be honest, truthful, to be good servants

To complete things they start, to have compassion on others

To love the Lord with all their heart

Children need to be taught to contradict the things they are being taught

In public schools or over the internet

Gender fluidity, homo-sexuality, fornication, socialism, the occult,

Climate hysteria, DEI, intersectionality, Islam

Children need to be taught to take care of themselves with

Healthy eating & exercise habits, to find their giftings and pursue them

To treat others the way they want to be treated, to avoid evil influences

To respect their elders, especially their parents, to be team players

To not be sore losers, to be thankful

To laugh – especially at themselves, not to fear taking risks

That's a lot of teaching

You parents should have faith you are capable of doing it diligently

Why? Because since the Lord has called you to it by giving you children

He will give you the ability to raise them the He wants you to

You should also have faith you can teach your spiritual children these thing

That's what our Children's Ministry workers have been doing

& we can always use more qualified workers

Can you make a significant contribution to the continuation of the Kingdom of  
God

Think about the Sunday school teacher who led Billy Graham to salvation

You could lead the next Billy Graham to the Lord

Prayer

Thank you for your Kingdom being an everlasting, expanding Kingdom

Through about 80 generations now since Yeshua founded it

Thank you for all the faithful parents

Who trained up their children the way they should go

To enable Your Kingdom to be everlasting  
Repent of being abusive, neglectful, harsh, unloving, idolatrous, self-centered,  
selfish, distracted, showing favoritism, not establishing rules  
Not enforcing rules, spoiling children, requiring perfection of them  
Being demanding, discouraging, demeaning  
Break the power of any spirits inciting this kind of behavior in us  
Turn our hearts, parents and others here & online toward the children  
Give us a love for the children  
& open a door for us to help them learn to walk with You