

Packing Your Child's Suitcase

A Blessing

Genesis 27:26-33

November 19, 2023

HDBC

Wrapping up ***Packing Your Child's Suitcase*** series today.

Review: **Ticket Home, Wisdom, Anchor, Purpose**

That brings us to the fifth thing every child needs. ***A blessing***. Not just any blessing. The kind of blessing that needs to come from you.

The blessing provides a sense of affirmation, encouragement and acceptance. It is you sending them out with a confidence. ***My parents believe in me.***

The example comes from an intriguing Old Testament practice. On the surface it may seem archaic and unimportant to us. But it has some strong application for today. In Jewish life, it was the dad's responsibility to bless each of his children. It was usually given when the dad got old and felt that his life was nearing its end. One by one he would share a "blessing" with each of his children. Some aspects of this OT practice were purely cultural. But the principles are timeless.

READ Genesis 27:26-33

No other person in OT can give us a clearer picture of the importance of the blessing than Esau. In his case it was not simply the general blessing given to all the children, but the special blessing that was to be his as the first-born.

Esau had casually forfeited his birthright, when he sold it to his twin brother for a bowl of soup. Birthright was the double-portion of the inheritance that would enable him to take care of the family as the patriarch when his father had died. He had taken a casual, careless attitude toward that. **But it was different** when it came to the blessing. When he lost this, he wept bitterly. To him it was his worst nightmare, come true. Remember how it happened?

Isaac instructed to Esau to kill and prepare a deer. He would eat, then bless his firstborn son. Rebekah overheard, and wanting Jacob to receive the blessing

devised a plan to deceive her aging and blind husband. Meal prepared. Jacob placed animal skins over his body to trick his father and receive the blessing.

Today children do not need the ritualistic aspects of the OT blessing. But they still need the kind of blessing only parents can give. Three elements of the Old Testament blessing are the keys to giving your child a sense of courage, conviction, confidence as they venture into their own world.

1. **Meaningful Touch (26-27)**

Meaningful touch was an essential element in the OT blessing. Isaac called for him to come near and kiss him. The phrase **come close** is a very descriptive phrase. **Used of armies drawing together for battle.** Used to picture the **overlapping scales on a crocodile's skin.** It speaks of a close connection. Isaac did not simply want his son near, he wanted to touch him.

Whenever the blessing was given, it was accompanied by physical touch. **Over one third of our five million touch receptors are centered in our hands.** Never underestimate the importance of touching in relationships. Touching . .

1) **Communicates Affection**

Some things just can't be communicated with words. Most kids love to wrestle with moms and dads. Love to be tickled even when it drives them crazy. It's not the tickling that they really like, it is the touching.

Marilyn Monroe was asked if she ever felt loved when she was a young girl and went from one foster family to another. *Once, when I was about seven. The woman I was living with was putting on makeup, and I was watching her. She was in a happy mood, so she reached over and patted my cheeks with her rouge puff. For that moment, I felt loved by her.*

She had tears in her eyes as she related the story. The touch had lasted only a few seconds but left an impression that lasted a lifetime. A child who grows up untouched will feel unwanted and unattractive.

2) **Communicates Respect**

Firm handshake is a sign of respect. Dad who firmly holds onto the shoulders of his grown son is showing respect. A pat on the back a touch on the shoulders.

3) Communicates Commitment

When Jesus touched the untouchables of his day, he was communicating His commitment to them. When couples say marriage vows, they do so while holding each other's hands. That simple touch communicates commitment.

2. Positive Words

Isaac not only touched his son but spoke to him. Some things must be said. Don't assume your children can read your mind. **Words have incredible power** to build up or to tear down. We must use words, but not just any words. Must use positive words. Words that will encourage and build up. Two particular things we need to communicate in words.

1) Unconditional Love and Acceptance (27)

Note the end of verse 27. That won't mean much to us today, but that was Isaac's way of saying he approved of his son. His way of saying *I like you, I approve of you. You are a man that I'm pleased with.*

All of us come into this world with a need to be accepted. To be wanted. First place we look is to our parents. If not found there then we look elsewhere. Keep looking until we think we have found it. Wherever we find it, we will be committed.

Diane was born with an under-developed left arm. Only days after her birth her parents thanked God for her and committed to making up with love what was lacking in her physical body. Nineteen years later she was a well-adjusted college student who plays beautiful melodies on the piano with just one hand. She received a great gift from her parents. They gave her the blessing of acceptance.

Our kids need to hear regularly our unconditional love. *There is nothing you could ever do to make me stop loving you!*

2) Positive Future (28-29)

Notice what Isaac said next. He was picturing for Jacob a very special future. He was projecting a positive future for his son. Expecting and

anticipating great things. At the time of the blessing, Jacob had none of those things.

We realize that Isaac's words carried the weight of **divinely inspired Biblical prophecy**. Most of us dads won't be able to do that. But we can paint a positive future for our kids. Can pray the best for them.

Many kids will never rise above the expectations of their parents. There are exceptions. But the majority become what they hear their parents communicating they will become. Tell your child he is dumb, and he will assume the role. Phrases like the following should never be spoken.

You'll never amount to anything.

I knew you couldn't do that!

Why did you even try that?

No one would want to go out with you!

Our children go through many stages on the road to adulthood. Many of these stages they feel that the future is hopeless, and they will never amount to anything. Unattractive, awkward, etc. These are the **caterpillar stages**.

Caterpillars just crawl around eating leaves and trying not to get stepped on or eaten. Future looks bleak. One day they wrap themselves in a cocoon and come out a beautiful butterfly. **We must wrap our kids in a cocoon of positive encouragement and blessing.**

Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due when it is in the power of your hand to do so. Do not say God and come back and tomorrow I will give it when you have it with you. Proverbs 3:27-28

3. Firm Commitment (27:33, 28:1)

In the historical situation Jacob had stolen the blessing. But amazingly, Isaac commits to the blessing already given. We find that hard to understand. Of course, God had already chosen Jacob as the son through whom the promise would be passed along. So, it was proper for Isaac to stay committed to his blessing. Note the principle.

Isaac not only offered a meaningful touch and positive words but made a firm commitment. ***I will be there with you. I will stand with you.*** A refusal to back away. Willingness to stick with the task of being a dad.

Bubs Roussel was only 17 when the Japanese attacked Pearl harbor. Soon after he found himself in the Army Air Corps training to be a radio operator in a B-29. He was later assigned to the island of Saipan in the western Pacific. From there the B-29's made bombing runs on Japan.

On December 13, 1944 eighteen bombers soared out over the Pacific to make another run. Four of the planes did not return. Bub's plane was among them. Official word came to his family from the war department that he had been killed in action. They received a telegram, and a small white flag, bordered with red and trimmed with blue and gold. A small gold star in the middle, symbolizing that they had lost a son in battle.

But that was not the only thing they received. About a month later they received a letter from their son. A letter that he had written the day of his last mission, with instructions that it be sent if he did not return.

Dear Folks:

I have left this with instructions to send it on to you if anything happens to me. I send you my love and blessings. My life has been a full one. I have been loved like very few persons ever. I love you all with the best that is in me. It hasn't been hard for me, knowing you believe in me, trust me, and stand behind me in fair or foul. Knowing this has made me strong.

Here was a young man who had received a Blessing from his parents.

When does the need for a blessing end? Not at 16 or 21 or 41. As long as the father and child are living, the opportunity for blessing continues.

There it is. Five things children need in their suitcase before leaving home.

Ticket Home to be assured of Heaven.

Wisdom to make the tough decisions that will come.

Anchor to remain stable when the storms of life come.

Purpose to direct their life and give them significance.

Blessing to give them confidence as they cut their own path.

Four Practical Suggestions for Packing Your Child's Suitcase

1. Expect and teach your children to obey.

They will come into this world with a bent toward sin and disobedience. It is your job to teach them to love what is good and right and to do it. When they are young, never forget that **you are the parent!**

2. When it comes to toys and gadgets, less is better.

When our children have too many of those things it inhibits their creativity.

3. Don't be intimidated by experts.

Get all the advice you can, but then trust God to give you wisdom as you parent.

4. Eat supper together as a family, without devices.

Nothing can substitute for conversation!