



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Raising Your Parents Series, Lesson 7

Lesson Title: Giving Respect to Your Parents

Take Home Point: Respect Your Parents

Warm-Up:

I am finding that the longer I live, the more certain things bother me. One in particular is how children refer to their parents when not in their presence. For example, my daughter was good friends with a young man in her high school class, and he asked her to go out with him. I was not comfortable with him seeing my daughter for several reasons, not the least of which was I had heard this boy speak very disparagingly of his mother. I mentioned this to my daughter, telling her that how a young man views his mother is a good indicator of how he views women in general. But she dismissed my concern. "He's not that way," she said. But within just a few weeks, he treated her with the same disrespect I heard when he talked about his mother. It was a hard lesson for my little girl, but an important one.

Read: Ephesians 6:1-4

Observation (What happened?):

What is special about the commandment "*Respect your father and mother*"?

How are parents supposed to bring up their children?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

What does it mean to respect your parents?

Why should parents be careful not to exasperate their children?

Insight:

It is no accident that Satan strikes at the family with such vigor. He recognizes, in ways we tend to overlook, that parent-child relationships are an earthly representation of our relationship to God through Jesus Christ. So Satan attacks. It is also no accident that Paul wrote what he did, for two of Satan's favorite attack points are parents disrespecting children, and children disrespecting parents. The position of parent, just like any other position of authority, deserves respect, but a parent must also live in such a way as to earn a child's respect. In a similar way, children are to be treated with respect. They are not to be dealt with as less than human, disregarded or minimized as "just kids." Remember, Jesus held special regard for the children he came in contact with. Children are made in the image of God, except they are immature. They require gracious, loving, firm guidance and nurturing, the same kind of nurturing God offers us if we will accept it. Acting on these two points will do more to meet Paul's entreaties and defeat Satan's assault on the family, than a lifetime of sermons.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

How do you show respect to your parents? What can you do this week for them?

Pray for the children in your small group to respect their parents for who they are and the position God has given them.

Kingdom Quest Year 1 - Lesson 7