

Why Do Good People Have Bad Children?

(2 Samuel 19:4)

- Introduction:
1. “But the King covered his face and the king cried out with a loud voice, ‘O my son Absalom! Absalom, my son, my son’” (2 Samuel 19:4).
 2. From these words, I can feel the absolute brokenness of King David upon learning that his rebellious son, Absalom was dead.
 3. I’m sure you’ve asked this question before. I’m sure you’ve heard a sermon preached on it. I know I have, but tonight I am preaching this sermon from a different perspective.
 4. In years past, I have preached this sermon, and my focus was on what parents need to do and how they sometimes fail, and at the end, if there is any time left, I would reassure many who must have been sitting through a painful 20 minutes, that it’s not always the parent’s fault.
 5. That’s the way I’ve preached it in the past, but I don’t think I’ll ever approach it in that way again.
 6. You see, I’ve lived the cries of David. I know his pain. And my focus is to first offer comfort and show compassion to those who are suffering.
 7. I’ve made the same decision with reference to MDR. I’m not going make people suffer and feel guilty for 20 minutes, only to let them off the hook at the end.

I. It’s Often Not Your Fault

- A. Can I tell you why?
- B. Because we’ve often misunderstood and misapplied Proverbs 22:6.
 1. It’s a proverb – a general truth.
 - a. (Proverbs 15:1; 3:1-2; 18:22).
 2. “The way he should go,” or “According to his way.”
 - a. Is it a “moral instruction” or “general instruction?”
 - b. “Train up the child according to the tenor of his way, and when he is old he will not depart from it.” (Darby).
 - c. “Give instruction to a youth about his way, Even when he is old he turneth not from it.” (Young’s Literal Translation).
- C. Because that would be an indictment of God, Himself!
 1. God was a father to Adam and Eve, and both turned away from God (Genesis 3).
 2. Israel is described as a “son of God” (Hosea 11:1-4,7).
- D. Because that would underestimate the power of the Devil.
 1. The wiles of the Devil (Ephesians 6:11); the snare of the Devil (2 Timothy 2:26); the power of the Evil one (1 John 5:19).
 2. He has the ability to blind the minds of some (2 Corinthians 4:4).
- E. Because that would remove free-will from our children.
 1. Whosoever wills, let him come (Revelation 22:17).
 2. (1 Corinthians 15:33).

II. What Should We Do?

- A. Express your love.
 1. Would we not do this if one lost a child to death?
 2. Death would be an easy exchange for your child’s soul.
- B. Don’t treat them as though nothing of great magnitude has happened (1 Corinthians 5).
- C. Wait for their return. Live in hopes of it. Pray for it.
- D. Make it easy for them to come back.