



5/11/26

I hope you had a wonderful Mother's Day. In case you'd like to have the quote/prayer I talked about in the "Mother's Day blessing," here it is... "Whatever it takes, Lord, keep me desperate for You, because I tend to wander when I stop feeling my need for You" (Jon Bloom). Being desperate for Him is the safest place to be. 💜

*Blessings,
Jonna*

Psalm 78:1-8

I love how practical the message on Sunday was about Godly parenting; that is, parenting that is devoted to God. How do we do that? I can consider all the roles of the people in a football game, and how God is the perfect balance of all those roles for me... He's the perfect referee, the perfect coach, the perfect teammate, and the perfect cheerleader... and He knows when and how we need all of these. I pray that I will be all those for His glory.

So now as I turn to Psalm 78, I want to see what insight I can learn and understand better about how God wants me to care for "the next generation".

Vs. 1 ~ "Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth!"

Give ear... listen to what God wants me to learn from Him. There are lots of things and people we can listen to. Whose voice am I listening to the most? Do I place influencers' advice over the guidance of the word of the Lord? O Lord, please help me to let Your voice be the loudest voice!

Incline your ear... lean in to hear what the word of the Lord says. How intentionally and diligently I listen will tell me how much I really value what He says. O Lord, please be the loudest voice I hear.

Vs. 2-3 ~ "I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old, things that

we have heard and known, that our fathers have told us."

So first, I need to be ready to hear. When I listen, what will I hear? Dark sayings from of old? Why would dark sayings be passed down from earlier generations? Because I need to be reminded or I'll forget. And sometimes I learn more from hearing how something went wrong than how it went right.

It says these are things that I have heard and known. It's important that these things are repeated. No one ever gets it right from hearing it once. This means that before I even consider how this applies to raising or influencing other people, I need to humble myself before the Lord.

Who doesn't take to heart what they hear and know even when they've seen it go wrong? The proud and the ashamed. The proud won't listen because they don't think they need to. The ashamed won't listen because they feel like there's no hope for them. I need to humbly be open to the fact that God knows what He's doing, and listening to Him and His word will never take me in the wrong direction.

Vs. 4 ~ "We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and His might, and the wonders that He has done."

When I hear, listen, and know the words of God, it only makes sense that I would pass those words on to my children. The world does not teach this. The world teaches that good parenting is being open to your kids and letting them go their own way, even if that means being fine if they reject God. God does NOT teach me to parent like that. One reason He has parents lead their children is so that the children aren't left on their own to figure it all out. Besides that, if I know that what I have from the Lord IS the ONLY way to Jesus, and if I believe the word that says there is no other God but my God... why would I NOT teach them everything I know that's true from the Lord? If I'm not teaching the truth of God's word to kids or to anyone God has allowed me to influence, I have to ask myself if I truly believe that God is who He says He is.

What are the things I need to teach those God puts in my path, the coming generation? I need to teach them of God's incredible works, His power, and His wonders. What do children need to know about God in order to keep from thinking they're "all that", or to keep them from thinking they need to try to manage life in their own strength (which causes a ton of anxiety)? I need to teach them God's works, power, and wonders, because that helps them understand His authority AND His provision and protection. I can only teach it if I actually take it to heart for myself. O Lord, please help me not to get Your role confused with mine. Please help me to point the next generation to You. Let me never waste the time pointing to myself.

Vs. 5-8 ~ "He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which He commanded our fathers to teach to their children, that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children, so that they should set their

hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments; and that they should not be like their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation, a generation whose heart was not steadfast, whose spirit was not faithful to God."

The command to teach the next generation is not just a suggestion. It is a command FROM THE LORD. All commands must align with His word. I remember watching a movie as a child where, with deep conviction, a man told another person, "The Bible doesn't say, 'Thou must.' It says, 'Thou mayest.'" The man was saying, "God doesn't really mind if you don't obey Him." I believed that man from that movie. I didn't understand that he was completely twisting and changing scripture. Like I was, kids are easily manipulated into believing lies! They believe the words of grownups unless they're shown that the grownup is wrong. It's my job to speak the absolute truth from God's word. That's never wrong.

God established His word, not just for the people of the first generation. He established it so that it could be followed and passed down to each generation... FOR A PURPOSE. What purpose? So that everyone could set all their hope on the Lord and remember all the things He's done for us. Well, that makes sense. We tell everyone about God's faithfulness and His power so that they can know why it's important to obey Him.

When we don't set our hope on God and remember all His works, it's too easy for us to drift from Him and forget why obedience to Him is a good thing. Then we'll fall into the trap that our forefathers did. They were stubborn, rebellious, refusing to persevere, and unfaithful. They didn't understand that they were rejecting the King of kings, the only true God. They rebelled against God and went away from Him. They ended up miserable. Wouldn't I want to avoid that in my own life AND warn my loved ones that rebelling against God is a terrible choice? By moving away from God, they move away from the source of hope. I wouldn't want them to miss out on God's goodness. I can't control their decisions, but I can make sure they understand the blessing of putting their hope in God.

By setting my hope on God and remembering all His works, my heart for Him will stay more steadfast and faithful. Father, please help me to be faithful to listen to You and obey You, AND to tell the generations to come of Your goodness and faithfulness because I believe that You are the absolute best. If that's true, why wouldn't I tell others?