

Sermon Discussion Questions

**Gaining Respect**

2 Samuel 2-5

February 11, 2018

1. Billy Graham once said, "A child who is allowed to be disrespectful to his parents will not have true respect for anyone." Is teaching our children to respect others a dying trait among parenting today? Why or why not? What are the ingredients needed to teach our children to show respect (is that only the parent's job)?
2. In doing what is right, why is it hard not to be in a rush to make things happen in our lives?
  - Read the following passages and pull out what they teach us about patience: Ecclesiastes 7:8; Ephesians 4:1-3; Colossians 3:12-13; 2 Timothy 4:1-2.
  - Can we be too passive when it comes to moving into positions of influence?
  - How do we have wisdom to know when it is right to push ourselves into positions of influence or stay passive?
3. Read how God worked in David's life in Psalm 78:70-72. What are indicators that God is at work putting us in positions of influence, and how should we respond when God moves us? Can we be wrong in our evaluation of thinking God is doing something when in reality He is not? How can we avoid this pitfall?
4. Agree or disagree with this quote: "We can always make ourselves liked provided we are likable, but we cannot always make ourselves esteemed, no matter what our merits are." (*Nicolas Malebranche, Traité de la morale, 1667*). Discuss the implications of your take of this quote.
  - Why do you think two people can have the same credentials, the same good character, the same skill and one person seems to get the accolades, the esteem, the respect, the notoriety, and the other person doesn't? (Is it just because it is God's will, or could there be more going on?)
5. One of the points Jeremy made was that we are to respect others even when they don't respect us. Do you agree or disagree with this: "We might be able to do that initially, but if they disrespect us, or damage our reputation, we need to put them in their place." Discuss.
6. Give yourself a grade (A, B, C, D, F) on how public you are about giving glory to God for whatever accomplishments, or benefits, or roles you get to play? How can we use our influence to point people to the Lord and invite people into a relationship with Him; how can we move our giving glory to God to an actual invitation for others to turn to Him?