

Children Who Inherit Godly Merit

Psalm 22:26-31

This is a Messianic Psalm in which David's experience foretells Jesus' affliction, but if we zoom in more closely, we find some important principles for families

What?

Our kids need to inherit godly merit

A family principle and promise—

Vss. 5-6—In His difficulty, David recalled God's faithfulness in using His sovereign power to deliver his forefathers

Our difficulties reveal our true character to our kids

Vs. 22-26—David celebrated God's salvation at the temple

It's important that our children hear us do this

Vs. 27-29—David envisions God's righteousness, power and sovereignty spreading to all families world-wide

If one family and each descending families produced 2 believers, there would be 2048 believers after 10 generations

Vss. 30-31 has the principle and the promise—the next generation will proclaim God's righteousness to the following generation, and it will affect people who haven't been born

Connection with Jesus—

John 19:26-27, NIV—When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, “Woman, here is your son,” and to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” From that time on, this disciple took her into his home

Luke 14:26, NIV—“If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple”

The Big Question—Did Jesus hate His family, or not?

Jesus' teaching is an important legacy to pass on

“Hate” in this context means to treat the seeking of God's kingdom as more important than preserving family ties

Teach your children that family is important, but not so important that it prevents them from serving the Lord

So What?

Identify the positive legacy you were given, in order to rejoice in it, preserve it, and pass it on

Identify the negative legacy you were given in order to seek release from it

Busyness and reactive living are legacy killers

Activities to use as vehicles—

Attend things that are important to your kids; eat meals together; serve God together; plan special family events; read to small children at bedtime; pray together; conduct family meetings about sensitive but important issues

Tell your children the story of how the Lord saved you

Be careful how you process difficulties in front of your kids

Imitate the Father's mercy—mercy triumphs over judgment

The last word—Asaph repeats the principle

Psalm 78:5-7, NIV—He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which he commanded our ancestors to teach their children, so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children. Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands

Now What?

Make time to talk with your children about spiritual realities

Choose to respond to difficulties in a godly way, so that your children see a positive example