

Introduction:

- A powerful command often left undone or not implemented is “diligently teach your children” God’s ways!
- *“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.” (Deuteronomy 6:4-7, ESV)*
- “Satan has his own message, his own kingdom, and his own teachers. They would be glad to teach your children for you. Some of these teachers are on the streets, some are in the school system, and some may even be in the church. Your child could be sitting next to another kid whose lack of regard for God is going to rub off on your kid.” Therefore we need to be proactive (men!)
- “A California dad dived into the frigid East River and rescued his 2-year-old daughter Saturday after she plunged 20 feet from a historic boat docked at the South Street Seaport. Witnesses heard a splash, then a terrifying scream. “A moment later, the father, David Anderson, was racing down the deck of the four-masted Peking ship, emptying his pockets along the way. “‘He jumped in like a scene out of a movie,’ said Eric Stringer, 34. ‘He was pulling things out of his pockets as he was running down the steps. He didn’t hesitate. “Once he reached the pier, the frantic father flicked off his shoes and bolted over a fence. Witnesses said he then gazed into the water. His daughter, identified by sources as Bridgette Sheriden, was below the surface. “‘He jumped in feet first like a pin,’ said Stringer, a freelance TV producer from Hicksville, L.I. ‘He went all the way under, and when he came up, he had her in his arms.”Bridgette was rushed to Bellevue Hospital in good condition and released a few hours later.”
- **Application:** That’s what dad’s do. They spring into action like a movie hero with no hesitation when they sense their child is in physical danger. Yet every day, dads—good dads who would jump into a freezing river to save their child—neglect their children’s spiritual health and welfare. They don’t sense the danger, they don’t have the same sense of urgency, and thus they don’t spring into action. Larry Lewis, Sermon Illustrator. (“You shall teach them DILIGENTLY to your children).

I. First Key: Listen. Hear O Israel.A. God commands Moses

1. 6:1 God commanded me to teach you His commands.
 - a) So you do not forget them when you enter the promised land. The commands/the Word is what will keep you alive.
 - b) So that you, your sons, and your sons’ sons, may fear the Lord. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. Proverbs 1:7

- c) First thing to teach: vs 3 Hear O Israel (Shema)!
- d) Do the commands - obey them. If you obey/keep them you will increase.
- e) Multiply - increase, prosper. (Success, prosperity, longevity, fruitfulness.)
- 2. God is teaching Moses so Moses can teach Israel. But Israel has to teach their children.
 - a) You can't teach what you do not know! You can't export what you don't produce!
 - b) Therefore you have to be a student of the Word of God and a lover of God. And you have to be able to teach that walk to your children.
 - c) Note to self: Neither the government nor the church is responsible to teach your children the Word of God. It is the father's responsibility. It always has been.

B. Moses commands Israel

- 1. The word for hear in Hebrew is 'Shema'. It means to perceive a message. To be attentive. To listen to or pay attention to. It involves hearing, understanding and obeying." Austel, H. J. (1999). [2412 ynw](#). In R. L. Harris, G. L. Archer Jr., & B. K. Waltke (Eds.), *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament* (electronic ed., p. 938). Moody Press.
- 2. The commands and statutes of God. God wants His people to walk in His ways.

C. Israel's fathers are to teach their children.

- 1. The Hebrew word teach 'limmud': means to both educate and train. You educate through sharing of information and you activate through training. You practice what you have been taught ...this is application.

II. **Second Key: Be Diligent** God teaches Moses. Moses teaches Israel. The Fathers teach their sons and their sons' sons. What are they to teach?

A. Three things God wants the nation/ or His kingdom subjects to learn and to do:

- 1. Hear - God has always intended us to hear His voice. Listen to the commands and statutes of God with a heart of understanding so that you might do them. "*Hear O Israel!*"
 - a) Again I say, You can't teach what you do not know! You can't export what you don't produce!
 - b) We must hear Gods voice so we ourselves can learn, love and thrive and export to our children.
- 2. Love God *with all your heart with all your soul and with all your might.*" (vs. 4.) Love God like that, *and the commands you are taught today shall be upon your heart!* (vs. 6)
 - a) When you love God you love His voice (word)
 - b) When you receive His word you keep it like treasure in your heart.
- 3. Teach the commands diligently to your children.

4. To often as parents we go not for the heart but for behavior modification.
 - a) Changed behavior does not mean change of heart.
 - b) IE. I was a compliant rebel. At home I had right behavior but away from home what was in my heart came out. ie. When they leave home they leave without God if we have not gotten the Word into their hearts.
 - c) You can't teach commands without love from the heart to a heart and expect change.
- B. Diligently teaching!
1. The word diligent means to make a conscious and persistent effort.
 2. The Hebrew word translated diligence gives us some keen insight. 'Sana' means to sharpen.
 - a) ie. Use whet stone to sharpen a knife. Notice the repeated actions. You will not sharpen a knife with just one time over the blade. How many of you parents have been successful in telling your child just once? It takes a conscious and persistent effort.
 3. What does diligently teaching look like? What does diligent teaching require? A conscious and persistent effort.
 - a) Diligently teaching requires time. Time is investment in relationship!
 - b) Diligently teaching requires genuine christian lifestyle. One that can be modeled.
 - c) Diligently teaching flows naturally from a heart that loves God.
 - (1) Kids can tell when you are not genuine.
 - (2) Therefore pray hard... often.
 - d) Diligently teaching must flow from and be aimed at the heart.
 - (1) Love for God is the goal.
 - (2) Obedience is the expression of that love.
 - (3) Teach them how deeply God loves them.
 - (4) KEY: Luke 7:47 "*He who is forgiven much loves much.*"
 - e) Diligently teaching requires a plan. A good plan will help you reach your goal and it also keep the task and hand before you. I have always grown best and most when I had a plan to grow.
 - f) Lots of repetition! IE. whet stone.
- C. Taught to love.
1. (Vss 4-5) Tells us how we are to love God. Heart, soul, strength.
 2. The Word must be on our heart. (Vs 6.)
 3. Make the Word/commands a part of your entire life = when you sit, when you walk, when you lie down, and when you rise. (vs.7)
 - a) God's design for family is to make the Word a part of everything we do.
 - b) Everything is to involve the Word of God.

- c) My goal is to apply the Word of God to every part of my life.
- d) That leads me into a place called success, prosperity, long life and fruitfulness.
- e) Warning: Prosperity that loses sight of God cause us to forget God. Ie. Have you ever found you pray more when you need Him...and less when you don't?

III. Third Key: Don't Forget God!

- A. (Vs. 12) *"then take care lest you forget the Lord."*
- B. Forgetting is not a memory problem! It is a forsaking problem.
 - 1. To forsake is to quit, leave entirely or abandon.
 - 2. You can forget your phone. Forget to take out the trash. Even forget to pick up your child from school. But forsaking God must not happen!

Conclusion:

- Awesome responsibility we have as parents! Let's win a testimony.
- *"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."* (Psalm 78:5-8, ESV)