

“Our Duty to our Children”
Exodus 10:1-20
(Preached at Trinity, March 4, 2007)

I’m supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord’s Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

Disclaimer: These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I’ll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. God has now commanded Pharaoh numerous times, “Let My people go” but Pharaoh has continued in stiffnecked resistance. Beginning in **Chapter 7** God began a series of plagues designed as an act of judgment upon Pharaoh’s rebellious heart and also to show the impotence of the Egyptian gods while demonstrating the power and glory of the one true God. So far we’ve seen plagues one through seven.
2. Although the hail storm struck fear into the heart of Pharaoh causing him to plead for relief, he still refused to bow before Almighty God.
God would continue pouring His wrath out upon Egypt.
3. Before unleashing the eighth plague, the terrible swarm of locusts that would devour every green plant remaining in Egypt, God takes Moses aside for some personal instruction. The first two verses of **Chapter 10** contain the Word of God to Moses.
4. First, God reminds Moses of His ultimate purpose in the plagues and the Exodus of Israel. He is doing it for His own glory, that His great name might be magnified.
Exodus 10:1 – “And the LORD said unto Moses, Go in unto Pharaoh: for I have hardened his heart, and the heart of his servants, that I might shew these my signs before him:”
Romans 9:17 – “For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might shew my power in thee, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth.”
5. God’s purpose in the plagues was that He might demonstrate His mighty power – that He is ABLE to deliver His people. He is ABLE not only to demand obedience from human beings, he is also ABLE to bring judgment upon those who refuse to bow.
 - A. Remember, God could have ended the life of Pharaoh by some natural means like a heart attack and stirred the hearts of the Egyptian people so that Israel would simply march out of Egypt to freedom.
 - B. God hardened Pharaoh’s heart that He might unleash the ten plagues upon Egypt as a demonstration of His power.
6. God’s second purpose for the plagues was that it might serve as a permanent testimony to His covenant people from generation to generation. God’s deliverance of Israel would serve as a permanent reminder of God’s relationship to His people.
 - A. Listen to the preface to the Ten Commandments
Exodus 20:1-2 – “And God spake all these words, saying, ² I *am* the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.”
 - B. The Passover would be a yearly celebration for remembrance of God’s mighty power to deliver His people.
We will look at the importance of this “remembrance” in **Chapter 12**.

7. There is another important aspect to this remembrance—the duty to teach it to our children from generation to generation that they might know the one true God.
Exodus 10:2 – “And that thou mayest tell in the ears of thy son, and of thy son's son, what things I have wrought in Egypt, and my signs which I have done among them; that ye may know how that I *am* the LORD.”
8. Tonight I want to focus on this important duty – to teach our children to know God
- I. First we need to understand that the wondrous works of God are worthy of remembrance
- A. God is worthy of all praise, honor, and glory
1 Chronicles 16:9 – “Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him, talk ye of all his wondrous works.”
Psalm 86:8-10 – “Among the gods *there is* none like unto thee, O Lord; neither *are there any works* like unto thy works. ⁹ All nations whom thou hast made shall come and worship before thee, O Lord; and shall glorify thy name. ¹⁰ For thou *art* great, and doest wondrous things: thou *art* God alone.”
Psalm 145:3-5 – “Great *is* the LORD, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness *is* unsearchable. ⁴ One generation shall praise thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts. ⁵ I will speak of the glorious honour of thy majesty, and of thy wondrous works.”
- B. God knows how prone we are to forget
1. Israel quickly forgot the Passover and Red Sea experiences
They murmured and turned from God almost immediately
Psalm 78:10-11 – “They kept not the covenant of God, and refused to walk in his law; ¹¹ And forgot his works, and his wonders that he had shewed them.”
Psalm 106:13-14 – “They soon forgot his works; they waited not for his counsel: ¹⁴ But lusted exceedingly in the wilderness, and tempted God in the desert.”
Psalm 106:21 – “They forgot God their saviour, which had done great things in Egypt;”
 2. God has often established elements of remembrance for His people
 - a. The Passover was established that Israel might remember their deliverance from Egypt
 - b. When Israel crossed over the Jordan to enter into Canaan God ordered them to set up pillars of remembrance.
Joshua 4:6-7 – “That this may be a sign among you, *that* when your children ask *their fathers* in time to come, saying, What *mean* ye by these stones? ⁷ Then ye shall answer them, That the waters of Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD; when it passed over Jordan, the waters of Jordan were cut off: and these stones shall be for a memorial unto the children of Israel for ever.”
 3. We must not forget God and we must not allow our children to forget God
- II. Parents have a duty to teach their children about God – “that ye may know how that I *am* the LORD.” (His ways, His works, His Word, His will)
- A. Christ must be our life

1. There are far too many who's Christianity is something external—something secondary to every day life
 2. For the Christian Christ *is* our life – He should control our thoughts our actions our hopes and dreams.
 3. It should be natural for us to continually hold Christ before our children
 4. It is also God's command
- B. This has been God's command from the beginning
1. It was connected to the "Shama"
Deuteronomy 6:4-7 – "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God *is* one LORD: ⁵ And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up."
 - a. The "Shama" was the chief duty of Israel. It is also our chief duty.
Matthew 22:37-40 – "Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. ³⁸ This is the first and great commandment. ³⁹ And the second *is* like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. ⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."
 - b. This is the sum of all religion – It is the sum of our duty to God
This duty must be taught to our children – "You MUST love God"
God COMMANDS us to love Him.
 2. The duty to teach the children was attached to the Passover
Exodus 12:26-27 – "And it shall come to pass, when your children shall say unto you, What mean ye by this service? ²⁷ That ye shall say, It *is* the sacrifice of the LORD'S passover, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt, when he smote the Egyptians, and delivered our houses. And the people bowed the head and worshipped."
Exodus 13:8 – "And thou shalt shew thy son in that day, saying, *This is done* because of that *which* the LORD did unto me when I came forth out of Egypt."
 3. Moses told Israel that they were to teach their children of God that they might learn to trust and obey Him. It is God's command.
Deuteronomy 31:12-13 – "Gather the people together, men, and women, and children, and thy stranger that *is* within thy gates, that they may hear, and that they may learn, and fear the LORD your God, and observe to do all the words of this law: ¹³ And *that* their children, which have not known *any thing*, may hear, and learn to fear the LORD your God, as long as ye live in the land whither ye go over Jordan to possess it."
- C. The command continues into the New Covenant
Ephesians 6:4 – "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."
 1. There are three precepts taught here
 - a. Bring them up - ἐκτρέφω – means "to nourish to maturity"

- b. nurture - παιδεία – refers to proper discipline and training
 c. admonition - νουθεσία – refers to instruction
2. Bring them up - ἐκτρέφω – means “to nourish to maturity”
 a. We owe them protection – a safe loving home
 b. We owe them provision – this doesn’t mean a new car or designer clothes
 c. Most important, we must provide them the means of becoming mature. This means we must raise our children with purpose. We are teaching them of God’s purpose for them as human beings
 (1) Most parents just coast along with their children. They play with their children. They make sure their boys play ball and their girls learn to dance. (not wrong in and of themselves)
 (2) We must train our boys and girls the responsibilities of being a men and women.
 (3) We are teaching them their duty as they live under the
3. Nurture - παιδεία – refers to proper discipline and training
 a. The word literally means to chasten – it refers to Biblical discipline
 b. We owe them correction – we must teach them that there are consequences to their actions – justice, accountability.
4. Admonition - νουθεσία – Refers to instruction
 a. We owe them secular training – all from a Christian biblical perspective –
 • Education suitable to their talents and abilities
 • Good manners and deportment
 • Industry and hard work
Proverbs 31:27 – “She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness.”
 b. We owe them religious and moral training
 We must continually teach them of God
 (His ways, His works, His Word, His will)
 His call to every man to repent.
- C. Earlier generations understood the importance of the consistent training of our children.
 The original preface to the 1689 London Confession speaks of family worship: “And verily there is one spring and cause of the decay of religion in our day, which we cannot but touch upon and earnestly urge a redress of; and that is the neglect of the worship of God in families by those to whom the charge and conduct of them is committed. May not the gross ignorance and instability of many with the profaneness of others be justly charged upon their parents and masters, who have not trained them up in the way wherein they ought to walk when they were young? But have neglected those frequent and solemn commands which the Lord hath laid upon them so to catechize and instruct them, that their tender years might be seasoned with the knowledge of the truth of God as revealed in the Scriptures...”
- D. In our own Trinity Baptist Church Covenant all who join our church covenant together – We are bound by oath: “That we will not omit secret and family worship at home nor neglect that great duty of religiously training our children, and those under our care, for the service of Christ and the enjoyment of heaven.”

- E. This is a high responsibility
1. Parents, you are God's agents for the training of your children – Christian fathers particularly must recognize this great duty
The decline of the family and all of the social woes that accompany it rests in the absence of godly fathers.
 2. Christian fathers need to recognize that their children do not belong to them – they are stewards of God's property
 3. Being a great father demands involvement, energy, effort
 4. You are training your children – quality time is not just being present or playing with them. It is teaching and training them.
 5. J.W. Alexander, eldest son of Archibald Alexander –
“No man can approach the duty of leading his household in an act of devotion without solemn reflection on the place which he occupies in regard to them. He is their head. He is such by divine and unalterable constitution. These are duties and prerogatives which he cannot alienate. He is their father and master. No act of his and nothing in his character can fail to leave a mark on those around him. This he will be apt to feel when he calls them about him to pray to God. And the more devoutly he addressed himself to the work, the more will he feel it. Though all priesthood, in the proper sense, is done away on the earth and absorbed in the function of the great High Priest, there is still something like a priestly intervention in the service of the Christian patriarch.

Conclusion: A word to the children.

1. Your parents and your church are teaching you about God. He is a great God and has great power. He is the giver of your life. He is the Ruler of all things.
2. God commands that we obey Him.
3. You have disobeyed Him. You continue to disobey Him.
4. God commands you to stop doing things your way and start doing things His way. He commands you to repent – turn from your disobedience.
5. He commands you to trust Christ.
6. The Bible teaches that if you repent and trust Christ He will save you, He will be your God and you will become His precious child.