

- 1
- 2  **The Challenge**
- 3  **It is like there are unseen barriers...**
  - One of the truly great games of all time....
  - Mind Maze
- 4  **... and you don't even know where the barriers are...**
- 5  **Life is tough enough....**
  - A paycheck to earn
  - Taxes
  - Bills to pay
  - Lawn to mow
  - Cars to maintain
  - Health issues
  - Relational issues
    - Who can really understand women????
- 6  **Then the first child arrives....**
  - This child is an experiment at best.
    - You have no previous experience at parenting
    - Did anyone really show you how to be a good father and a spiritual leader to your family before you had a wife of your own?
  - Will this child SURVIVE your parenting?
  - Will this child THRIVE under your parenting?
    - Mothers seem to have more of a natural inclination for parenting than do fathers.
- 7  **Will you drop the ball?....**
- 8  **Will you achieve the goal?**
- 9  **Getting to the end goal**
- 10  **But how do you get to the goal?**
  - Successfully training your child to be an effective parent
  - Releasing that child into the world to do ministry and serve Jesus Christ
- 11  **What you want to see in your children....**
  - “Thank you for teaching me God's principles and instilling in me the desire to do what's right, the desire to love and to serve Him with my life. I cannot imagine how I would have developed thus far were it not for your influence on my life. Thank you for teaching me responsibility in my thoughts, attitudes, and actions.”
    - A desire to do right, to serve, to be responsible
    - A desire that is INTERNALIZED
- 12  **What you want your children to remember....**

“Dad, here are the reasons that you are the best earthly father to ever walk the face of the earth:

  - You love me
  - You enjoy being with me
  - You prevent me from being harmed by the world's influences
  - You provide for me
  - You love giving good gifts to your children
- 13  **What you want your children to remember...)**
  - You want me to talk with you and you want to talk to me

- You teach me powerful lessons from your knowledge of God and His Word and from your own life experiences
- You not only teach me God's infallible principles, but you explain why they are important
- You always have time for me
- You are always gentle with me

#### 14 **What you want your children to remember...**

- You discipline me to make me more Christ-like
- You are trustworthy
- You always speak the truth
- You encourage me
- You are always just
- You allow me to make mistakes because you know that I can learn from them

#### 15 **What you want your children to remember...**

- You always forgive me and then forget the past
- You care about anything that concerns me
- You tell me that you love me not only by spoken words, but by written and by your actions
- You are my best friend as well as my dear, darling father."

#### 16 **The goal of parenting in 2 verses...**

#### 17 **God's principles edify**

- Wisdom
  - Skills for living – *chokmah*
  - Seeing life from God's Perspective
- KEY: Successful families and successful home education must be built on the rock of God's eternal principles.
- Use the tools of the Basic and Advanced Seminars, Wisdom Books

#### 18 **Wise life pictures fortify**

- Insights from teachable moments
  - Biblical analogies are everywhere
  - Choose wise heroes for your children
    - Biographies
    - Living heroes
  - Learn from negative examples, but beware of pride!
- Discretion in making the right choices
  - They're watching you, Daddy!

#### 19 **Communicating God's perspective satisfies**

- Your family NEEDS a spiritual leader.
- A family needs a father who seeks a prophetic oracle from God. – Proverbs 29:18
  - *"Where there is no vision, the people perish, but he that keepeth the law, happy is he."*
  - Our family paraphrase: *"Where there is no prophetic oracle from God, the people become unbridled and undisciplined and opportunities for blessing slip through their fingers but he who guards and protects and keeps God's Law enjoys His blessings."*

#### 20 **Communicating God's Perspective Satisfies**

#### 21 **Some experienced perspective...**

- Credentials:
  - Nearly 129 years as a Dad
  - 2 children successfully married and starting families of their own
  - More bumps, bruises, scars, failures, and mistakes than I hope any of you will ever have
- My desire:

- To share with less experienced fathers the two keys to being a successful Dad
- To save you and your children the heartaches of my mistakes

## 22 **Caveat emptor...**

- There is no indication yet that I am a successful parent.
  - Proverbs 17:6 -- *Children's children are the crown of old men; and the glory of children are their fathers.*
- I am giving you only the two most important keys this morning.
  - There are many more insights in Scripture on being a Dad.
  - Challenge: Take a year to study fatherhood in Scripture.

## 23 **Key #1: An understanding heart**

24 

## 25 **Psalm 112:1-4**

- *Praise ye the LORD. Blessed is the man that feareth the LORD, that delighteth greatly in his commandments.*
- *His seed shall be mighty upon earth: the generation of the upright shall be blessed.*
- *Wealth and riches shall be in his house: and his righteousness endureth for ever.*
- *Unto the upright there ariseth light in the darkness: he is gracious, and full of compassion, and righteous.*

## 26 **A mistake that will cause you to lose the heart of your children**

- Demanding rigid compliance to standards
  - For your wife
  - For your children
- Enforcing strict, constant discipline so that your children begin to see you as the ENFORCER instead of the ENCOURAGER
- Symptoms:
  - Children who do not readily come when you call
  - Children and wife respond in fear rather than adoration

## 27 **Look again...**

- Psalm 112:4 -- *Unto the upright there ariseth light in the darkness: he is gracious, and full of compassion, and righteous.*
- The Bible TWICE mentions the LOVE of the father and only once mentions his righteousness.
  - The father here is personally righteous.
  - But he elicits righteousness from his children not by strict enforcement but by his graciousness and compassion.

## 28 **An understanding heart preserves!**

- Proverbs 24 contains a warning of what happens to the family of a Dad who does not have an understanding heart.
  - This verse is normally viewed as saying something about diligence.
  - But Psalm 128:3 gives us a reason to look at this verse as instruction about the family.
    - *Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of thine house: thy children like olive plants round about thy table.*


## 29 **What Is An Understanding Heart?**

### 30 **1. A PERCEPTIVE heart (995, 998)**

- Proverbs 23:23 -- Buy the truth, and sell *it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and*

*understanding.*

- Proverbs 1:5 -- *A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:*
  - The word here means to “speak the same language” as another.
    - Isaiah 33:19 uses this word in a promise made by God insuring that when His covenant people went into captivity, they would be able to adapt to the language.
- 31 **A perceptive heart (2)**
- 32 **A perceptive heart (3)**
- Do you listen?
  - Do you hear the meaning behind their words?
  - Do you seek to put things in language to which your wife and children can relate?
  - Do you seek to get wise counsel in your dealings with major issues about your children (Proverbs 1:5)?
  - Do you KNOW the personality types in your family?
- 33 **2. An INSIGHTFUL heart (8394)**
- We are told to apply our heart to this kind of understanding.
    - Proverbs 2:2 -- *So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding;*
    - Expect insights when you read your Bible with pen and paper nearby.
  - The chief enemy of insight is ANGER (Proverbs 14:29) – *He that is slow to wrath is of great understanding: but he that is hasty of spirit exalteth folly.*
- 34 **An insightful heart (cont'd)**
- 35 **3. A heart of mercy and truth (7922)**
- Proverbs 3:3-4 – *Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart: So shalt thou find favor and good understanding in the sight of God and man.*
  - Mercy is always mentioned BEFORE Truth. Create a safe place to discuss truth.
  - *sekhel* – Planning, preparation, cunning, prudence, policy
- 36 **Heart of mercy and truth (cont'd)**
- This is the value of COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS.
  - Mercy – *chesed* – The loving kindness of God
    - Do you listen to criticism with an attitude of humility and loving kindness?
    - When speaking to your children about a character issue, do you approach them with the loving kindness of Christ?
  - See yourself through your child’s eyes
    - Hebrews 12:19-24 – On which mount are you?
- 37 **A safe place requires two key elements**
- 38 **4. A heart that eliminates competing affections (3820)**
- This is the key to understanding the warning of Proverbs 24:30-34.
  - At first glance, this is just a passage about the need for diligence. Or is it?
  - Psalm 128:3 gives us a valid reason to look at this passage with regard to our families (vine and olive plants).
- 39 **Proverbs 24:30-34**
- *I went by the field of the slothful, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding;*
  - *And, lo, it was all grown over with thorns, and nettles had covered the face thereof, and the stone wall thereof was broken down.*
  - *Then I saw, and considered it well: I looked upon it, and received instruction.*
  - *Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep:*
  - *So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth; and thy want as an armed man.*

40  **What happens when Dad doesn't have an understanding heart?**

41  **Lost productivity**

- The “vineyard” of your family is overgrown with thorns; fruitfulness is choked out by worldly cares.
  - Eternal
    - Family fails to produce eternal results
    - Souls are not being won to the Lord
  - Temporal
    - Labors ineffective
    - Financial reproofs

42  **Lost proclamation**

- The field is overgrown with nettles.
  - There is no witness to a fruit-bearing field.
    - » Legacy of pain instead of blessing.
    - » There is dismay that so much effort put into children has produced no visible difference between our “olive plants” and the world’s “weeds” around them.
- Children leave home to become just like the world—even after the significant investment of their parents.

43  **Lost protection**


- **The walls are broken down.**
  - Children engage in the dangers from which parents sought to protect them
  - Family becomes more easily exposed to the dangers of:
    - Bitterness
    - Lust and immorality
    - Greed and worldliness

44  **What happens to a man void of heart?**


- Proverbs 24:30 -- The phrase “void of understanding” is literally “VOID OF HEART.”
  - We must understand this phrase.
  - Proverbs 10:13 – *In the lips of him that hath understanding wisdom is found: but a rod is for the back of him that is void of understanding.*
- He experiences GOD’S REPROOFS!

45  **Who is void of heart?**

- One who commits adultery – Proverbs 6:32
  - Proverbs 6:32 -- *But whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he that doeth it destroyeth his own soul.*
  - Includes pornography

46  **Who is void of heart? (cont'd)**

- One who easily yields to fleshly temptation
  - Proverbs 9:16 -- *Whoso is simple, let him turn in hither: and as for him that wanteth understanding, she saith to him, 'Stolen waters are sweet, and bread eaten in secret is pleasant.' But he knoweth not that the dead are there; and that her guests are in the depths of hell.*
  - Not just adultery in view here, but any temptation that we think we can get away with....

47  **Who is void of heart? (cont'd)**

- One who follows vain people and empty pursuits
  - Proverbs 12:11 -- *He that tilleth his land shall be satisfied with bread: but he that followeth vain persons is void of understanding.*
- One who becomes surety (cosigns)
  - Proverbs 17:18 -- *A man void of understanding striketh hands, and becometh surety in the presence of*

*his friend.*

48 **QUESTION: What do all these things have in common?**

49 **What is the root cause?**

- Adultery
  - Bows to human pressure and fleshly urge
  - Chooses an unworthy relationship
  - Failure to see consequences:
    - The gates of Sheol!
    - Poverty and ruin

•

50 **What is the root cause?**

- Cosigning
  - Values man's opinion of him more than God's opinion of him
  - Chooses as a partner someone already deemed as unworthy of credit
  - Failure to see consequences
    - Damages present relationships.
    - Brings poverty and ruin

•

51 **The root cause**

- Competing affections
- Not making God our “first love”
- Look at these expressions:
  - “heart and soul”
  - “his heart is in the right place”
  - “from the bottom of my heart”
  - “my heart goes out to him”
- HEART = deepest, innermost feelings; deepest motivations (the blood-pumpers)

52 **Dad, do you know what your family wants?**

- A Dad who:
  - Loves the Lord his God with all his heart, and soul, and mind, and strength
  - Loves the Lord so much that he has no love left for anyone else . . . so he asks God daily to love the family through him
  - Understands his family is his priority, his ministry, his gift from God and treats them accordingly
    - Who encourages with love instead of enforces through fear
    - Who teaches principles rather than dictating rules

53 **Key #2: Reading the secrets...**

54 **Colossians 2:2-3**




- *That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ;*
- *In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.*

•

55 **Revel in the treasure of Christ**

- “Take intense satisfaction or pleasure” = a real LOVE (the big secret)
- In the riches of Christ
  - *πλοῦτος* – “Filled with noble blessings”
  - Noble – Of high birth
  - Does your life show evidence of being filled with blessings of Christ that show to the world you are a child of the King of Kings?

56 **Revel in the treasure of Christ (2)**

- In the reassurance of Christ
    - πληροφορία – “A supreme fullness of divine working”
    - Christians should daily experience God working in their lives and this should reassure them of their:
      - Salvation
      - Sanctification
      - Security
- 57  **Revel in the treasure of Christ (3)**
- In the revelation of Christ
    - A mystery – “a truth peculiar to Christianity not discoverable by human reason but revealed by God”
      - The Tabernacle in the Old Testament is a mystery – how every last detail pictures Christ and His ministry and our relationship to Him.
      - The New Testament reveals what the Old Testament conceals.
    - This revelation of “God, and the Father, and Christ” continues through all of life.
- 58  **When all else fails...use the Light!**
- Make this your project for the rest of the year.
    - Read through the Bible with pen and paper nearby
    - Record every insight God gives you from the pages of Scripture about being an effective and loving Dad
    - Record every insight that God gives you into the lives of your children
  - Believe it or not, reading the Bible helps you “cheat” at the game!
- 59  **The light helps!**