A Wise Parent - Class #2
It Starts With You!

How does it start with you?

Parenting will be an overflow of our relationship with God.
We need to put ourselves in a place to grow.
How can we pursue God and put ourselves in a place for Him to pursue us?

- ***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. 7You 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 6:5-7**

- ***But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.*** **Joshua 24:15**

- ***The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.*** **Galatians 5:22-23**

- ***Above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. 4He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, (for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church?)*** **1 Timothy 3:1-7**

This is the standard. This is given. But how do we actually put ourselves in the place for them to be true? It doesn't happen automatically nor without effort.

- Pray without ceasing.
- Be steeped in/with God's Word.

Prayer

- Pray with your spouse
- Pray with your child
- Pray as a family
- Pray by yourself.

Study Scripture individually and corporately. More difficult. Concentric circles of individual influence, family, church, beyond. Organically, point to Scripture so that it becomes a familiar reference point for our children. May it be (more of) the Siri of our lives.

Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. Matthew 12:34b

When we are challenged or we fail:

- Be the **Chief Repenter**. The Christian life is a constant life of repenting and believing and the most powerful teacher to our children of this truth, will be our transparent modeling of it in our own lives.

- **Sheep/Shepherd**. We are to shepherd our children, but in many ways we are also sheep with them —so we are not lambs but not as wise and able as our true Shepherd. We must, as more mature sheep (but still with so many limitations) nudge and point them to the Shepherd.

- Ask God for **Redemption** and **Breakthroughs**. Sometimes, there will be situations or conversations that we simply cannot surmount or easily address with prayer and Scripture. Ask God to redeem these and to use them for our good and His glory.

We have our own experience as children

- God is sovereign and our stories are important. They have helped make us who we are, but remember "Behold I make all things new". Revelation 21:5

- Need to repent of too much Freud and determinism. Hold in tension our life experience, with God's story of redemption. Sin patterns do repeat but the LORD breaks the power of sin. Our stories are tools and even when there are dark chapters, like Joseph's story, can be used for God's good.

Questions to consider:

What competes with Scripture -- with you personally, and especially as a parent -- when you need wisdom? How might you change that?

How are you tempted to despair from your own story? How can you be led in hope in light of your story?

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