

Simplicity of the Simple Life
Hard Things Motivated By Love (Wk 21)

Father to children illustration with pics.

Have a blast but Lori and I agreed that there were certain characteristics and traits that we wanted to instill in our children.

It helped us work toward something higher than just our own emotions or experiences.

We focused together for a purpose and mission for our children.

Me, I was learning the difference between being a perfectionist and learning to pursue excellence. This was a very difficult understanding and transition. I wanted my children to experience my love but I also wanted them to pursue excellence.

Purposeful parenting is a game changer as it sets an agreed upon course. We discussed this in our last Mechanics of Parenting group. Parenting with a purpose or mission because of the power of parenting.

I would challenge them with principles, articles, or books. Lori and I would often ask them to rise above the people around them and not respond as others. We were asking them to experience a level of personal excellence that was above average. Not normal. Not common.

Romans 11:33-12: NLT

³³ Oh, how great are God's riches and wisdom and knowledge! How impossible it is for us to understand his decisions and his ways!

³⁴ For who can know the LORD's thoughts?

Who knows enough to give him advice?

³⁵ And who has given him so much that he needs to pay it back?

³⁶ For everything comes from him and exists by his power and is intended for his glory. All glory to him forever! Amen.

¹ And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. ² Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. **Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.**

Doing hard things to learn to live with a new level of excellence that not everyone is willing to pursue.

This is what Father God is calling us into.

Romans 12:14-21 NKJV

⁹ Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. ¹⁰ Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; ¹¹ not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; ¹² rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; ¹³ distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.

¹⁷ Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. ¹⁹ Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. ²⁰ Therefore

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him;

If he is thirsty, give him a drink;

For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head."

²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

NLT ¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you. Don't curse them; pray that God will bless them. ¹⁵ Be happy with those who are happy, and weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with each other. Don't be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don't think you know it all!

¹⁷ Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable. ¹⁸ Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone.

¹⁹ Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say,

"I will take revenge;

I will pay them back,"

says the LORD.

²⁰ Instead,

"If your enemies are hungry, feed them.

If they are thirsty, give them something to drink.

In doing this, you will heap

burning coals of shame on their heads."

²¹ Don't let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good.

Look at this challenge as kingdom excellence.

We are being given a directive that makes absolutely no sense if it is not motivated by a relationship that is established and built on love.

The goodness of God touches our lives and then we learn His ways more and more as we spend time with Him.

His goodness becomes part of who we are so then we begin to trust Him to pursue a level of kingdom excellence that we never thought possible to achieve.

We are not focused on property, holdings, and accounts as our primary focus of excellence.

Instead, we see ourselves and the people around us as the primary focus of excellence.

Human lives are the valued focus of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Human beings were the pinnacle of creation.

We are spiritual beings who were created to know God, to communicate with Him and to have a relationship with Him forever.

Psalm 8 Amplified Bible

¹***O LORD, our Lord,***

How majestic and glorious and excellent is Your name in all the earth!

You have displayed Your splendor above the heavens.

² *Out of the mouths of infants and nursing babes You have established strength*

Because of Your adversaries,

That You might silence the enemy and make the revengeful cease.

³ *When I see and consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers,*

The moon and the stars, which You have established,

⁴ *What is man that You are mindful of him,*

And the son of [earthborn] man that You care for him?

⁵ *Yet You have made him a little lower than God (or the angels),*

And You have crowned him with glory and honor.

⁶ *You made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands;*

You have put all things under his feet,

⁷ *All sheep and oxen,*

And also the beasts of the field,

⁸ *The birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,*

Whatever passes through the paths of the seas.

⁹***O LORD, our Lord,***

How majestic and glorious and excellent is Your name in all the earth!

May we be a family of Christ followers that is learning to do the hard things to proclaim a level of kingdom excellence that brings glory to our Great Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Join us.....experience His excellent forgiveness, mercy, and grace through the work of His glorious Son, Jesus of Nazareth.

Believe in and receive His great love for you.

**Press in with us by His glorious grace and our imperfect faith.
Let us learn as His apprentice to walk in His excellent ways.**