

"Father's Day 2023"

Psalm 127

Introduction: Today being Father's Day I want to share a message from Psalm 127. It is a Psalm that really deals with 2 major points and at the same time is focused upon the family. This Psalm was written by David and was for the purpose of instructing his son Solomon about 2 major focal points as a father.

1 Peter 5:8

⁸ Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

There are a couple of words here we need to pay very close attention to:

1. Sober - This means to be free from all intoxicants.
2. Vigilant - This means to always be alert and on guard for an attack from the enemy.
3. Seeking - This of course means to hunt after someone.
4. Devour - This means to drink up.

Now let me put all this together.

Satan is walking around like a roaring lion or a hungry lion seeking someone who is intoxicated so that he can drink up their testimony or their effectiveness for God.

Now when I speak of intoxication you are thinking of someone who is intoxicated with alcohol but that is not the idea here. Peter is speaking of someone who is intoxicated with the things of this world. Let me give you some examples of that which can intoxicate you who are fathers:

1. Money
2. Job
3. Sports
4. Recreation
5. Possessions

Now what happens is this; you get so caught up in one of these side attractions and you completely drop your spiritual guard. You are money driven, job driven, sports driven or whatever it is that drives you and it is as if you are intoxicated with whatever it is that

drives you and because of that you are completely unaware that the enemy is leading you down a path away from the Lord and into trouble.

You see while you are all caught up in those things the enemy is doing all he can to drink up your time with your family and so the years are quickly going away and someday you will look around and wonder what happened?

Psalm 127 was written by David to his son Solomon and when David wrote this, I believe he was looking back over his life and he desired to teach his son from the mistakes he had made. Therefore, we find 2 major lessons in this Psalm for all fathers today.

I. God must be the center of your family.

Notice Psalm 127:1a

David puts forth 2 thoughts here in this first verse.

1. The building of a home.

The word "house" here refers to the household or the members of a family.

The idea here is that God must be the center of the family if there is to be any stability within the family.

Why is this the opening point as David writes this Psalm to his son?

Let me tell you why he opens with this statement, because it is the man's responsibility to be the spiritual leader within the family. It is the man's responsibility to see that within the family God is honored. It is not mom's responsibility but it is dad's.

If the family is going to be solid and established it must have the foundation of God's Word which means God's Word must be the Standard for the family.

Without God at the center and His Word as the foundation all the work poured into the family is all in vain meaning it is all emptiness.

2. The protection of a home.

Notice Psalm 127:1b

Now David uses the illustration of a city to speak of the protection of the family. Why does he do this?

Think with me for a moment. There is comfort in numbers. The more people who surround you the safer you feel. But if the Lord is not the keeper of the city the feeling of security is a false sense of hope.

Application:

There are many people who feel as though their families are safe because they are doing what everyone else is doing. So, they have this false sense of security. There is within their families' immorality as well as many other things which bring dishonor to God and because it seems to be the norm in society, they seem to believe their family is safe.

Let me show you what can happen when God's Word is not followed in the family and the father does not take a stand.

1 Samuel 2:22-25

²² Now Eli was very old, and heard all that his sons did unto all Israel; and how they lay with the women that assembled at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

²³ And he said unto them, Why do ye such things? for I hear of your evil dealings by all this people.

²⁴ Nay, my sons; for it is no good report that I hear: ye make the LORD's people to transgress.

²⁵ If one man sin against another, the judge shall judge him: but if a man sin against the LORD, who shall intreat for him? Notwithstanding they hearkened not unto the voice of their father, because the LORD would slay them.

1 Samuel 2:27-34

²⁷ And there came a man of God unto Eli, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Did I plainly appear unto the house of thy father, when they were in Egypt in Pharaoh's house?

²⁸ And did I choose him out of all the tribes of Israel to be my priest, to offer upon mine altar, to burn incense, to wear an ephod before me? and did I give unto the house of thy father all the offerings made by fire of the children of Israel?

²⁹ Wherefore kick ye at my sacrifice and at mine offering, which I have commanded in my habitation; and honourest thy sons above me, to make yourselves fat with the chiefest of all the offerings of Israel my people?

³⁰ Wherefore the LORD God of Israel saith, I said indeed that thy house, and the house of thy father, should walk before me for ever: but now the LORD saith, Be it far from me: for them that honour me I will honour, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed.

³¹ Behold, the days come, that I will cut off thine arm, and the arm of thy father's house, that there shall not be an old man in thine house.

³² And thou shalt see an enemy in my habitation, in all the wealth which God shall give Israel: and there shall not be an old man in thine house for ever.

³³ And the man of thine, whom I shall not cut off from mine altar, shall be to consume thine eyes, and to grieve thine heart: and all the increase of thine house shall die in the flower of their age.

³⁴ And this shall be a sign unto thee, that shall come upon thy two sons, on Hophni and Phinehas; in one day they shall die both of them.

1 Samuel 3:11-14

¹¹ And the LORD said to Samuel, Behold, I will do a thing in Israel, at which both the ears of every one that heareth it shall tingle.

¹² In that day I will perform against Eli all things which I have spoken concerning his house: when I begin, I will also make an end.

¹³ For I have told him that I will judge his house for ever for the iniquity which he knoweth; because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not.

¹⁴ And therefore I have sworn unto the house of Eli, that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be purged with sacrifice nor offering for ever.

Eli's sons both died on the same day. God took their lives because their father would not stand up to their sin. They were in a battle surrounded by strong soldiers but they were no match for God.

Let's get back to Psalm 127 again.

Notice Psalm 127:2

Here David enlightens Solomon about working for the wealth of this world, that is the bread of sorrows.

There is nothing wrong with getting up early and staying up late but the idea behind David's words is a warning against working from daylight to dark in order to gain the wealth of this world and having no time for God.

It is all vanity when God is not in it.

Haggai 1:3-10

³ Then came the word of the LORD by Haggai the prophet, saying,

⁴ Is it time for you, O ye, to dwell in your cieled houses, and this house lie waste?

⁵ Now therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways.

⁶ Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes.

⁷ Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways.

⁸ Go up to the mountain, and bring wood, and build the house; and I will take pleasure in it, and I will be glorified, saith the LORD.

⁹ Ye looked for much, and, lo it came to little; and when ye brought it home, I did blow upon it. Why? saith the LORD of hosts. Because of mine house that is waste, and ye run every man unto his own house.

¹⁰ Therefore the heaven over you is stayed from dew, and the earth is stayed from her fruit.

Application:

Listen really close to this lesson. Many people today believe that the best thing they can give to their family is great worldly wealth and so the father spends all his time working to give his children what he did not have as a child.

This man is intoxicated by this world's wealth and he is deceived. He has fallen into Satan's trap and in his mission to gain more of this world's wealth the years go by and the next thing he will know is his children are grown and he was so busy working he missed years he can never get back.

The last statement in this verse speaks of having a contentment in which there is great peace and so he can sleep while the worldly man continues to struggle and work for that which will one day belong to another. When God is in the family there is a peace that passes all understanding.

II. The responsibility of raising children.

Notice Psalm 127:3

Here begins the 2nd point which David wanted to drive into the heart of Solomon.

Children belong to the Lord and they are only entrusted to us for a season. Notice very closely that children are "of the Lord" and therefore we are accountable to God for the time we spend with them and the TRUTH, we teach them.

Notice Psalm 127:4

Here is a very interesting verse. There are several points to be made here:

Children are compared to arrows.

1. Only while in your hand can they be sharpened.

Think about something with me. You can straighten arrows and you can sharpen the tip but that is only true while you hold them in your hand. Once they are released, they cannot be adjusted.

2. Arrows must be pointed in the proper direction.

Application:

The application here is obvious. Children must be sharpened, straightened, and pointed in the right direction while they are in our care for once they are gone, they cannot be molded.

I am completely against child abuse but I am all about discipline. We have a generation of children right now who do not know there are consequences for wrong choices because discipline has been removed.

How can a child understand there are consequences for sin (namely God's wrath and separation from God) when they are not taught there are any consequences here and now for disobeying the rules?

Proverbs 13:24

²⁴ He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.

Proverbs 22:15

¹⁵ Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.

Notice Psalm 127:5

When children are trained in the Word of God, they grow up with the ability to stand in the midst of society and refute the false teachings of society.

On the other hand, when they are not trained in the Truth, they become a part of the society which teaches nothing but lies.

Proverbs 22:6

⁶ Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

Conclusion:

Being a father carries with it a great responsibility which we will one day stand before God and answer for. However, God has not only entrusted us with a great responsibility without giving us the means to carry out the responsibility. We have His Word.

If you have young children and you are not spending time with them, make adjustments to do so. Read the Bible to them and pray with them. It will certainly make a difference.

You are investing your time in something. Is it something which will count for eternity? Is it your family?