

The Lakeview Lamp

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” - Psalm 119:105

June 17, 2007

A Father's Example

Edgar Guest (poem) and Troy Nicholson (article)

There are little eyes upon you that are watching night and day;

There are little ears that listen to every word you say.

There are little hands all eager to do the things you do;

And a little boy who's dreaming of the day he'll be like you.

You're the little fellow's idol, you're the wisest of the wise;

In his little mind, about you no suspicions ever rise.

He believes in you devoutly, holds all that you say and do.

He will say and do it your way when he's grown up just like you.

You are setting an example every day in all you do

For the little boy who's waiting to grow up to be like you.

Being a father brings special honor and recognition, especially on a day like today. It also brings great responsibility.

Isaiah says, *“But now, O LORD, You are our Father; we are the clay, and You our potter; and all we are the work of Your hand” (Isa 64:8)*. As children of the heavenly Father, we become whatever He molds us to be. As earthly fathers, our children also become whatever we mold them to be. So how are we molding them? What will be the result of the work of our hands? What kind of example are we setting before our children?

2 Kings 14:3 says of King Amaziah, *“And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD... he did everything as his father Joash had done.”* **2 Kings 21:20** says of King Amon, *“And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, as his father Manasseh had done.”*

Which king better represents the life you are now living – Joash or Manasseh? The answer to that question may well determine whether your son turns out like Amaziah or Amon. If we want our children to do what is right in the sight of God, then we had better make sure that we are doing right ourselves.

“And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord” (Eph 6:2). Fathers, to bring them up in the right way we had better be living in that way. Are you? Will they?

Abraham Went

John Gaines

The young man grew up in one of the world’s most cosmopolitan cities. We don’t know much about his childhood. His family was probably rather wealthy. His father was a worshipper of different gods. According to the custom of the times, the young man had married within his own family. In fact, he married his half-sister.

One day a most unusual thing happened. God spoke to him with a challenging and perhaps frightening message. “Leave home,” God said. “I’ll tell you where you are going later. Just go.” That’s a loose paraphrase. In the Bible we read God’s command in **Genesis 12:1**, *“Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father’s house, unto a land that I will show thee.”*

You may have figured out that the young man was Abram, later called Abraham. Abraham is known as a great man of faith. More is said about Abraham than anyone else in **Hebrews 11**, the “Faith Hall of Fame” of the New Testament. Abram’s faith was put to the test early when God told him to “Go.” He was being asked to forsake his country. Ur was the center of culture and civilization. God demanded that he give up a pleasant and comfortable life for an uncertain future. God also told him to forsake his kindred. That suggests that Abram had many relatives in the city of Ur. Now, God was asking him to leave all them behind and go to a place where everyone would be a stranger. Finally, God said Abraham must forsake his father’s house. He must leave his own family, those people nearest and dearest to him.

If Abram had the spirit many have in the church today, he would have tried to make excuses. He could have said, “There is plenty to do here, Lord. I don’t need to leave home to do mission work.” Ur and Haran were centers of moon-god worship. Even Terah, Abram’s own father was an idolater (**Joshua 24:2**). But Abram did not make excuses to God. When the Lord told him to go, he obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going (**Hebrews 11:8**).

There’s a great lesson here for today’s Christians. When God says do something, He wants us to do it. If the Lord says “Go,” we’d better go. If He says, “Preach the gospel,” we’d better be obeying Him. The New Testament is God’s revelation to us. Let us not dare to disregard it.

“He is coming to judge the earth. With righteousness He shall judge the world, and the peoples with equity.” – Psalm 98:9

Family News

Virginia Bryant is having back pain. A recent shot did not help. She is going to a chiropractor Tuesday.

Mary Burnett is in Sumner Regional with fluid around her heart.

Metty Fain remains in Highland Manor Nursing Home; Room B2; 215 Highland Circle Dr; Portland, TN 37148.

Elmo Ferrell is in Hendersonville Medical Center, room 326, with a contagious infection. He also has a bleeding ulcer and received four units of blood and two units of plasma. He was able to be up yesterday.

Estelle Hayes is having trouble with her hip.

Sandra Hunt was some better last week.

Bruce Jones, Karen Moore's dad, may be moved to rehab this week.

Mildred Lancaster had a cortisone shot in her wrist and knee. Her arthritis is getting bad enough that sometimes she can hardly walk.

Cotton and Nancy Read continue to have breathing problems.

Margaret Williams is marrying Grady Harmon on Friday.

Robert Wray is having swelling in his foot.

New Reports: None known.

Out of town, traveling, or visiting: **Connie Cobern** (Gatlinburg), **Julia and Jessie Edwards** (KY), **Fran Pickens** (other daughter)

Note – If you have any news for the bulletin (out of town, sick, etc.), then please let me know. I will be printing it most weeks on Saturday night, so please get the news to me by then. Thanks! – Troy

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"Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks" (1 Thes 5:16-18).