

## **June 14<sup>th</sup> 2009: Deuteronomy 6:1-9: My Dad and mum Know God!**

**This morning** I want to talk mainly.....parents.....prospective parents...grandparents  
About the prime ambition that we have for our children

### **What we want most for them**

**Rod Stewart**....a musician of some fame....has 7 children from 5 different women..  
and he has openly stated that his wealth.....has caused his children to lack ambition.

**By that he means**.....the ambition he has for them...to be famous singers like him

### **He said recently:**

**"Ruby seems to be the only one of my children who has some kind of singing talent."** **"But unlike me when I started, she's not hungry at all, unfortunately.**

**She lives with me, drives a big Land Rover and has everything she wants."**

**"She's just 19 but she doesn't burn for anything."**

- **Another father**.....lives in England.....who is not famous.....  
Recently put this notice on the internet

**My dream ambition for my children is to make them into hafiz of the Holy Quran so that it may be a means of blessings and saving me from the Fire of Jahannum. I have had a string of quran teachers come to my house in Honslow but they have all let me down one by one. They all made promises and then stayed for a short while and then gone. I feel very badly let down. I am making lots of duas that a kind hearted quran teacher will make the effort to spare one hour daily to teach my four boys (aged 5 to 15 ).**

**The distressing thing about that**.....is whatever his religious leanings might be  
**His major concern**.....is to save himself.....through the teaching he arranges

**He reveals a selfishness**...similar to that of Rod.....who seems to want his children to follow in his footsteps.....for his sake more than theirs.

### **So what do we want for our children ??? and why**

**Our non-church neighbours**.....want their children to have a piece.....of this materialistic prestigious world that we all live in.

**They want** them to be happy.....comfortable.....successful

And there's nothing wrong with that....**Most Christian parents want that too**

**But surely**.....we want them firstly to have.....the only thing that is lasting  
A relationship with God as their Father.....through Jesus....His Son

**We want** them to be secure for eternity.....**We want** them to know the daily protection...love....grace....and kindness of Almighty God

**The thing is though**.....It is not enough to just want it for them

**We need** to know the joy and reality of having.....relationship with God ourselves  
**And** then be prepared to live out that relationship.....in our interactions with them  
**SO THEY WILL DISCOVER IT TOO**

*(One of the extreme sports....been around.....***BUNGEY Jumping***.....silly*  
**But I'm confident** that if I tried really hard.....I could possibly convince.....to do a....  
**However** if they turned to me.....Don't be stupid !!!!!

**If on the** other hand if I had two tickets to the football  
I would hardly need words.....**Something behind** the words energizing them )

**That's how** it needs to be when we share with our children about God

**From our reading today...**that's obviously the pattern God had in mind for His  
As they prepared to enter the Promised land

**He needed them** to be a nation of people who loved Him.....and who brought up their  
To love Him too

**So in Deut 6**.....He gives them thro Moses.....His **blueprint** for God-centred families  
**And** immediately we see.....it begins....parents relationship with God

**Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God  
with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These  
commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts.**

**We are to love Him and to know Him....in order to show Him  
And the more we love.....the more effective we will be**

One commentator said of these verses:

**We are to love the Lord totally, "with all our heart," and to give ourselves to  
Him unreservedly. This is the tough one, not because the Lord is so hard to  
love, but because we are so prone to self love and selfish pursuits. We are so  
like the old hymn says, "Prone to wander Lord I feel it, Prone to leave the  
God I love."**

**He then went on to say:**

**The secret to loving the Lord is knowing Him. And the secret to knowing Him is Bible study and prayer. If we do not love the Lord and make Him the supreme priority of our lives, the chances are very high that neither will our children. And, only our love for the Lord will cause us to make the training of our children, or godly parenting, a priority in our lives.**

Now that proved to be true for the Hebrews

**But in our Society**.....where the emphasis is more on indivi decisions...than family  
**I .... struggle with the reality**.....that there are children brought up by Godly in solid Christian homes.....**who have chosen not to follow**

**But I have also come to realize**  
that those children have grown up knowing....that what they saw in their parents lives  
Was obviously beneficial.....

**And I believe** that the time comes when they contrast.....and they know how blessed they were

**And when** they have their own.....**Or** at climatic times in their lives  
**then** they remember.....and begin to move back to the Lord....they experienced...thro

**There is of course** more to God's blueprint.....than just knowing the Lord ourselves....  
And living out our faith in the home

**The script also says.....that we must IMPRESS what we know of the Lord...  
→the things about Him that we placed upon our hearts...  
Upon our children**

**The Amplified Version.....puts it like this:-**

**And these words which I am commanding you this day shall be  
[first] in your [own] minds and hearts; [then]  
You shall whet and sharpen them so as to make them penetrate,  
and teach and impress them diligently upon the [minds and]  
hearts of 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 up.**

**What** the Amplified does....seeks to give the English.....most interesting Hebrew word

**The word impress**.....means to whet a knife with a stone...to make it sharp

**What we are being told to do**.....is to put a lot of thought.....initiative...into  
Our sharing of the message of.....with our children

**The way** of presenting Christian truths...that worked with us...wont nec work with our  
**The knife** that was sharp for us.....May be blunt for them

**The message never changes**.....but we need to sharpen the way we present it  
**We need** to use the most effective ways we can.....to connect our...with the truth  
**and that** will involve us in a lot of research.....and a lot of thinking

**Then along with that...**there is the talking of the things of Jesus

**Something** that we can all do....

Sharing with our children .....Whether we are in the car or in the home

Just how important Jesus is to us.....

**Answering their questions**.....with all the reverence and seriousness we can muster

**I heard of one Mum** who felt so inadequate when it came to teaching her children  
She had the idea.....that such teaching had to be some formal.....like Sunday School

**She had a wise friend**.....took her to this verse.....and told her that what God wants  
Is just this:---**To hide His Word in our OWN hearts**

**Apply it to our Own lives**

**And then talk about Him to our children all day long.**

**God knows that**.....The best way to give our children loving Christian instruction  
by the lifestyle we ourselves lead.

- If we don't want our children to swear and to fight, then we ourselves cannot.
- If we want our children to be honest and to speak the truth, then we ourselves cannot be dishonest and full of lies.
- If we want our children to have a close and living relationship with God, then they must see us having that kind of relationship.

**Gospel musician Hilding Halverson told of overhearing a conversation  
between his son and two other little boys. The youngsters were  
bragging about their dads. One boy said proudly, "My dad knows the**

**mayor of our town!" Another said, "So, my dad knows the governor of our state!" Halverson's son then came up with this touching comment, "That's nothing -- my dad knows God!" Upon hearing this, Halverson quickly slipped away to his room and with tears in his eyes said, "O God, I pray that my boy will always be able to say, 'My dad knows God.'"**

**Can your children and youth say that about you? They should be able to.**