

Discipline, Dedication, Circumcision, and Rulership

I wanted to talk about discipline — what is called corporal (meaning bodily) punishment. As we started our child training teachings in Chattanooga many years ago, we said that training comes first, then teaching.

The discipline is applied right to the body. We want people to understand this. We know that our children must be trained before we can teach them. Corrective discipline is for the disobedient. Pr 13:24 — They don't discipline properly. Of course, discipline is the other side of teaching. We can teach children with a teachable spirit.

I know there are different personalities in children. They inherited certain things from their parents. A child with a teachable spirit will be taught. They need thorough explanation; don't just assume they'll get it. It takes much patience from the parents. They need to try, and they have a right to fail without being made to feel like failures or fools. They can fail without having that negative feeling that comes to them and almost lasts for a lifetime. That negative feeling is called an *inferiority complex* in psychology. It should be that even when they fail they know it's good and it's a learning process for them. They can learn through and by failure. So make sure your children understand and realize that.

There are children who are "late bloomers" and that is perfectly OK. But if they aren't cared for wisely they'll think they're stupid or dumb, and later it can hardly ever be erased. You can let such a child know that he's just a late bloomer. That'll give him understanding. One baby might be able to crawl up the steps at three months. But the baby that didn't crawl until it was five months old might later on surpass him. So don't judge your children on how slow or how fast they bloom.

Pr 29:15 — They all have to be taught, hands-on.

We all know what rebellion is. 1 Sam 15:22-23 is one of our foundational teachings. Rebellion or stubbornness may be stored up in the heart of a child, but the rod

of discipline will drive it far from him, if applied properly. If not it disrupts the harmony of the family and the training class.

The Word of God makes a clear distinction between physical discipline and abuse. In the world they think discipline is abuse. We'll be obedient to the Word until the end, no matter what it causes.

Discipline may be painful, but it is not abusive. We have to be able to explain that to people. It's not injurious. We're never to inflict harm on the child.

Pr 22:15 — "Beating" is a repetitive action, stroke upon stroke. When the Bible says "beat," that means not just one time, but you hit the child several times on his buttocks. We never inflict *harm* on the child, but the pain is effective correction. Without the pain there's no effective correction.

Heb 12:5-11 — Our Father requires parents who are true disciples of His Son to properly discipline their children, to take corrective measures. It's expected.

The child's eternal destiny can hinge on how you discipline your child. Therefore, we must be led by the Spirit. We have to be led by the Word, but also by the spirit of the Word. We have to be led by the Spirit to carry out what the Word says. Otherwise we are like the Jews today who are just under the Law.

A child without discipline is not loved, according to Pr 13:24. Such a child is hated; it's what our Father calls *hate*, but the world calls it *love*. They are contrary to one another.

In Heb 12:8 it says that a child that is not being disciplined is an illegitimate child, a bastard child. I use the word all the time, because it's a biblical word to describe an unloved child. If you don't have a source, you don't have a source. Just because someone accidentally has a child doesn't mean the child has a father. There is no such thing as a father who doesn't discipline his child. Most of us were probably illegitimate children if you want to look at it that way.

It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. (Heb 12:7-8)

Pr 23:14 — “You shall beat him with a rod, and deliver his soul from...” the eternal destiny that no one wants to go to.

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother (which is the first commandment with a promise), that it may be well with you, and that you may live long in the land. And, fathers, do not provoke your children to anger; but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. (Eph 6:1-4)

The United States today, like every nation, is becoming more and more full of bastards because of the evil governments that are coming into place on earth.

Dedication

We have to be led by the Spirit to dedicate our children, we have to be led by the Spirit to discipline our children, etc. We know that we are sons of God if we are led by the Spirit of God (Rom 8:14). If you look up the word *dedication* you'll see what it means to dedicate your child. John the Baptist went through dedication; our Master went through dedication. Their parents dedicated and circumcised them on a particular day.

Pr 22:6 — “Train up a child in the way he should go, and ... he will not depart from it.” This is the Word of God. But that child has to be *dedicated*, being led with the Holy Spirit, full of faith. Then, of course, you're going to raise the child up, train the child up, in the same faith, the same power, being led by the Holy Spirit. It won't be any different. It can't be that, “Well, we dedicated our child, but now we don't raise him up in the right way. We don't discipline him, we don't love him. We put negative things into him.”

Dedication simply means “to give over to, to surrender to” our Father. So many parents have not really dedicated their children. What is not from faith is sin because we stood before everyone and it was without faith.

Pr 22:6 — If we raise up a child in the way he should go, then when he is older he will not depart from it. It will go well with your child if he respects you, if he is obedient to you (Eph 6:2). If you raised up a son of God, you were successful. Then he will raise up another son of God, and so forth, and so forth. How else will the last generation, the Male Child, the 144,000, ever come about?

It all starts with propagation — wanting a child, then propagating a child, and then raising a child (Eph 6:2-4; Dt 5:16).

You can look in the Proverbs to see how our children are led astray and are ousted from the land, ousted from the land of the living. They are led astray because they are not led with the Holy Spirit. “Go well” means to prosper.

I remember Hilkiyah dedicating his son. How is his son doing? I saw that man’s determination and faith lifting that child up to our Father and praying. I don’t care how far you lift that child up — you can put poles on him — but if it’s not by faith it’s just a ritual. That’s just how it happens; it’s a syndrome.

Let’s just put this into our brothers and sisters — knowing what dedication is for. SOMEONE is going to raise up the Male Child. Rev 14:1-5 — They are of one accord. It all starts with the mother and the father.

Circumcision

Circumcision is the same way. We can circumcise all day long, but our Father is the only One who can circumcise the heart. It’s a sign of nothing if our Father doesn’t circumcise the heart. Many went through circumcision in Sus. Most of them did in reality, but some just did it in ritual.

Jer 4:4 — That’s the sign of ownership, our Father dwelling in our heart and circumcising our heart. The outward sign of ownership is useless apart from the inner reality. Only He can circumcise the heart. It’s going to be obvious to all if we circumcise our children and we do it in faith.

It's the first thing we do, then we dedicate, then we train them, then we teach them, then they grow up and receive the Holy Spirit. They each become a Bar Mitzvah, which means a son of the commandment, and are baptized.

The outward symbol is a curse without the Spirit. It's a covenant He will cut with His true people. We know that many have departed from us. With some children you knew it was going well with them, but with others it wasn't.

Rulers

We want to talk about ruling today, and elders. Who can be worthy of the word *rule* in Heb 13:17? Who can our Father trust to take the lead in a godly way to care for the flock, making sure His children are obeying, receiving from the heart, that they have faith?

Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you. (Heb 13:17)

Rule means *care*. A ruler is one who cares; he watches over and cares for the flock. "He will rule over you," our Father said to Eve, meaning, "he will care for you."

Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct. (Heb 13:7)

Rule means to govern, to preside over, to lead on forward. A leader is one who brings forth something, explaining, a director, one who listens to everyone, one who listens to the least, thoroughly explaining things.

Phil 2:2-4 is the normal behavior of disciples, as opposed to Phil 3:2. That's how we choose elders.

1 Tim 3:2-5 — These are the qualifications that show who is and who isn't a leader. We had to have leaders in the beginning before they could even prove themselves in that way. Nun was 19 years old when he was shown to be a leader. He wasn't married yet, and didn't have any children yet. But he had proven character, and so many don't.

We just had who we had. We had to give the keys to Sameach when he was only three years in the Community. Someone else took care of all the money. I didn't do everything. I just delegated from the very beginning.

An elder thinks more highly of others than he does of himself; he esteems others more highly than anyone else.

Rom 12:10-21 and so many other scriptures speak about what is normal for disciples, and an elder exceeds others in these things. That's talking about normal disciples. An overcomer is a normal person, not someone special. It will be recognized if someone is exceeding in those qualities. Leaders take the lead. They show a greater production of the fruit of the Spirit — patience, kindness, mercy, compassion, strength under control.

You select leaders on that basis, not just by the natural gift, but by their love, and by the Word. Leaders are more considerate of others than themselves. They keep the way of Yahweh in righteousness and justice. Everyone has the ability to do that, but some excel. So we see why they are the ones who are chosen to lead the flock. Wouldn't you rather someone like that than a domineering tyrant?

1 Pet 5:1-7 talks about how elders should be, not using their authority to lord it over others, doing things they don't even want the sheep to do. They instill faith in the sheep, because if they make them do anything apart from faith, they make them sin.

Gen 18:19 is the basis from which Abraham was chosen: "I have chosen him so that he will lead his household and his children after him." Our Father saw him and his household, and how he was carrying it out according to natural law. At that time his household consisted of slaves. A slave merely means someone who is bought and you are his owner, his protector. You model a life for him in your community. Abraham was a good commander. He kept his household in order.

Command (#6680) means to enjoin, to direct with authority and with emphasis.

A ruler directs with emphasis. He doesn't say, "Come in, please," but rather, "Come in."

When we are ruling the galaxies, will we say, “Do this, please”? That’s not a commander. We have to thank Him that we can serve Him; He doesn’t have to thank us.

No one can rule unless he commands; no one can command who doesn’t rule. It has to come from authority. Our Father takes care of those who don’t obey those who are in authority.

Rulers have authority to oversee — you see things more than other people see things. And you have people to go to who can help you see. It means to oversee from a strategic position. It’s a military term, like a commander with concern for the well-being of his troops. A commander has a strategic position; he knows what he’s making commands for. It’s all according to what you do and how you do it. We have to be as much like our Master as we possibly can. He is our Commander.

Parents in Command

The parents are in the position of the highest authority in the family and the household. Our Father chooses no one who cannot rule, to some degree, over himself and over his children. Why would He choose someone who can’t even rule over his children? It’s part of being human — it’s in man to do it. Perhaps it’s just not awakened — it’s dormant. Or perhaps they don’t want to, or they are lazy. Maybe they won’t.

Benyamin has a reputation of having such commanders, but our Father used them for kindling. Maybe He’s pruned them back. When you are pruned back, you can’t do much. When you are in that place you are praying that you’ll sprout again. They are cut back because they have accomplished their purpose for the last 30 years.

Abraham produced Isaac, Isaac produced Jacob, Jacob produced the twelve tribes. Our Father chose Abraham to command his children. Did he do it? Isaac was very good fruit. Only after he was very well trained and circumcised could our Father command Abraham to do such a thing as to sacrifice his own son. It was the very test of his

chosenness. Was it ridiculous for our Father to think that Abraham would do such a thing, and that Isaac would lay down on the altar?

Our Master said, “If you think you are the seed of Abraham, you’d better do what Abraham did.” Abraham’s circumcision went to the heart — it was the circumcision of the heart. Who circumcises the heart? Our Father. We can bring it about on the flesh, but only our Father can do it on the inside. When is our Master going to come back? When the outside is like the inside, and the inside like the outside.

Gen 17:10 — It was the sign of a covenant previously made with Abraham. It was an external sign that Abraham and his descendants were to execute, showing that they were God’s chosen people. Our Father was doing something in their heart, and they showed it by their life — their life together. If they didn’t show it they were cursed to take that circumcision.

The fact that this was done upon the male reproductive organ was a sign of 1) the cutting away of the fleshly dependence — depending on your flesh, on your own strength, on your own secular family; and 2) it was a sign of a future and posterity. They knew there was a future; they knew there was something continuing on. Our Father was going to give them an enemy-free land, and ultimately the universe. They would have as many descendants as the stars of the universe, as the sands of the seashore. And we are carrying it out for them because they broke it (Acts 26:6-8). We are laboring night and day because Israel didn’t do it.

Gen 18:19 is the hope of all who depend on our Father’s strength to do what He promised. Our Father wants commanders.

Ps 102:28 — The children of his servants will continue, continually propagate, unending; the increase of His government will never end. Gen 17:8; Acts 26:6-8 — You know that our Father will raise the dead (Rom 11:15); He will raise them up in the next age, in the land of Israel in the Middle East (Gen 15:18).

In Acts 26:6-8, Paul says, “Our twelve tribes who labor night and day to bring about the promise.”

As we see in Rom 4:9-14, our Father gave us something very precious about circumcision. It took 25 years for that to awaken or develop in Abraham. Then he had his son — he raised his son Isaac in that faith. Rom 4:9-14 — Let me tell you something: Never circumcise under the law. Circumcision came hundreds of years before the Law. The Judaizers came in and said, “Unless you are circumcised you cannot be saved.” They put you on the chopping block as soon as you were saved.

Gen 15:18 is still there; it hasn’t been fulfilled. That land has never been an enemy-free land. He’s not going to give them that land until they love Him with all their hearts, all their strength, and all their mind. But we cannot be any less faithful to Yahweh if we are the seed of Abraham. This faithfulness must be expressed in the new sons of Jacob (Isa 49:6).

“You will be called Israel.” Israel is only Israel as a completed whole. This requires restoration, and this is why this is the restoration of all things.

I know Abraham and his son Isaac were thoroughly tested. Jacob’s pursuit of the birthright and the inheritance was untiring, indefatigable. He went on and on; he wrestled the angel; he wouldn’t let go of him.

Rev 22:5 is about commanders or rulers, kings — all who are willing to do our Father’s will. He chose Abraham on the basis that he was willing to do our Father’s will. Our Master said in Jn 7:17 that we were chosen on the basis that we are willing to do our Father’s will. That makes us a holy, set-apart people. We didn’t even know what we were doing.

Nun — I’m one of those who grew up with a sense of failure. I didn’t have a father who passed on to me, “You are dedicated, you are devoted, you are holy.” Many people have had to help me along the way.

Yônêq said once we receive it from our Father, we can pass it on to our children, and they to their children. It's all organically one — discipleship and rulership.

“Fathers, don't provoke your children to wrath.” I have to communicate to my son that he's going to be devoted because I am devoted; that he can make mistakes, he can fail, but he's not going to be a failure. Ultimately, he's going to be a winner. So am I.

The reason I responded at such a young age was that worth was communicated to me through Yônêq. I saw Yahshua. “You are willing; you are going to do it. I'm going to make sure you do it.” He let me have all kinds of room to make mistakes, and I did. The Body of Messiah is so amazing, it would all collapse if it weren't for our Father's character. But now we have lots of room to learn.

Our Father has to gain the land in us first, before He can give them the land. He wants people with a tender heart, those who desire to be blameless. It doesn't matter how messed up we may be. We'll be blameless before Him — not meaning perfect, but blamelessness of heart.

He'll say, “You are living for the eighth day; do you realize what this means? You have been selected out of all the human beings on the earth. You will be one who has no dependence on fleshly things. You will walk blamelessly. That's going to fulfill the covenant. You are going to fulfill the covenant, and I'm teaching you. You can make mistakes.” Isn't it great, isn't it awesome? It's total reversal of the Fall. It's like we are Adam all over again. I'm so thankful to be in the Body, to be a winner.

Shemuel — This teaching explained a mystery that was always in my mind. Until I was 8, I was a good boy. The next 11 years, I went on a downward spiral — foolishness, things with my friends, and it was only getting worse. Somewhere along the line what got attached to me was that what I did defined who I was, and how much worth I had in my father's eyes.

The teaching came out that boys should work with their fathers, and girls with their mothers. I remember going to work with my abba. In Boston we worked on a skyscraper, and I pulled a little string that I thought was a soap box. It set off a fire alarm and it blocked up city traffic. It was one of the worst days in my father's life. But he disciplined me for the lawless act, not for the effect and the shame it brought on him. I thought it wasn't so hard; I expected this really hard discipline.

I enjoyed training and learning. Games came in. It was nice to hang out with your friends. I remember growing older and we played basketball. It was such a worthless time. We'd go eat ice cream, play basketball, and

hang out with someone who fell away, and you can see what he looks like today, and what his life is like.

I was given over to the satisfaction of dissipation. For a long time I lost that connection with my abba. That connection should have transferred over from my father to our Father when I was given over to the Community at my “par par” celebration. But I lost that connection.

One thing I heard Yônêq say about commanding is that Nun can command people because they know he loves them. A commander or a ruler for our Father loves the people, and when they command it comes from our Father; a tyrant doesn’t do it from that motivation.

I know I will have children one day, and I’m going to pass things on to them. My father is actually a very good person, but at one point he didn’t have the confidence to draw the line. We can draw the line with our children to prevent that pervading influence that tries to divide them from us. I received a lot of vision for raising a family for our Father. I’ll remember what I went through with my father.

That’s our children that we said many years ago would be even more perceptive, they will make fewer mistakes than we did, and it’s going to increase. We need them; we have them.

Out in Virginia they had their little paradise, then someone came along with the gospel, and they gave it up, their dream home. They went to Island Pond and starved a little while, and never complained. They were faulty, they weren’t perfect. Parents aren’t expected to be perfect, but we are gaining ground.

Shoresh — I’m grateful for what we heard, especially for the hope for the brothers in Benjamin. I’m thankful for the prophecy that they have been cut back. I’m thankful for what we heard about discipline and how there’s all kinds of room for failure.

I’m thankful we belong to Abraham. We can relate to him. Abraham completely committed his life to our Father, and our Father completely committed Himself to him. Then he painfully looked at Ishmael knowing he was not the one. Our Father said to him, “Abraham, be blameless and walk before me.”

One day we’ll see Isaac. We have to give that room to our children. If we are dedicated it will drive away fear. “Not until Isaac was very well trained and circumcised could Abraham sacrifice him.” This is us.