

FAMILY FEUD #4

Swept Dirt, Loving Hurts

Open: We looked at parenting, moms, students and today ... families serving together.

* It was a critical time in Israel's history; they were finally in the Promised Land and were settling in their new homes.

- They were packing their tents up, unpacking their suitcases ... finally home.
- Joshua, mentored by Moses, had led well. Last chapter of his book, he offers this challenge ...

Joshua 24:14-15 NLT ¹⁴ “So fear the Lord and serve him wholeheartedly. Put away forever the idols your ancestors worshiped when they lived beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt. Serve the Lord alone. ¹⁵ But if you refuse to serve the Lord, then choose today whom you will serve. Would you prefer the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates? Or will it be the gods of the Amorites in whose land you now live? But as for me and my family, we will serve the Lord.”

- The pioneer days of America are over, the Mayflower has anchored in the harbor, and the Pilgrims have settled the land.

√ We are the recipients of freedom and affluence, and as it is in most cases: prosperity is often a greater challenge than adversity.

- John F. Kennedy, Inaugural Address, January 20, 1961, closing remarks: “In the long history of the world only a few generations have been granted the role of defending freedom in its hour of maximum danger. I do not shrink from this responsibility - I welcome it. I do not believe that any of us would exchange places with any other people or any other generation. The energy, the faith, the devotion which we bring to this endeavor will light our country and all who serve it, and the glow from that fire can truly light the world.

“And so, my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you – ask what you can do for your country.

“My fellow citizens of the world: ask not what America will do for you, but what together we can do for the freedom of man.

“Finally, whether you are a citizen of America or a citizen of the world, ask of us the same high standard of strength and sacrifice which we ask of you. With a good conscience our only sure reward, with history the final judge of our deeds, let us go forth to lead the land we love, asking His blessing and His help, but knowing that here on earth God’s work must truly be our own.”

→ We are in desperate need of godly leaders who will accept the responsibility of leading their families.

- This doesn’t mean you are a drill sergeant and you bark out orders.
- You lead by example ... follow me, live like this.

Matthew 23:11 NLT The greatest among you must be a servant.

→ Remember: Rules without relationship lead to rebellion.

√ My kids need to know I love them and have their best interest at heart, and if I feel it is necessary and for their benefit ... I have the power to veto any decision they make as long as they live under my roof.

* In this world there are givers and takers.

- Some seek to be a blessing while others are always looking for what they can get.
- This self-centered life leads to boredom and is often accompanied with a lot of whining.
- The family that learns to give will be the happiest and most fulfilled.

Acts 20:35b NLT You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus: it is more blessed to give than to receive.

- So I put forth this statement: Ask not what God can do for you, but what can you do for God.

Penalty Flag #1: Consumer Christianity: Where can I find the best music, youth ministry, good preaching but short and satisfy my religious thirst?

- We are glad Jesus picked up His cross but we are not about to.
- I want enough God to keep me out of hell but not too much lest He ruin my “fun.”
- Give me Jesus and pass the Bud.

- To serve God, to make a difference in one’s life, to give a helping hand ... to see a life transformed and to have been an instrument used by God ... is memorable and impactful.

How can I prepare my family to serve God together?

(1) Get to know Him.

- He wants to be known; God is personable and approachable.

Revelation 22:17 NLT The Spirit and the bride say, “Come.” Let anyone who hears this say, “Come.” Let anyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who desires drink freely from the water of life.

→ If we are constantly drinking the “world’s soda” we will not be thirsty for the “water of life.”

- It should be our goal and prayer that our children become recipients of God’s gift of salvation.

2 Timothy 3:15 NLT You have been taught the holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus.

- God reveals His plans for this life and the next in His Word.
- To experience God’s forgiveness and to be assured of heaven is to want it for your children.

Acts 16:34 NLT The Philippian jailer is saved. He brought them (Paul and Silas) into his house and set a meal before them, and he and his entire household rejoiced because they all believed in God.

Penalty Flag #2: You can’t take your children where you have never been.

- If this relationship with Jesus isn’t important to you ... then your children will see it as optional.
- Your acceptance or rejection of Jesus will leave a lasting imprint on your children.

(2) To know God is to love God.

- Christianity isn’t about rules; it’s about relationship.
- It’s overwhelming to realize the depth in which God went to show His love for us.

John 3:16 NLT For God loved the world so much that He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.

- Having experienced His love, we now begin to love others.

2 Corinthians 5:15 NLT He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them.

- √ We are called not to selfish living but to live for Christ ... to love others for Christ.

(3) To love Him is to serve Him.

- Raising a godly family requires more than just making it to church on Sunday.

Penalty Flag #3: Some of us aren't even getting the church attendance right.

- **We need to show consistency and develop a habit.**
- **Preparation on Saturday evening will make Sunday morning go better.**

- True love for God will show itself by loving others.

1 John 4:19-21 NLT ¹⁹ We love each other because he loved us first. ²⁰ If someone says, "I love God," but hates a Christian brother or sister, that person is a liar; for if we don't love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we cannot see? ²¹ And he has given us this command: Those who love God must also love their Christian brothers and sisters.

- We need to love those inside the family of God and those outside as well.

** 9:00 a.m. – Michael Sims

10:30 a.m. – Steve Murphy

- What are some things a family could do together to show the love of Christ in the community?
- Why don't we do this more often?
- What steps might we take to get started?

* Review: We need to know God.
To know God is to love God.
To love God is to serve God.

Close: It's in serving God we experience the reality and power of God.

- We see God go to work.
- We are a vehicle through which He works.
- Our life takes on purpose and significance.

- √ Otherwise we risk the chance of the next generation missing the reality of God.

- This is what occurred with the generation that came behind Joshua.

Judges 2:8a NLT Joshua son of Nun, the servant of the Lord, died at the age of 110.

Judges 2:10 NLT After that generation died, another generation grew up who did not acknowledge the Lord or remember the mighty things he had done for Israel.

- √ Hand-me-down faith isn't sufficient.
- √ Each generation needs to experience God at work ...
- √ Required: Risk, move out of your comfort zone, time and money ... go sweep some dirt and love some hurts.

➤ Ask not what God can do for you but what can you do for God ... Go for it!

Message Notes
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