

The Dying Words of Moses

Intro: This week we've been reading Moses' last words to Israel before His death. When you know you are going to die, and you love the people you're with and you know you don't have much time, surely you wouldn't waste words on unimportant things. If we listen carefully to Moses' words, we can hear what was important to him at the end of His great life. He wanted His people to be faithful to the covenant they had made with God and to transmit the truth from generation to generation so that they would be blessed rather than cursed. Moses devoted his dying words to how that could happen and pled with the parents to make it happen.

God wants parents to see that their children's destinies are to a great degree in their hands.

God wanted the parents to see that by their faithfulness to Him they would help insure their children's well being.

4:40 "So you shall keep His statutes and His commandments which I am giving you today, that it may go well with you and with your children after you, and that you may live long on the land which the Lord your God is giving you for all time."

But God also wanted the parents to see that they could ensure a horrible existence for their children and grandchildren. He warned them that in their hands was the fate of their own children for disaster.

28:32 "Your sons and your daughters shall be given to another people, while your eyes shall look on and yearn for them continually; but there shall be nothing you can do."

And so we must learn! Our values, our priorities not only affect ourselves; they reach to the generations to come. How we conduct ourselves may determine not only whether we are saved, but whether are children or our grandchildren are saved. Give thought to your life not only for yourself, but for all those who will come after you! To some degree each of us will be responsible for what happens in their lives. Will they bless us? Or, will they not know why their lives are full of difficulty and pain?

We must take responsibility to see that our children are properly taught.

4:9-10 "Only give heed to yourself and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things which your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life; but make them known to your sons and your grandsons. "Remember the day you stood before the Lord your God at Horeb, when the Lord said to me, 'Assemble the people to Me, that I may let them hear My words so they may learn to fear Me all the days they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children.'"

Moses mentions three important areas of instruction:

We must explain the meaning of and reason for our actions.

We can expect to be questioned about our actions; and we must be prepared to give answers.

6:20-21 "When your son asks you in time to come, saying, 'What do the testimonies and the statutes and the judgments mean which the Lord our God commanded you?' then you shall say to your son, 'We were slaves to Pharaoh in Egypt; and the Lord brought us from Egypt with a mighty hand.

We must tell them what God means to us. Is He a god who did great things for others; but not for us? Could we add the testimony of our own lives and tell others what great things the Lord has done for us!?

We must memorialize our experiences in song.

Each generation must find a way to put into the heart language of their time their praise of God and tell the story of what God has done.

31:19 "Now therefore, write this song for yourselves, and teach it to the sons of Israel; put it on their lips, in order that this song may be a witness for Me against the sons of Israel.

By teaching our children to sing and to enjoy singing, we teach them to praise God and we teach them to remember and have impressed on their hearts what God has done.

We must teach and talk in day-to-day life.

We can't be too busy with life's business not to talk about the word of God with our kids. This is life's business for the believer. It is as important as providing them with food, clothing, shelter, and an education. Moses urged the children of Israel...

6:7 and you shall teach them diligently to your sons 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.

11:19 "And you shall teach them to your sons, talking of them when you sit in your house and when you walk along the road and when you lie down and when you rise up.

Take advantage of every possible moment!

We must take aggressive steps against false teachers and corrupting cultural influences.

Some of the actions of the Israelites at God's command may seem incredibly extreme. We may be troubled by the severity with which Israel was instructed to destroy the nations of Canaan. But this severity makes clear the militancy and zeal with which we should fight against what may undermine our faith and the faith of our children! Hence the Canaanites were utterly destroyed...by why?

20:18 in order that they may not teach you to do according to all their detestable things which they have done for their gods, so that you would sin against the Lord your God.

We must be not become too casual about the influences of evil around us and that so easily make their way into our homes through the media.

God did not want His people watching the immoral worship of the Canaanites lest they be attracted to it. Would he expect any less of us today? Do we take those threats seriously and take steps to fight them?

We must encourage them to form godly relationships.

Moses knew the power and influence of a marriage partner. So, he urged Israel not to enter into alliances and marriages with the pagan people of Canaan.

7:3-4 Furthermore, you shall not intermarry with them; you shall not give your daughters to their sons, nor shall you take their daughters for your sons. For they will turn your sons away from following Me to serve other gods; then the anger of the Lord will be kindled against you, and He will quickly destroy you.

Is this a priority for us as parents, to encourage our children to seek out a mate of comparable character and faith?

Conclusion: I am sure that all of us want only the best for our children and grandchildren. Moses shows us how to do all we can to ensure that they will prosper and be blessed. Will you take steps to ensure this blessing for your family?