



Summer 2010

Family Devotions

Week 10

August 23—27

Written by

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Monday August 23, 2010

Here's another Message from God to the people of Judah and Jerusalem: "Plow your unplowed fields, but then don't plant weeds in the soil!" ~ Jeremiah 4:3 (The Message)

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The great British writer Samuel Taylor Coleridge, once found himself in a conversation with an acquaintance who felt that children should receive no formal religious instruction. The man spouted the secular philosophy of the day: that children should be free to choose their own religious faith when they reached a more mature age.

Coleridge, thought he disagreed, did not say much, but later invited the man into his home and took him to see his garden.

"You call this a garden?" the visitor exclaimed. "There are nothing but weeds here!"

"Well, you see," Coleridge replied, "I did not wish to infringe upon the liberty of the garden in any way. I was just giving the garden a chance to express itself and to choose its own production."

You—and your children—are God's field (1 Corinthians 3:9), and your fruitfulness comes only from Him (Hosea 14:8).

Tuesday, August 24, 2010

I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do--this I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it. So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God's law; but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members. What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God--through Jesus Christ our Lord! ~ Romans 7:15-25

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George Bernard Shaw—he, of the famous long, stringy beard—was asked by a manufacturer of electric razors to endorse their new product by shaving off his trademark beard. Shaw explained the “revelation” that his father and he had come to, simultaneously:

“I was about five at the time,” Shaw mused, “and I was standing at my father's knee whilst he was shaving. I said to him, ‘Daddy, why do you shave?’ He looked at me in silence, for a full minute, before throwing the razor out of the window, saying, ‘Yes, why do I?’ He never did again.”

Some things are that simple. Some things are not. Some of the behaviors that we identify in our deep-seated sinful natures—temper, lies (white or any other color), neglect, lateness, etc.—are not as easily disposed as “throwing the razor out of the window.”

As Paul recognized, the only “rescue” we have from the deep-seated struggle with sins—whether we consider them little or big—is the same: “through the Lord Jesus Christ.”

Remember, Christian parents, the acclaimed Mr. Shaw never forgot this secularly repentant act . . . and he became like his father, with the same trademark beard.

Set a godly example for your children.

Wednesday, August 25, 2010

Now Jesus himself was about thirty years old when he began his ministry. He was the son, so it was thought, of Joseph, the son of Heli, the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, the son of Melki, the son of Jannai, the son of Joseph, the son of Mattathias, the son of Amos, the son of Nahum, the son of Esli, the son of Naggai, the son of Maath, the son of Mattathias, the son of Semein, the son of Josech, the son of Joda, the son of Joanan, the son of Rhesa, the son of Zerubbabel, the son of Shealtiel, the son of Neri, the son of Melki, the son of Addi, the son of Cosam, the son of Elmadam, the son of Er, the son of Joshua, the son of Eliezer, the son of Jorim, the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, the son of Simeon, the son of Judah, the son of Joseph, the son of Jonam, the son of Eliakim, the son of Melea, the son of Menna, the son of Mattatha, the son of Nathan, the son of David, the son of Jesse, the son of Obed, the son of Boaz, the son of Salmon, the son of Nahshon, the son of Amminadab, the son of Ram, the son of Hezron, the son of Perez, the son of Judah, the son of Jacob, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham, the son of Terah, the son of Nahor, the son of Serug, the son of Reu, the son of Peleg, the son of Eber, the son of Shelah, the son of Cainan, the son of Arphaxad, the son of Shem, the son of Noah, the son of Lamech, the son of Methuselah, the son of Enoch, the son of Jared, the son of Mahalalel, the son of Kenan, the son of Enosh, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God. ~ Luke 3:23-28

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1. It matters whose child you are. Read John 1:12-13.
2. God's people are a recorded people. Read Revelation 20:11-15.
3. God's people are a reproductive people. Read Matthew 13:33 and Revelation 7:9-10.

Thank God for family!

Thursday, August 26, 2010

And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. ~ Matthew 14:19

Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. ~ Matthew 6:26

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President Gerald Ford was a staunch supporter of the School Lunch Bill.

“I strongly support,” he once proudly declared, “the feeding of children.”

Have you ever seen a mother bird feeding her babies in the nest? All that the helpless babies do is open their mouths wide, upward, and the mother drops food into their mouths. They are completely dependent on Momma’s feeding them.

First, we all should changed and become like baby birds, with open hearts toward our Father God, hungering for spiritual nourishment as we read our Word with great expectation, praying with great expectation, and fellowshiping with like-minded believers with great expectation.

Second, our children are hungry to learn about life, whether they voice it or not. There are plenty of people out there, willing to fill them with all kinds of bad food. It is wisest and best for parents to feed them with spiritual food to be nourished to live life Jesus’ way, which is the “abundant” or “overflowing” life (John 10:10).

Friday, August 27, 2010

God: Look, I am about to do something new; even now it is coming. Do you not see it? Indeed, I will make a way in the wilderness, rivers in the desert. ~ Isaiah 43:19

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He was confused. Things had been bad, but he had gotten used to that. Then it seemed God gave directions. He obeyed. At first, things got better for him and his family. But then things went from bad to worse. He felt trapped. He saw no way out. Everywhere he looked, all he could see were insurmountable obstacles. Yet, he had obeyed what he thought God had said. Now, he could see the worst, coming right at him, unavoidable, with no way out.

Then...God made a way for him...his family...and the other hundreds of thousands of Hebrews...at the Red Sea.

He still does it for His children and their families today.