

" The Greatest Assignment Given to Fathers: Passing the Torch of Faith"

Main Text: Psalm 78:1-7

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 78:1-7 (KJV)

1. Give ear, O my people, to my law: incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
2. I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old:
3. Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us.
4. We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done.
5. For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children:
6. That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children:
7. That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments.

The context of Psalms 78

- **Psalm 78** is a **historical and instructional psalm** written by Asaph, one of the chief musicians appointed by David (see 1 Chronicles 16:4-7).
- Psalm of instruction or teaching
- Its purpose is not merely to recount history, but to **teach God's people lessons from their past.**
- Central theme (Psalm 78): **God is faithful, but man is often forgetful and disobedient.**

INTRODUCTION

- How 'successful' are we as fathers to our children?
- **The greatest responsibility** of a father is not merely preparing his children for this life. **It is preparing them for eternity.**
- The greatest gift a father can give his family is not wealth, but a godly example.

The Danger of a Lost Generation

- Scripture repeatedly warns that future generations can forget God when His truth is not deliberately passed down.

- **Judges 2:10 (KJV) -**

"And there arose another generation after them, which knew not the LORD, nor yet the works which he had done for Israel."

- A godly heritage does not happen by accident. It has to be deliberate, it has to be intentional

A Command to Teach the Next Generation

Psalm 78:1-3 -

"Give ear, O my people, to my law: incline your ears to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old: Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us."

- The truth of God was not meant to stop with one generation.
- God gives His word to us as believers and as fathers, we have a duty to teach our children and pass it on to the next generation

I. The Responsibility to Proclaim God's Works

Psalm 78:4 -

"We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done."

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 -

"And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children..."

- God had given a responsibility to parents, especially fathers, to teach spiritual truth in the home.

I. The Responsibility to Proclaim God's Works

- Israel was commanded to teach:
 1. “The praises of the LORD”
 2. “The strength of the LORD”
 3. “The wonderful works of the LORD”
- Fathers are not just to teach information about God. They are to teach children why God deserves worship.
- Children need to learn that God is not just a Bible character. He is the living God.
- A father should make God's works real to his children.

II. The Responsibility to Teach the Next Generation

In Psalm 78:5 -

"For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children."

- The "testimony" refers to God's revealed truth. The truth was not meant to be kept privately—it was meant to be passed on.
- Fathers need to teach their children more than general truths of the Bible, but also teach them a deeper understanding of the bible, biblical doctrines so that they can defend the faith!
- Ephesians 6:4, Deuteronomy 6:6-7

III. The Responsibility to Lead their Children to Personally Know God

Psalm 78:6 -

"That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children:"

- The goal is not simply that children know about God. The goal is that they know God for themselves.
- John 3:3, Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23, Romans 5:8, Romans 10:13

IV. The Responsibility to Train Children to Obey God

Psalm 78:7 –

"That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments."

John 14:15 –

"If ye love me, keep my commandments."

- Obedience is not the way to earn salvation, but it is the evidence of a heart that respects God.

IV. The Responsibility to Train Children to Obey God

- Practical Steps for Fathers:

1. Establish clear biblical standards
2. Discipline with love
3. Be consistent
4. Parents must model obedience

Ephesians 6:4 (KJV) -

"And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."

V. The Warning: A Failure to Pass Truth Has Consequences

The great danger in Scripture is forgetfulness.

- Israel repeatedly forgot:
 - God's miracles
 - God's goodness
 - God's commands
- Forgetting God leads to wandering from God.
- A generation that does not hear truth will not continue in truth.
- Examples of Eli (1 Samuel 2-4, 1 Samuel 2:12-14, 23-24, 29, 3:13)
- Example of Joshua (Joshua 24:15)