

# The Spartan Sower



*The sower soweth the word... Mark 4:14*

June 24, 2007 (Vol. 7)

## Ask Nicely!

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Parents, at least those who are worth their salt, have said this phrase countless times. We all know that children are not born with an innate knowledge of how to properly behave or speak, but that is why God gave them parents (Prov. 22:15; Eph. 6:1-4)! We are to teach and train them in things like this. When they rise up in the morning and are ready for breakfast, they say, "I want cereal! I want milk!" At various times during the day they say, "I want this toy" or "I want that!" We, as parents, should constantly take such moments to train them in gratitude, consideration and respect.

Gratitude is placed in opposition to many kinds of selfish & ungodly behaviors in Eph. 5:4. Gratitude is among the first things lost by those who depart from God (Rom. 1:21). And, like respect for authority, it must be taught in the home to have its best effect (Heb. 12:9). Children need to know that they are subject to and indebted to their parents (1 Tim. 4:4). Children owe their parents something! Indeed, the world is not indebted to them, the world does not owe them. Much rather, they must learn to honor their parents and appreciate all that is done for them.

If our children grumble, give a dirty look, toss a toy down in anger or contempt, stamp a foot, etc. - what do we do? Do we walk away in disgust, stomping to our own bedroom, slamming our door? Do we enter into a rage and kick things? How should we deal with misbehavior in our children? By misbehaving ourselves? Certainly not! That would only reinforce to them the bad behavior and make us into hypocrites. Children see whether we practice what we preach or not, even if we do not choose to see it. They are not blind to our faults like we so often are to our own.

Consider Proverb 30:15: "The horseleach hath two daughters, crying, Give, give." In other words, this maxim shows how a selfish "blood sucking" parasite of a person will have children who are like him. Now this does not mean that every evil parent will automatically doom his children to be evil, but it does admit an **obvious tendency**. It does warn us as parents that our children will very likely be like us in many ways. And if we come to hate what we see in our children, perhaps

we should take a closer look at ourselves. Have you ever wondered about some behavior in your child and ask yourself: "Did they learn **that** from me?" I know I have. Children, without knowing it, can teach us much about ourselves.

So, how should our children act? When they want something, they should ask nicely, respectfully. Sometimes, even as adults, it seems we have not yet learned how to ask nicely. If we express something to someone, we do so in a barking or grumbling way. None of us are happy all the time, but if we are frequently miserable, often sour-faced and commonly complaining - then don't be surprised when people avoid us! Perhaps we should stop and think about our attitude more. Isn't this what we teach our children? Don't we try to train them to have a proper perspective on life? Again, how can we teach them to be something that we ourselves are not?

And when children ask and are told "no", they also should not pout or be willful in attitude. Tantrums are unacceptable. Children need to learn how to handle disappointment properly, with humility.

Our children should also learn to say "sir" and "ma'am". Again, this is something parents can be role models in (1 Pet. 3:6, 7).

Children need to be taught appreciation for chastening (Prov. 3:11-12). And all too often, adults need to be taught this same lesson (Heb. 12:1-13). Time and again we shortsightedly look at the discomfort, how we feel about it, or how it will make another feel - rather than whether it is right & spiritually needed. Sometimes we "regard lightly" (have no respect for) chastening or "faint" under reproof. Some have even been known to faint at seeing someone else reproved. Let us remember that reproof is a demonstration of proper & godly love (Heb. 12:6) and produces righteousness in those who are exercised by it (Heb. 12:11-13). When you correct your children, do so consistently, justly and very often with an explanation of why. And never forget to let them know that though correction is not pleasant, you do it because you want them to be good and because you love them.

For example, those who suffer broken legs, as several here have this past year, know what physical therapy is. It is painful. It may even be a temptation for us to be resentful of what they "push" us to do. Be when we watch and pay attention, we will see two things. Those who refuse to participate in physical therapy, usually hinder their own recovery in the long run. Those who submit to physical therapy and accept the painful experience as for their good, recover much more health and ability. Those who accept it are the better for it. So it is spiritually with chastening.

What else should we teach our children? About drugs, sex, what kind of friends to hang with, etc. You

may ask, "How do I talk about these things? What should I say?" Try the Proverbs as a starter. Proverbs 1 deals with running with a crowd to do evil (gangs, peer pressure). Proverbs 7 addresses how one will try to seduce another. Proverbs 23 has a section that addresses the folly of drinking alcohol (the most common drug in the world). Start with simply reading these and discussing them. Open a door for discussion with your children so that they will know clearly what is expected of them and why they should or should not do something. Let them know that you are approachable, so that they will come to you when they have problems and concerns in their life. Be involved and you will find that as they grow, they will turn into someone you can respect.

#### PEOPLE TO REMEMBER & PRAY FOR

Marilyn Langford (foot), Joyce Gardner (eyes), Johanna Fletcher, Othena Kinnard, Jo Miller, Wesley Geer, Mag Bumbalough (Life Care 519), Thelma Cunningham, Mary Cox, Monie Petty (breathing difficulties), Dave Poteet (NHC 212), Dorris Williams, Robert & Betty England, Joe Smith, Mike Tenpenny, Thelma Klein, Nathan Hill, DeLeesa Price (expecting) and Alisa Fletcher (expecting). Kenley Streeval, Lydia Poe, Larry Bumbalough, Jake

#### 2007 July

SUNDAY-MORNING	7/1/07	7/8/07	7/15/07	7/22/07	7/29/07
Greeter	Randy White	David Price	Ralph Sims	Mark Welte	Ralph Sims
Announcements	Kevin Blankenship	Michael Fletcher	Randy White	Kevin Blankenship	Matt Eller
Reading	Jack Stafford Eccl 4	Anthony Rece Eccl 5	Micah Eller Eccl 6	Matt Eller Eccl 7	Ben Trute Eccl 8
Song Leader	Harold Frazier	Mark Welte	David Price	Sam Gardner	Chad Sims
Opening Prayer	Michael Fletcher	Randy White	Mark Welte	David Price	Randy White
Lord's Supper Lead Lord's Supper Assist	Mark Welte Chad Sims Ben Trute Micah Eller	Sam Gardner Micah Eller Ben Trute Ralph Sims	Michael Fletcher Jack Stafford Anthony Rece Ben Trute	Randy White Mark Eller Ben Trute Anthony Rece	Sam Gardner Michael Fletcher Micah Eller Anthony Rece
Closing Prayer	Ralph Sims	Jack Stafford	Matt Eller	Micah Eller	Jack Stafford

SUNDAY-EVENING	7/1/07	7/8/07	7/15/07	7/22/07	7/29/07
Opening Prayer	Sam Gardner	K. Blankenship	Mark Eller	Michael Fletcher	Mark Eller
Song Leader	Mark Welte	Chad Sims	Chad Sims	Chad Sims	Doug Hill
Closing Prayer	Mark Eller	Jerry Taylor	Jerry Taylor	Ralph Sims	Jerry Taylor
Lord's Supper Lead	David Price	Sam Gardner	K. Blankenship	Harold Frazier	David Price
Speaker / Invitation		Doug Hill			K. Blankenship
Group	1	2	3	4	4

WEDNESDAY-EVENING	7/4/07	7/11/07	7/18/07	7/25/07
Opening Prayer	David Price	Michael Fletcher	Mark Eller	Doug Hill
Song Leader	Harold Frazier	Harold Frazier	Sam Gardner	Harold Frazier
Closing Prayer	Matt Eller	Jack Stafford	Jerry Taylor	Matt Eller
Invitation	Doug Hill	Doug Hill	Doug Hill	Mark Welte

**Hale, Joshua & Misty Poteet, Ed & Carolyn Williams.**  
**Herbie Sims** (Ralph's brother).

#### THINGS TO REMEMBER

- **Home Bible Study** - Sat. July 7 & 21
- **Door To Door** - Every Tuesday @ 6pm.
- **Business Meeting** - Sun. June 24 & July 29
- **Ladies Class** - 2nd & Last Sunday Each Month.
- **GM** - Raymond Castillo, Oct.14-19, 2007.
- **GM** - Brian Yeager, April 13-18, 2008.
- **GM** - Lanny Smith, Oct.12-17, 2008.

#### **We Invite You To All Our Services!**

Sunday Bible Study	9 am
Sunday Worship	10 am
Sunday Evening Worship	6 pm
Wednesday Evening Bible Study	7 pm

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*"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." (Matt. 7:21)*