

Majoring on the Majors!
Part 10: Getting on the Train!
Slide Notations

We're talking through having kingdom-of-God fullness in our lives... Working thru the 4th of five hindrances to us having it all!

Five Major Hindrances... Money as god! **Lk 16.13 Mt6.33 1Tim 5.9,10** "No fullness there!" Not knowing God is totally knowable! "NFT!" **Eph 3.12-18** Marriages that don't "One-Up!" **Gen 1.26 & 2.7-25 E5.15-35** "NFT!" Kids who don't see the Kingdom! "NFT!" Friends who don't know how to be! "NFT!"

Left off... Hearing from Jesus on the *connection* and *caution* He has for believers regarding kids/generations! **Mt 18.1-14** Saying we take it personal when our spiritual leaders are a negative influence on our kids... *Realizing parents are kids number one connection and spiritual influencers!*

Connection & Caution... Helping 'little ones' is good... for all of us! Choosing things that cause them to stumble is bad... even dangerous! They don't need us to teach them about the "real world" just the **WORLD THAT IS REAL!** There are things/people we need to cut-off if they cause us to model bad things! There are things we need to leave un-done! There is a war we engage against God when we don't! We don't disesteem them/plight knowing little sheep can't find their way home alone! **All this in the context of who is the greatest, biggest, most filled-full in the kingdom of God!**

Asides... Disciples ask: "who is the greatest, biggest, most exceeding in heaven...?" After conversion, "the turn-around..." **v3** Those who do three things... Humble themselves as children... no aim at display, but true filling-out! **v4** Live for the little ones who can't find their way home by themselves! **v5-14** Forgive others of their sins! **v15-35**

Those who humble themselves, live and love like He did are the greatest in heaven! What can be more significant to our kingdom fullness than humbling, loving and living like Him?

Why... Have we accepted less than God's norm for raising our children? We have listened to pervasive voices of Drs. Sigmund, Spock & Phil... And we have three generations to prove that was a huge mistake! Why when God's way predates them all and produces results we like? Because parents turned away to their distractions, lost sight of the connection, no longer feared the caution, and no longer wanted to live/model His ways!

Proverbs 22.6 "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." Many parents have held on to that as a promise rather than a premise! Focusing on the second clause can, and does, produce hope... And it gives us comfort when it doesn't go so well in the middle years...!

Sounds something like, 'if I train them when they're young and they go astray when they're on their own, their early training will bring them back later in life!'

But there is a premise here that carries a much more powerful dynamic than hope, for raising kids who stick!

"Train up..." This is not merely "to teach..." Training includes teaching but only the best teaching includes training! Chanak: to narrow, to imbue, to initiate a child in accordance with his way!

'You giving in smaller part what you have tasted in larger portions!'

“Train up...” help them to do what is at first too much for their strength... Kids inherit our vices!
“Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child!” **Pr22.15** Long before they know guilt/know sin! We teach/lead the way to overcome sin! And chasten when they don't! **H12**

“Train up...” like a gardener does a vine... Pruning, tying, clearing the way for the vine to grow and bear flower/fruit! Train like a PT: don't just teach health, tell others how to work out... show them... initiate the way... model the end product...

“Train up...” According to what is right! God's ways According to child's purpose! Princes for the throne; Soldiers for the field; Proclaimers for the world stage. According to character! Each one understood and approached in ways that make a difference!

“a child...” Blank slate: to learn truth, develop habits & strengths! May not have complete theology but have can demonstrate beautiful faith! “Of such is the kingdom of God!”

“in the course of life he should go...” Not only the ‘path of the good book...’ “I took you to church, didn't you listen?” *Intentional aid provided for the revealed character, calling and capacity of the child!*
Trainers part to know, watch, judge, gauge, encourage, strengthen and start over again for finest results!

“so that when he is old he will not depart from it...” “narrow, then initiate the course of life and mode of action he should go and assuredly when he is old he will not turn off, decline, rebel from it!” If we will do our part in training we engage for them a lifelong fullness-of-God premise!

This isn't a promise of return as much as it is the premise for never leaving!

Norm's War... World norms: let the horses run wild and see where they end up! Bite every apple to see what kind of fruit they like best! Sample all the candy in the store to find what satisfies their sweet tooth! Give them as many experiences as they can handle/see which way they turn! If they get off track down the road, a little religion may help them out...

The problem is that it's the kid and the world narrowing them on their way!

Norm's War... Word norm: parents/influencers: know the way; discover the way to catch their attention when they are children and start them on the path so that you can look back over a long life and see that they are still there!

“It is a far better thing that we do to form a life than it is to wait on and wade thru a reformed life!”