

What Are You Looking At?

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Speaker: **James Bronner**

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James Bronner: How many of you know that when you're a child of God, people can't cheat (ph) you out of what God has for you.

Female: You are listening to brothersoftheword.com. This is a message titled, "What Are You Looking At?" by James Bronner. This message is number 8250. That's 8250. Listen to over a thousand free messages on brothersoftheword.com.

(Music Playing)

Female: And now, for 8250, "What Are You Looking At?"

James Bronner: Welcome to Brothers of the Word, because brother, you need the word. And today is Father's Day here at the Ark. So, if you're a mother, a father, a father-in-law, a step-father, step-mother, an uncle, an aunt, or you're just a mentor of neighbor's kids, or at work, co-worker's kids, tune in for this message because I'm going to give you some great parenting tips and advice today that'll help make your children be able to reach their potential.

We don't get a lot of teaching, we don't get it in school, and a lot of times, we don't even get it in church on how to be a great parent. So, don't change the dial or the internet stream today. I have a word for you from the Lord. Amen, amen.

And on this Father's Day, today, as a father, I'm honored to share one of the titles of God, that is a Father. He's our Heavenly Father. He is the ultimate father and many of us, we no longer have physical fathers in the earth realm. And many of us may have never had a good father in the earth realm, but we thank God that all of us have a good ever-present father in our Heavenly Father. One without spot or blemish, one who won't leave us when times get tough, but will be there with us through thick and thin. Through the ups and down. We thank God for being that type of father unto us.

And I'm going to start today from a passage in the Book of Genesis 30:25-43. I look back over my message as I was sitting now and say, "There's a lot of scripture in this." God may have known that some of you may not have gone the bible you need in this past week. So, He had me to deliver it to you today. So, at least you're going to get some today. Amen.

I'll be reading from the NRV Version, Genesis 30:25-43. The word of the Lord reads, "After Rachel gave birth to Joseph, Jacob said to Laban, 'Send me on my way so I can go back to my own homeland. Give me my wives and children for whom I have served you and I will be on my way. You know how much work I've done for you.'" But Laban said to him, "If I found favor in your eyes, please stay. I have learned by divination that the LORD has blessed me because of you." He added, "Name your wages and I will pay them." Jacob said to him, "You know how I have worked for you and how your livestock has fared under my care. The little you had before I came has increased greatly and the LORD has blessed you wherever I have been. But now, when may I do something for our own household, what shall I give you?" "What shall I give you?" he asked.

"Don't give me anything," Jacob replied. "But if you will do this one thing from me, I will go on tending your flocks and watching over them: Let me go through all your flocks today and remove from them ever speckled or spotted sheep, every dark-colored lamb and every spotted or speckled goat that they may be my wages. And my honesty will testify for me in the future, whenever you check on the wages you have paid me. Any goat in my possession that is not speckled or spotted, or any lamb that is not dark-colored, will be considered stolen." "Agreed," said Laban. "Let it be as you have said. That same day, he removed all the male goats that were streaked or spotted, and all the speckled or spotted female goats (all that had white on them) and all that dark-colored lambs, and he placed them in the care of his sons."

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That he there is talking about Laban. It's kind of low down. And so, he made the deal there with Jacob that he could have as his payment all of the speckled and spotted animals. So, he went and took all of them that day.

Continuing in Verse 36. "Then he put a three-day journey between himself and Jacob, while Jacob continued to tend the rest of Laban's flocks. Jacob, however, took fresh-cut branches from poplar, almond and plane trees and made white stripes on them by peeling the bark and exposing the white inner wood of the branches. Then he placed the peeled branches in all the watering troughs, so that they would be directly in front of the flocks when they came to drink. When the flocks were in heat and came to

drink, they made it in front of the branches. And they bore young that were streaked or speckled, or spotted.”

“Jacob set apart the young of the flock by themselves, but made the rest face the streaked and dark-colored animals that belonged to Laban. Thus, he made separate flocks for himself and did not put them with Laban’s animals. Whenever the stronger females were in heat, Jacob would place the branches in the troughs in front of the animals so that they would mate near the branches, but if the animals were weak, he would not place them there. So, the weak animals went to Laban and the strong ones to Jacob.” I tell you, what goes around comes around, didn’t it? “In this way, the man grew exceedingly prosperous and came to own large flocks, and female and male servants, and camels and donkeys.” And I speak to you today from the subject of “What Are You Looking At?” What are you looking at?

Turn to your neighbor on one side and look them deep in the eyes and I ask him, “What are you looking at?” Turn to your other side and look at him in the eyes, ask them the same question, “What are you looking at?” And in this story, Jacob and his uncle, Laban. Laban had cheated Jacob. Out of all of his work in life, he cheated him with his daughters (ph). He cheated him with his wages. And even tried to cheat him after this deal with the animals. But how many of you know that when you’re a child of God, people can’t cheat you out of what God has for you.

We see here in the story that Jacob had the wisdom to know that animals reproduced after the image that they saw while they came to drink water and refreshed themselves, and he placed these stripe branches so that they could see them as they drink and as they mated. And the offspring came out matching the image of these branches. The reason that Laban saw readily agreed to Jacob’s deal was that normally, sheep were all white and the goats back then were all black. So, he figured that he would get the bulk of the livestock that were produced spotted and stripe.

Jacob knew and had confidence that his plan would work because God had already shown him in a dream. In Genesis 31, starting at Verse 10, this is Jacob. It says, “In breeding season, I once had a dream in which I looked up and saw that the male goats mating with the flock were streaked, speckled or spotted. The angel of God said to me in the dream, ‘Jacob.’ I answered, ‘Here am I.’

And he said, ‘Look up and see that all the male goats mating with the flock or streaked, speckled or spotted, for I have seen all that Laban has been doing to you. I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed a pillar and where you made a vow to me. Now, leave this land at once and go back to your native land.’”

So, Jacob didn’t have to worry when he saw old cricked Laban taking those stripe and spotted animals to give to his own children. He knew that God had shown him that every spotted and speckled animal would be mine, that they all grow, they all multiply, that he’ll make me rich no matter how tricky my uncle is, no matter how many tricks he has up his sleeve, I know a God that can undo every trick of the enemy because he had a dream and seen it ahead of time.

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He was able to plan and be blessed. Jacob was increased because he walked in what God showed him. And we don’t have to be perfect. The animals had spots and streaks and marks on them. They weren’t perfect looking. They look like they were of less value to man, but we do need to follow what God shows us. He’ll take that which doesn’t look perfect, which looks like is of less value, which has some blemishes on it, which don’t have a perfect record, which don’t have a perfect upbringing, which don’t have perfect talents when all those have said, “That’s not good enough.” He’ll take these animals, these creatures in His plan, and He’ll make it more than enough. And He increased at beyond what Jacob and the onlookers could even imagine, that He will take even with your blemishes just the way you are.

If you’ll follow God’s vision in what He shown for you, He will increase your territory as you follow His will and His word, and His way. Notice the order of events here. First, God showed Jacob visibly in a dream what would happen. Second, Jacob placed the vision physically before those under his care, then that which had been seen in a dream in the spiritual and doing refreshing in the natural manifested in the offspring.

How do we apply this story and this parable to fatherhood and parenting today? Just like Jesus, He broke down the complicated Jewish law which was 613 laws and commandments, (00:11:58) into two great ones. And if I had to use the same strategy and thought about all of the parenting advice that I have received

through the years and all of the things I've witnessed from my mother and father, and all of my brothers and brothers-in-law, and look all of the wisdom that I've gotten of parenting, all of the books I've read in. People are not going to remember a list of 10 things and just like Jesus, if I had to break it down into two big ones, I thought about what would those two big ones be.

Here's what I came up with. The number one rule of parenting would be to model the type of man that you would want your daughter to date and your son to become and vice versa for women, to model the type of woman that you would want your daughter to become or the type of woman that you will want your son to date or marry.

The second big rule would be to spend enough time with your children where the model would be strongly imprinted on them and they would know that they are loved. Can you imagine how much trouble it would keep parents out of and they just did that first one? They got rid to do something that was questionable. And if a man said, "Would I want my son to do this?" Or if he said, "Would I want my daughter to date a man who's about to do what I'm about to do?" Can you imagine how much trouble that would keep us as parents out of if we thought about that?

So, next time, when you're questioning something, just use that test on it. If you're a woman, say, "Would I want my daughter to grow up and do this, if she's watching me, even if she's not here right now? If she's watching me physically, would I want to show this example or would I want my son to be stuck with a woman like how I'm acting right now?"

I tell you, that's a serious filter if we'll use it as parents. These two rules, they not only apply to fathers even though it's Father's Day, but it applies to mothers, applies to step-fathers and step-mothers. And even older siblings because they set an example for younger siblings as well. I can't remember, even in our home, the siblings play a big a part in the development of the younger kids.

I remember our daughter, Genesis, which is a second girl and our son, Joseph, he was trying to boss around the house and telling her to do this and that, and he's figured and says, he's the older brother, she ought to listen to him. And she him, she said, "Joseph, you're not the boss of me." She said, "Jamie is." And Jamie is only one year old, and we were expecting her to say, "You

know daddy, mommy.” She said, “No, Jamie is the boss, I mean not you.” So, it showed us the power of an older sibling.

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Many of us, we first understand that power of example through an older sibling, but it's not through the positive way, it's through the negative. How many of you had siblings and they will just look at you to bother you, to mess with you? Parents, they wouldn't understand as they're like, “They are not touching you, they're just looking,” but there was something about the power of what they were looking that. They're just same like it was putting off some vibe that were just touching on us, just tickling.

If they wanted to take it to a whole another level, they would point at you. They're like, they would just add another level of aggravation to it and we had that with our children. And I know many parents can relate in to a parent that just seemed like if they're not putting their hands on you, it got to be all right. But to a child, it seems like that stare is just doing something to you, like it's just invading your personal space or something. So, siblings play even a big role in the upbringing of a child. Let me show you another model of these two most effective parenting laws and scripture.

In John Chapter 5, Jesus healed a man on the Sabbath and because He did it on the Sabbath, the religious leaders of that day wanted to kill Him. Listen to what Jesus told them in Verses 19 through 21. Jesus gave them this answer, “Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, and he will show him even greater works than these, so that you will be amazed. For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it.” Jesus, here in this passage, did only what He saw His Father do. The most powerful human that ever walked this planet did only what He saw His Father do. So, the Father even had to model the behavior for Jesus.

Then, Verse 20 says, “The father loves the Son and shows him all he does.” Time is the best way to show a child that you love them. And for somebody to you show you all that they've done, you've got to spend a good bit of time with them so you can hear, see in

this passage that God himself modeled behavior for Jesus. And then He spent time with Him and showed Him that He loved Him.

So, it was imprinted on the son and that's why Jesus would tell people that if you want to see the Father, "If you've seen me, you've seen my daddy because He spent so much time and was one when with them that when you saw one, you saw the other." And we have a lot of youth that got awards and honors today. And as the youth pastor, I want to just break it down a little simpler for our young people today in a parable that they could understand on just the power of example.

My mother would tell us that we couldn't dance and we all grew up with that, and we were blessed with a lot of gift and talent, but dancing wasn't one of them. We just didn't come out with great rhythm, but I still dance with my daughters from time to time just to make them laugh and they had this little dance that the young people were doing. I think it's called the floss or the backpacking. So, I play around with my kids and I was asking my youngest daughter, Jade. "Jade, show daddy how to do this little dance. I see all the kids doing it on social media." She was trying to explain it to me and she would say, "Dad, just move your hip from side to side and then move your arms from side to side."

I was trying, I can't do this dance. So, she saw dad didn't have the best rhythm. So, what she did, as a parable of even what I'm teaching, she stood in front of me and she said, "Dad, I can't explain it, but watch me and you do it with me." So, she said, "Dad, you just start moving your hips from side to side. I know you don't have the best rhythm, but just look at me and just move you hip from side to side." She said, "Put your arms on the side. I know you can do that, Daddy. You don't have the best rhythm, but you can do that." Then she started and counted off with me. "Just watch me," she said, "One, two, three. One, two, three." She thought, "Go on, faster and faster."

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Even though I didn't have the best rhythm, I was looking at Jade. I was like, "One, two, three" and I kept going with it, and it was an example that even if your children aren't born with certain things. If you see they're not good with managing money, you might not be to tell her why they don't need to buy these expensive shoes, but you need to sit them down. Show them how you work

a budget and just say, "Watch my mom and dad." Get them started and say, "One, two, three. One two, three."

Even though they might be going through issues in their relationships, the school is not going to teach them how to deal with love and broken heartedness. You sometimes can't put it in words, but you can say, "Mom and dad, we have disagreement sometimes," and you can begin to show them and involve them in how you get through the disagreements. And before you know it, they're watching you and they're, "One, two, three. One two, three."

You can't just tell them how to pray. Sometimes, you got to put them on their knees next to you at night. And as they listen and hear mom and dad praying unto God and developing a relationship, and as they woke and see the rhythm and the tonality of your prayer, then they'll imprint something on the inside of them. So, even though they might not be the best at praying naturally, but as they just listen to you, they'll be able to follow along with the rhythm of mother and father. And before you know it, I was doing this dance one, two, three, one two, three and she said, "Go faster and faster." I couldn't do it as fast as her, but I did the best I could with it, but it just taught me that watching her that I could do it. I might not could have done it as good as her, but I was doing it better than I thought I could, by watching the example versus just listening and that's how we are as parents.

If we could just show them and model it before the eyes. And even if they don't have our same talent in the area, they all begin to see the stride and the rhythm of our lives and how we do it and they'll pick up just off of our movements. So, we thank Jade for showing her dad a little bit how to do that dance. And we are to model the behavior and character we won't reproduce in our offspring, but it also helps if we place models before their eyes related to their calling. For example, my daughter, Genesis, she wants to go on to the psychology field and all next week she'll be going to a psychology camp in Ohio to sit at the feet of those working in the field, and to have the field of psychology before her eyes for an entire week.

My son Joseph, he's called to be an entrepreneur and over the last week, and he started the business models for over 70 business that he could start and college. And my daughter Jasmine, she

wants to be a chemist, so monthly we order this science experiment, kids to the house. So, she can began to model chemistry before her eyes at a young age and you can even imagine it when you go to a restaurant and sometime you read dishes on the menu and you read the ingredients, but when you pitcher of Tang you said, I don't know, but that looks good right there. And even Google recognize and they've added a new thing to Google map when you pull up a restaurant that will actually show you pitchers of the dishes that are popular because they understand that reading an ingredient of a dish is different than seeing it. And that's why restaurant sometimes even when you fool and at the end of the meal, they'll bring out the desert train.

You know, there's one thing to read about this desert, but if they bring it and just seated in front of your eyes and they say, "You sure you don't want any of this in front of you? Are you sure you don't want this apple pie? We got the ice cream it goes all over and then they come out hot and by the team you get to look at this tray, (00:24:31) miss some of that. So, the seeing has a power that the words don't have in and off themselves and even in the area food is important in your homes to even eat at the dinner table together as much as possible. We have policy in our home that when we're eating at the dinner table together that you can't be on cellphones and they have to cut the television off because even if you're eating together, if you don't put some rules around it, they'll still be distracted by all of the electronic things in their lives.

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If you notice even with Jacob, he placed the streaked stalks where they were nourished together in that place. Children who do not eat dinner with their parents at least twice a week, research found that they're 40% more likely to be overweight, 40% more likely. My daughter, Genesis, she's taking a creative writing class over this summer. Even in writing, when they teach you that even though there are not pictures or video, one of the fundamental rules that they tell you is to show it, don't tell it. What they mean is to let the reader picture the scene in their head without telling them the facts about that scene. For example, instead of just saying a character was tall, you would say that that character when others were talking, you would describe how they would have to look up to see his face or if you went through

a door house, he would duct going in the door. You would paint this picture for the reader.

Another example of telling would be a writer saying Allan was sad as his girlfriend was about to leave, but showing would be Allan wiped the tears from his face with his sleeve as his girlfriend began to board the train. So, you're painting a picture versus telling it and they want you to describe a picture of the scene, so the reader can see it in their head. So, if they want professional writers to show it and not tell it and they've just using words. If they want them to show it and not tell it, what do you think is most important with children? To properly prepare in the morning when you're getting ready for work and you have to do your make-up and your hair and get our outfit ready. What are you all looking in? The mirror and the mirror of life is the same way. To properly prepare, you have to find something or someone to mirror.

You have to be able to see it to properly prepare and know what it looks like. And if you don't have it in the natural then you can find it in the word and we have to have the right image before us and spend enough time with that image to imprint on us. And we observed God's image through his word. Looking at his son's life and through prayer and when we worship him, we focus on his glory and his majesty and the character of who he is. So, in this time of worship, replacing the image of God in our spiritual line and it begins to imprint upon us. So, we all have a perfect example of how-to live-in Jesus through his word. And they say that your income will most likely be the average of your five closest friends, do you know what that is? Because you see what your friends buy in the name brands and you see what they invest in. You hear how they talk about money and their ideologist about money.

When you spend a lot of time with this people and you hear how they think, you long enough when you listen to it. It began to imprint on you and you'll find yourself with some of the same similar habits as your friend. And we naturally mirror whatever we're around long enough. You know when somebody around you yawn, if you see somebody at work and they -- it's just something about it. It makes your mouth feel like have to stretch and yawn. Some of you all are just watching me right now and like wanted to -- and it's because you have this mirror neurons that they mimic whatever they see and too many people today, they've

replaced this role models that used to be mother and father and community leaders with Instagram influences as their role models.

The research shows from it that the longer kids stayed looking at these fake models with fake lives, the more depress they become. We need to even keep a model of what we want in our lives on our bedroom walls to look at. And I remember when I was younger, my mother going into the room of a young man, we were over their home to visit his mother and my mother was kind of touring the house and she went in this room of this young man and he was kind of promiscuous at the time and trying to handle fornication and she says, "Son, you got to get this half-naked women pictures off of your wall. No wonder you're sleeping around with all this women," and she began just yanking pictures off the wall because mother understood that if this teenager look at this half-naked women, when he woke up and when he went to bed that lust was going to stir on the inside of him.

00:30:01

When I was in high school and college, I kept my wall covered with positive posters. I had my goals all written and printed out with due dates beside each goal. At that time, C. Elijah was teaching a group of men called "The Disciples" or "The Disciples of Christ." He gave us an assignment taken from the Book of Hebrews, Chapter 11. I don't even know if he even remembers this. This was back over 20 years ago. And he said to take this Chapter 11 of Hebrews and to put your name in it at the end of it. So, I'm going to read you some snippets here so you can understand how it goes.

And it says, "By faith Abel brought God a better offering than Cain did. By faith he was commended as righteous, when God spoke well of his offerings. By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death. By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. And so from this one man, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore."

By faith, James Bronner graduated from Georgia Tech. By faith, he married the woman God sanctioned for his life and they raised children who feared God. By faith, he became a leader after God's own heart. And I put the scripture up from C. Elijah's teaching on my wall and had it in front of my eyes and by faith, God brought every one of those things to pass, but I looked at it coming and going every day. "Do you remember that message, C. Elijah?" He still remembers, so he knows he at least has had one good student. Amen.

Then I put it into effect. So, I give you that assignment today. Go and insert yourself into Hebrews 11. And believe that if God did it for Noah, if He did it for Abraham, if He did it for Enoch, if He did it for Pastor James and He can do it for you. So, go and put that on your walls. But more importantly, within your walls, become the model of the character you want your children to have. Then spend enough time with them to imprint that model on them and let them feel your love because it takes both of these if you're the model but you're gone all the time. We don't spend enough time with them. They'll never see enough of that nature--that character of how you handle things to be able to replicate that--vice versa--if you spend a lot of time with them, but you're not demonstrating the model you want them to follow, then they're going to follow what they see and go the opposite way so you've got to have both. They both work hand in hand.

So, I thank you today for tuning in to Brothers of the Word. We pray blessings upon your family, upon your fatherhood, upon your motherhood today as we raise children that fear the Lord, that are called according to His purposes. God bless you. Amen.

And the last thing we want to do since we had a lot of graduates, we want to just say a special prayer over our high school graduates, that all the high school graduates that you'll come back down. This is a very important phase of life because many of them are leaving home and this is the time when youth get the most out of church. When they go away from home and they feel like they're old enough to do their own thing and they want to just be free and many of them get away from their roots during this season of life, and it's a time of searching where they try to find themselves and find out their purpose upon the earth and they're going from being a teenager to an adult doing this transition.

Many of them switch majors three or four times. That's a time of searching and becoming who they will become. If all of the ministers would come and just touch one of our graduates itching as the ministers' come, make sure we got everybody covered. If you all could just touch the back of -- make sure each graduate is touched. And in the ordinance, if you just stretch your hands toward these, our youth, we want to just pray over.

Right now, Heavenly Father, we thank you, Lord, for these gifts that you've blessed us with and these graduates, oh Lord. We thank You, first of all, oh Lord, that they are graduates for bringing them through high school, oh Lord. We don't want to take that for granted, oh Father. We thank You, Lord, for the gifts and talents that you've placed on the inside of them, oh Lord.

00:35:07

We just pray right now, oh Lord, that as they go to another level and stage of life, oh Lord, that you'll stir up the gifts that you placed on the inside of them, oh Father. Those, oh Lord, that might not be a 100% sure on their calling in life, oh Lord. We pray, oh Lord, right now, as these ministers touch them, oh Father. We pray, oh Lord, that you'll bring clarity, oh Father. You'll bring clarity, oh Father, doing this season of their lives, oh Lord. We pray, oh Lord, that you'll allow them to see clearer than they've ever seen before, oh Lord.

We pray, oh Lord, that that purpose, oh Father, that they were born with, oh Father, would begin to stir on them, oh Lord. That their interest would be drawn onto it, oh Lord. That they'll be drawn to the right people, the right situations, oh Father. To even give them their calling, oh Father. We pray, oh Father, over their decision-making, Father. We pray over every mind before me right now, oh Lord, that they'll make good and wise decisions, Godly decisions, oh Lord. Not just good decisions, oh Lord, but Godly decisions, oh Father. That they'll lean not onto their own understanding, oh Lord. That they'll lean not onto men's understanding, oh Lord, but they'll lean, oh Father, to Thy understanding, oh Lord, to Thy will, oh Father.

We pray that they'll seek, oh Lord. You, oh Lord, when they rise up and when they go to sleep, oh Lord, I pray, oh Lord, that you'll place a yearning, oh Lord, deep down in their belly, oh Lord, that they'll yearn of You, oh Lord, more than social media, oh Lord.

That they'll yearn for You, oh Lord, more than being popular, oh Lord. That they'll yearn for You, oh Lord, more than financial gain, oh Lord, or titles, oh Lord.

We pray, oh Lord, that You'll place a yearning, oh Lord. That even as the dear(ph) (00:36:57) after the wall, that they'll be as such towards You, oh Lord, and Your righteousness, oh Lord. We pray, oh Lord, that You'll lead and guide and protect them, oh Lord. We pray that you'll place them around the right people, oh Lord. That You'll give them the right relationships, oh Father, for their life, oh Lord. That You'll allow them to see in others, oh Lord, what they may be hiding from them at first, oh Lord. That You'll give them divine discernment, oh Lord, to see those that are good for them and those that mean them harm, oh Father.

I pray, oh Lord, that You'll give them favor, oh Lord, with every teacher in school, oh Father, as they go to college, oh Father. That You'll allow, oh Lord, Your angels to go with them that even when mom and dad can't go, oh Lord. That, Lord, You will be there with them always, oh Father. I pray, oh Lord, that their character and values, oh Lord, will not stray, oh Lord, from the way that they have been brought up, oh Lord, from the doctrines that they've been told, oh Lord, the values, oh Lord, and Your word, oh Father.

I pray, oh Lord, that even when they try to go to bed, oh Lord, without praying and without studying that You'll shake something with them, oh Lord, to wake them up and make sure, oh Father, that they stay rooted, oh Father, in Your word, oh Lord, and in Your proud life and communion with You, oh Lord. We thank You, Lord, for these graduates, oh Lord. We thank You, Lord, for launching them forth, oh Father. Thank you for every mission, oh Lord, every destiny that is before us, oh Father. Thank you for greatness on the inside of them, oh Lord. Thank you, Father. Thank you, Father. Thank you, Father. Thank you, Lord. We pray that they'll be sharing(ph) lights, oh Lord. To other young people, oh Father, that they'll represent You, oh Father. Thank you, Lord. The precious name of Jesus, we pray, Amen.

Let's get (00:38:57) for that awesome message of both word and most importantly, examples. He lives and breathes what he just talked about. And it manifests in the results. So, when you see seven children, and when you see four of them with straight A averages, and you see a wife standing up on his speech, that tells

you a whole lot. So, it's just the evident of things that you're not just hearing a message. My daddy always used to say, "I'd rather see a sermon any day than you." So, it is a power behind just the example and his story began even with the story of Laban and Jacob.

The Bible says that a good man leads an inheritance for his children's children, which means a good man leaves an inheritance for his grandchildren. And when you look at that story, Laban was the father-in-law, which meant he was stealing cattle from his grandchildren.

00:40:08

So, the thing gets deep and sometimes greed can get a hold to folks so much that he was stealing from his grandchildren. Good and evil has never changed and you have to make up your mind which in you're going be on to first set them up, to spend the time and it makes a huge difference of what you see and Laban see it. I am blessed because of you. See, Pastor James is my business partner. Now, God has blessed me, but just in a (00:40:51). I'm blessed in business because of Pastor James. He imparts that same spirit of camaraderie. So, Minister Stephanie, I understand why you stood up because it makes a difference and all it takes.

I had a boat once. It had two engines it at 240 horse power motors. That boat went (00:41:11), so it takes two motors. You can run it on one, but it goes so much better when it's two end motors working together. So, he blessed me. I'm blessed because of Pastor James. Just being my business has taken it to a whole new level. Who you partner with, there's a world of difference where you go, no question about that. So, I thank him for the message, for the example just as what he has done with his children. He is an example and I'm the older brother, but he has an example to me as an older brother what a father should be like, what a man should be like, what a businessman should be like.

He lives a life that is not just talk. It's example more than talk. He doesn't even talk a whole lot. So, it's a life that is lived, that is valuable and I know without question God is pleased with him in levels I can't really ready to change. We're getting ready to move into some old realms of God's blessing, just as when you look at the story of Jacob, when Jacob left, he went back to meet his brother, Esau, and he brought his brother, Esau, all the staff and

Esau says some of the greatest thing. He said, “Brother, I don’t even need it, I got enough, (00:42:37) so much I don’t even need.”

When brothers are together, when husband and wives are together, when parents and children are together, you can turn the world upside down. When a daddy provides an image of a son, and people, I can tell you, kids watch you. You don’t even know they watch you. The stuff you think they don’t know, they do know. They can feel the vibration of stuff. They know, they’re not stupid, they know and it infuses into their very behavior, they’re going to behave the same way they see daddy and mama behave, same way they see you handle the situation, that’s the way they’re going to have, just as those stalks in front of those animals made them speckled and spotted.

So, our children model after us. Those two primary things, he gave you the two laws of parent. Number one, be what you want your children to be. Don’t tell them they got to be it. They don’t listen to you. I see even the way they look like you, they really do, they look like you. They really do. They had this billboard up. They made a lot of folk mad. What they had is billboard up and they were talking about why the children were overweight and had this (00:44:06), but basically what it was saying was that, “Look, your children, you’re looking like this.” They’re going to look like you physically, mentally, spiritually and even financially. They’re going to look like you.

So, rule number one, you be what you want your children to look like. And rule number two, you have to spend enough time in front of them to see. You have to spend more time with them to see the good than you do with bad. They see the bad really quick. They don’t have to see that for 10 seconds. They see the bad really quick. It’s the good that you have to be around them a lot to see the good. The bad, they hear you cursing one time and it just stick in their head. They’re going to hear you curse for one time and they just stick. You know what they said, one time. The bad will stick, it’s the good you have to be around them a lot.

00:45:02

You really get it into them. So, this Father’s Day message was truly awesome. We all learn, we all continue to learn and we continue to grow. And I do believe that for some of us, this is going to have change because He is one of the best, if not, the best

fathers that I know, because the fruit is (00:45:22) and you can just look at the fruit.

His son used to come over and run with me early in the morning and he would get up and he could be there at 4:30 in the morning. I said, "What kind of son would get up at 4:30 in the morning to come run with an older?" but he will be there at 4:30 in the morning. What he saw is daddy working out, his daddy is in good shape. It's makes a difference. What they see, they do. It's as simple as that and you can't get around that fact. You just can't get around it. Children, if Jesus couldn't do it, how can we. And sometimes, our children will have to get over some things that we did in the negative, but as much as possible, try to present the (00:46:07) that you want your child to be good or you do some, just ask yourself that real simple question, "Do I want my son doing this? Do I want my daughter doing this?" Or, "Would I want my son marrying a woman doing this?" Or, "Would I want my daughter marrying a man doing this?" But sometimes, that sea (ph) comes back in a whole lot of different ways. So, again, I thank him so much for that message that he brought today. It is powerful. It is impacting him for every father and mother, those two prime rules that he gave.

Number one, be the model of what you want your children to be. Number two, spend enough time in front of them so they can see the model. Some of our children have not seen mama and daddy. They haven't seen us in front of the Lord. They see you in church and trust me they know, they know when you aren't going to church, they know. They know the priority that you place God in your life. They know and they will see this. I know when I went away to college.

Pastor James was just right that when you leave high school and go away to college, and I did the same. I was like, "I'm so glad to get out this house, I'm so glad." I'm just being honest, I was so glad to get to college because I didn't have to go church because my mama drove me to church, my daddy drove me to church. We were there at church. I was there at church on Sunday and Wednesday. So, when I got away to college, I was just glad to get away, but I had seen it. I saw mama do it, I saw daddy, I had seen it and because I had seen it, I never see my mama lying up in bed on Sunday morning, never, because I had seen it. Even when I got on Wednesday, I don't even I been to church too much. I had seen it and because I had seen it, by the time I got to my

second year, there was something on it and raised up a child in the way that they should go and when they are old, they will not depart from it because I had seen it over and over.

I just remember on one time, I've seen it on Father's Day or Mother's Day, or Christmas or Easter over and over and over and over and over, because I had seen it and I found myself not just in church, I was in the hall in this church. I'm sure I was. I wasn't just in the (00:48:45) holding this church and I went to that. It was one of their most faithful years for the last three years of my school and they're inviting me to come back and when I went back to visit, they said, "You, we saw you. You come up here deliver the message." I go, "What in the world?" People, I'm telling you, these kids, they're going to do what they see you do and they grab the negatives from it than they do the positive. They just do it, but that's the way the world is. That's why bad news travels faster than good news. Make sure that you follow the two things Pastor James told you.

Number one, be what you want your children to be. Don't tell them to be it. Be what you want your children to be and you spend enough time so they can see you and they know it, they know without question. Is there anyone today you want to give your life to Christ. They know when you're given your life truly to Christ, they know, trust me they know. They know when mom and dad is serious about Christ, they know so, if you truly want to make a change and you want to dedicate your life to our Lord and savior, Jesus Christ, I can do nothing --

00:50:00

And I don't need you. I can do nothing that I don't see my daddy do.

Bow your head. Dear Heavenly Father, I thank You for my brother. I thank You for the example that he has shown. Lord, I thank You for giving me him. Father, help us all to do better. I don't ask to be perfect, just help me to do better. Help me to be the example and to spend the time so that my children can see and know and so that I can say I want them to be just like me, even better. I want them to be where they can say, "I do what I saw my daddy do." I want them to be in You, Father, and for them to be in You, I need to walk in You better. Help me that I may help them.

Father, may Your blessing be over us all, over the fathers, over the mothers, over the grandfathers and the grandmothers, the uncles and the aunts, may it be over us all, over the children who is our future in thy Son, Jesus' name, we pray, Amen.

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