

Judges 2:10-12

When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation arose after them who did not know the LORD nor the work which He had done for Israel. Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served the Baals; and they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt; and they followed other gods from among the gods of the people who were all around them, and they bowed down to them; and they provoked the LORD to anger.

In the book of Judges, Joshua took over leading the children of Israel into the Promised Land. And as you read on in the book, you read of nation after nation being destroyed by God and the Children of Israel. And with those defeats, the Israelites not only had the land, but everything that was in the land, all the homes, the wells dug by others, the vineyards and farm lands full of crops that were planted by others, the animals, (sheep, goats, camels, bulls, etc.) all the gold and silver jewelry as well as the idols made of gold and silver that could had been melted down to make other things. Yes, GOD had blessed them big time with the land and all that was in the land.

God also blessed them with children of their own, and with that you would think they would had taught their children about all the blessings of God and how He provided for them, as well as God's law for them to live by. But as you read on, it seems that was not the case, because it says in today's verses. ***“another generation arose after them who did not know the LORD nor the work which He had done for Israel.”***

So if you think about it, God has saved you from slavery, and working your butt off seven days a week, nonstop and being beaten if you didn't do a good job, and you had little shacks to live in and barely enough food to survive, and the food you had wasn't even the best of the land. Instead God turned everything around and provided you with everything you could only dream of ever having, and the results on your side is that your children ***“did not know the LORD nor the work which He had done for Israel.”***

When I read that, I have to think that this was not written “to” those children, like they had done something wrong, but was written as instruction “for” those children who had their own children by now, instructing them what not to do, or so that they would not to make the same mistakes their parents made. I have to wonder if the parents were so busy with serving the Lord and reaping the Lord's blessings that they did not take the time to teach their children about the Lord and all He had done for them, but rather about how the Lord gave them stuff.

So, we need to read this as a parent, and think about what we are teaching our children and grandchildren in regards to the Lord?

Do I only teach them how to be good so that they can have stuff from the Lord if they are?
Do I teach them to tithe so that God will give back to them even more?

Do I teach them to go to church because it's what dad and mom does and we want our kids to do the same thing also and God will bless them if they do.

Do I teach them that Jesus died for "me"?

On the other hand, what am I not teaching them that I should be teaching them?

Am I not teaching them how God had provided me with a job and will do the same for them; therefore, I give back to Him in thanks for what He has given me, not so I can get more from Him?

Am I not teaching them about how God has gotten me through some really tough times in my life, giving specifics of what He has done?

Am I not teaching them how Jesus has saved all and what He actually went through on the cross for not just me, but for the whole world, taking the whole Christianity focus off of myself and letting them know it's not all about self, but rather about all?

Am I not teaching them how God has provided some really nice things for us as a family, but also how to take care of His blessing and use them to bless others?

These things and more are what we all need to ask ourselves as parents, or even future parents, about what we are teaching our children about God, because as I look around at a lot of these new churches and the things they teach; Yes they teach about Jesus, and the cross, and even salvation, but they also teach that it was all done for "you", which takes our eyes off the fact that God did it for the entire world, and if we don't see it that way, then we make Christianity all about me (ourselves) and not we (others).

Jesus taught us to "deny ourselves" and not to make any of it about ourselves.

† **Matthew 16:24-25** *Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it."*

Yet we teach our children that it's all about them, and what Jesus did for them, and what they can get from God, and because we do, right now there is a "***another generation arose after them who did not know the LORD nor the work which He had done.***" Instead of teaching them what Jesus did for all, and what we can do for others, not just ourselves, and what we can give back to God instead of taking from Him

It's time for the church and Christian families to get back to being a family who follows God with their whole hearts, seeking His will for the betterment of others and not ourselves, and stop being families who order God around, wanting Him to bend to our needs, instead of seeking His will for us and our families and how we can help and do for others.

† **Mark 12:29-31** *Jesus answered him, "The first of all the commandments is: 'Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one. And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.'*

This is the first commandment. And the second, like it, is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these.'

- † ***Deuteronomy 4:29-31*** *But from there you will seek the LORD your God, and you will find Him if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul. When you are in distress, and all these things come upon you in the latter days, when you turn to the LORD your God and obey His voice (for the LORD your God is a merciful God), He will not forsake you nor destroy you, nor forget the covenant of your fathers which He swore to them.*

- † ***1 Chronicles 28:9 (MSG)*** *And you, Solomon my son, get to know well your father's God; serve him with a whole heart and eager mind, for GOD examines every heart and sees through every motive. If you seek him, he'll make sure you find him, but if you abandon him, he'll leave you for good.*

- † ***Judges 2:10 (MSG)*** *Eventually that entire generation died and was buried. Then another generation grew up that didn't know anything of GOD or the work he had done for Israel.*