

Judges 2:10

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.

This morning, my teenage son came downstairs and looked kind of sad. I asked what was wrong, and he said that he just had a bad day at work yesterday, and that the entire day just seemed bad (Haven't we all had one of those days?). Also that he was hoping that after a good nights sleep things would feel better, but they didn't.

So what I did tell him? Well I told him to call his girlfriend and go shopping and stay out extra late tonight playing video games with his buddies.... Wait, NO, that's not what I told him. Yet how many will we give that kind of advise to their children, which is worldly advise.

When you read today's devotional verse, that's what was going on, where the Israelites did not tell their children about God and all the wonderful things He had done for them, and how He had lead them and provided for them in the wilderness for 40 years, and how the Lord had helped them defeat their enemies in the land that they now lived in.

If you think about it, today's verse is one of the saddest verses in the bible, because it says that: ***“another generation arose after them who did not know the LORD nor the work which He had done for Israel.”*** You would think that after all that God had done for them, and with so many wonderful things that He had done for the entire nation of Israel, yet they didn't tell their children about it at all, and the results were, ***“So the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD. They forgot the LORD their God, and served the Baals and Asherahs.”*** Judges 3:7

Even today in the USA, it seems to apply the same way, because whether you like it or not, this nation was built on Christian, biblical values. Yet parents have not raised their children to know that, and the results is that a Christian nation has turned into a perverse nation that rejects God and Jesus. If you read through the book of Judges, a lot of what Israel did, they did by serving pagan, false gods and doing whatever they wanted to do, and it's the same thing that the USA has become.

But God (Love that two word phrase) in His love, grace and mercy and patience has not allowed the USA to be destroyed, but sad to say, it's destroying itself by turning it's back on God. (Note: this is a non political statement, so please, no emails about it) But if you read the book of Judges, God sent judges to Israel to free them of the oppression that they were in, because He loved them and wanted them to turn back to Him.

† **Judges 3:9a** *When the children of Israel cried out to the LORD, the LORD raised up a deliverer for the children of Israel, who delivered them.*

In the USA, back in the late 60s and early 70s, there was a Jesus movement which was an evangelical Christian movement beginning on the West Coast of the United States and spreading primarily throughout North America, Europe, and Central America, before subsiding by the late 1980s. I remember it, since I was saved in 1979, and I remember going to a Calvary Chapel in the early 80's where people would actually get to church 30 minutes early just to get a seat, if not they would have to be turned away and wait for the next service. Plus there was a midweek service, as well as a Saturday night and Sunday night services. People flocked to the churches to hear God's word and worship the Lord.

But now a days, there are usually only Sunday morning services with plenty of room for anyone who would show up. There are no mid week or Saturday or Sunday night services, which is sad. Because everyone is so busy with themselves that it's all about me, me, me, and they don't have time for the Lord, except on Sunday morning, and yes, these are Christians we are talking about. Yet living a true Christian life and wanting to hang out with Christians other than Sunday morning has become a thing of the past, and because of it, our children are not hearing about the Lord, and are not seeing our relationship with the Lord either, and the nation is suffering because of it.

So, back to my opening story. What did I actually tell my son?

I told him that he should get into the word, then to pray and cry out to God telling Him what's going on in his life. I reminded him that he sees his dad (me) reading my bible every morning. I also told him that there are times that I wake up in a funk, and just want to go back to bed and forget about everything. But instead, I get into the word, and after I do, I feel refreshed and I know that I can make it, because it reminds me that the Lord is with me.

Simply I tell him about the things of God, and what the Lord has done in my life, and will do in his life as well, if he simply spends times in God's word, and in prayer. And he also sees that everyday by the example I live.

So, what are you teaching your kids or grandkids by both words you speak and the life that you live?

† **Psalm 78:4 (NLT2)** *We will not hide these truths from our children; we will tell the next generation about the glorious deeds of the LORD, about his power and his mighty wonders.*

† **Proverbs 7:1** *My son, keep my words, And treasure my commands within you.*

† **Psalm 40:5** *Many, O LORD my God, are Your wonderful works Which You have done; And Your thoughts toward us Cannot be recounted to You in order; If I would declare and speak of them, They are more than can be numbered.*