



#45

**Theme:** "Father Missing In Action"

**Scripture:** Proverbs 29:17 (ESV)

*"Discipline your son, and he will give you rest. He will give delight to your heart."*

**A Thought:**

Weekly I visit my favorite local eatery and order one of its scrumptious Peruvian treats. What a way to spend a lunch hour...reading God's Word and enjoying every morsel of my favorite dish. I started to delve into the scriptures when I notice a young child crawling underneath the table next me. His belligerent behavior was noticeable by many of the patrons within the periphery of the noisy incident. The mother was beside herself. She grabbed his arm and started to pull him up to sit on the chair - to no avail. The youngster would not have any of it. He fought off her advances. She spoke in English and than in Spanish as though the change in languages would calm him down. A few or many of us have experienced this "drama" child-parent confrontation. Gents...the purpose of this writing is to let you know what the father was doing during all this commotion. His attention was on the soccer game that was on a 42 inch television anchored a few inches above his wife's coiffed hair. This fella was either mesmerized by the action of the game or he just played dumb! (You guys know exactly what I am talking about - be honest). Dumb to the circumstances, aloof, cool, impassive and just plain uncaring...he munched on his food and never said a word or took any action to assist his wife who was clearly worn-out and by now sapped of energy. Listen to Saint Paul's exhortation *"Brothers, do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature."* 1 Corinthians 14:20 (ESV)

Now....what are your thoughts? Write them down.

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**Talk to yourself:**

- Why do you think the father did not involve himself in the family chaos?
- Do you think this is emblematic of the father's behavior with other family issues?
- What are the benefits (for the family) if he had involved himself?
- What are the lessons learned from this incident?

**Scriptures to read:**

- Matthew 18:10; Mark 10:13-16; Ephesians 6:4; 1 Corinthians 14:20; Deu. 6:7, 11:9;
- Proverbs 1:8-9, 6:20, 7:1-3, 10:1, 22:6, 23:13-14, 18:10, 29:7; Psalm 103:13

**Quote:**

Russell Moore, Theologian, Author, Pastor ([www.goodreads.com](http://www.goodreads.com))

*"A Christian understanding of the world sees a child's character not as genetically determined but as shaped to a significant degree by parental discipleship and discipline."*  
*Umberto Eco, Italian Author and Essayist, "I believe that what we become depends on what our fathers teach us at odd moments, when they aren't trying to teach us. We are formed by little scraps of wisdom."*

**Bottom Line:**

It takes guts to raise children....ask any mother. The mother's clock for our children is 24/7 and that is a fact. They are the first to run to a child in distress, they are the comforter when times are tough, they are the referees when conflict arises, they feed the young before a morsel of food enters their own mouth, they are the encouragers, they patiently assist with their homework and before they tuck them into their warm beds...they pray with them and for them. Where do the men fit in? Take your pick! Jump in! Equal partnership is warranted. Be visible and not invisible in the travails of the family experience. Men, the fella at the restaurant made a decision....NOT to do anything! Is that you? We have to step in the fray and be a willing partner in raising our children. God expects no less from us. Listen to the sage remarks of Proverbs 22:6 *"Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old he will not depart from it."*

**NOW.....THAT'S THE BOTTOM LINE.**

Spiritual Dabbler, Your bro, Ray

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