"Passing Wisdom Along"
Proverbs 4:1-9

C.I.T.—Solomon continues the tradition of fathers passing God's wisdom to their children.
C.I.S.—Spend your life investing Jesus' wisdom into the next generation.
Purpose—We should all spend time investing spiritually in the next generation, so that they can do the same.
Introduction

I. ***Parents pass on wisdom to their children***. Vs. 1-2
   a. Sons to a father's—generalization—not specifically my sons, but sons to father's in general.
   b. Listen and pay attention to—more than simply knowing that information, but discovering and learning and applying it to life.
      i. Discipline—principles of education/correction
      ii. Gain/to discover—more than simply knowledge, but how to live life wisely.
   c. The wisdom passed on by parents stems from love and experience, and are intended to help bring life, and is therefore good and should be applied to life.
   d. Illus.—**Deuteronomy 6:4-9**
   e. Application
      i. Children will learn how to live.
      ii. They should learn that from an experienced adult who loves them and cares for them.
      iii. This presupposes a responsibility for parents to pass on wisdom.
         1. You cannot outsource wisdom teaching to anyone else.
         2. Others may help you, like church or school or grandparents.
         3. However, God will hold you accountable for the wisdom that you teach your children.
      iv. This also presupposes that children will listen to and obey the wisdom of their parents.
         1. I know that parents seem out of touch and are very embarrassing.
         2. They do have your best interest in mind.
         3. You will grow older and will end up realizing that they were right all along.
      v. What about someone who doesn't have Christian parents, how will they gain Christian understanding?
         1. The Church
         2. This is why we have Children's Ministry, Youth Ministry, and College Ministry.
         3. This is why it is important for the godly adults of our church not to "retire" from ministry, but invest in the next generation.
      vi. What are we supposed to pass on?

II. ***Parents pass on wisdom from their parents***. Vs. 3-9
   a. Gives the example of what his father passed on to him; and now he is passing it on to his sons.
      i. Solomon wrote Proverbs.
      ii. His father was King David, and his mother was Bathsheba.
      iii. Bathsheba has three sons before she birthed Solomon.
      iv. This wisdom comes from King David and we see his wisdom teaching.
   b. David's Teaching was Proactive
      i. Look at the timing
      ii. Tender and precious (only one)

iii. She had three other sons, so when would he be the only one?
iv. This would have been early in his life, when he needed more motherly attention than at other times—probably right after he was weaned.
v. In ancient Mideastern cultures, they would nurse for three years.
vi. At this time, Solomon would have been tender in every way, physically, emotionally, spiritually.
vii. He would have been pliable and teachable.
viii. David didn't wait until the issues arose to teach Solomon, he was proactive.
ix. If you wait to teach wisdom until your kid is a teenager, you have waited too long.
x. It must start when they are in preschool and elementary school, so that when they reach those decisions, they have already been made.
xi. Proverbs 22:6

c. *David's Teaching was Priority.*
i. Command to grasp and keep his words and teaching—he expected Solomon to listen and to obey.
ii. Buy wisdom/understanding
1. Wisdom is supreme/of first importance.
2. More important than anything that you own.
3. To buy something means that you must give something of value in return.
iii. Matthew 13:45-46

d. *David's Teaching was Profitable.*
i. And live—the result of following wisdom was life.
ii. Don't leave her, love her, cherish her, embrace her—language of having a wife
iii. Treat wisdom like you would a good wife, and like a good wife, she will make your life better.
iv. Watch over you, guard you, raise you, honor you, and will put a wreath of victory on your head
v. You will win at life.

e. Illus.—**1 Kings 3:5, 9-13**—When given the

f. Application
i. Becoming like our parents is not a bad thing in fact, if you have Godly parents, that is the best thing.
ii. They have passed down what they received from their parents, and now you are responsible to pass down what you have learned from yours.
iii. Wisdom from my dad:
1. Love for God's Word—quiet times
2. Evangelism—Tuesday night/revivals
3. Expository Preaching
4. Wife first
5. Family
iv. If I end up being like my dad, I would call that a life well lived.

Conclusion

- We have a responsibility to continually pass on the wisdom of God to the next generation.
- This church does that and must do it more.
  - We need workers in the Preschool.
  - We have 4 open Sunday School spots in the Children's Department.

“Passing Wisdom Along”
Proverbs 4:1-9

    - We have need for Sunday School help in the College Department.
    - Do you know what they need?
    - Someone who will pass on what they learned from previous generations.
- We need parents who will take the responsibility to pass God’s wisdom along.
- The gospel has been passed along for centuries, from person to person.
- If fact, I bet there is a chain of believers that goes back to Jesus himself to you.
- Are you going to break that chain?