

Theme: As children, what should our response be to the Word of God?

Introduction:

- The Word of God is important to us. Because it is we seek to teach our children the Word. Here is one story I read recently: "In teaching the kids the ten commandments I looked for an easy way for them to be memorized. When it came to the 5th commandment, "Honor your father and your mother, as the Lord your God has commanded you, that your days may be prolonged" We taught it, "Love Mom and Dad, and you'll live longer!" Alana, about 5 years old, recently learned her 5th commandment and while out with Mom saw a 2-4 year old girl in the store throw a temper tantrum. Alana tugs on her mom's sleeve, pointing out the little girl and says, "She isn't going to live very long!"
- "This is what the Lord says: "Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. Could you build me a temple as good as that? Could you build me such a resting place? My hands have made both heaven and earth; they and everything in them are mine. I, the Lord, have spoken! "I will bless those who have humble and contrite hearts, who tremble at my word." ...v5 "Hear this message from the Lord, all you who tremble at his words: "Your own people hate you and throw you out for being loyal to my name. 'Let the Lord be honored!' they scoff. 'Be joyful in him!' But they will be put to shame." (Isaiah 66:1-2, 5 NLT)
- My goal today is to celebrate kids who responded to the Word, discover how they did it, and help our kids to the same!

I. Biblical Examples of Children Who Honored the Word of God

- A. Since it is generational Sunday, I wanted to continue in our study on the Word of God in our lives.
 1. I want us to look at some "prominent" children in God's Word. Most of these names you will recognize because they are somewhat famous.
 2. They became famous to us because they responded well to the Word of God.
 3. Part of the reason the children became famous is that God's historical interaction with His people is recorded in their lives.
- B. Famous Children of the Bible
 1. **Isaac** - a child of the promise. He followed in the ways of his father.
 - a) He is famous because he is the beginning of the fulfillment of the promise given to Abraham.
 - b) The focus is on Isaac because he is the child of the promise given to Abraham.
 - c) Isaac is the one of whom God said, "I will establish my covenant with him." In other words I am committed to him!
 - d) Isaac was taken to Mt Moriah to be sacrificed by his father. But God provided a sacrifice in his place! It is a picture of God providing a sacrifice, his Son, to take our place.

2. **Joseph** - the dreamer! A child, who can forget his coat of many colors? He is famous because God spoke to him in dreams. Dreams were common for the people. It was Joseph's commitment to things spoken in dreams to him that empowered him save his people. (Father, and brothers)
 3. **Moses** - A baby saved at birth. A special child, God's Deliverer! Saved from Egyptian killing, raised to be prince of Egypt.
 4. **Samuel** - A prophet. He was a special child. He was an answer to his mother's prayer. He was dedicated to God and God spoke to him at a young age. It was said of Samuel that "not one of his words fell to the ground." They always came to pass.
 5. **David** - a child in love with God. A teenager in love with God. Always worshiping and while taking care of his fathers sheep he grew in his understanding of God. He grew so much to be like God, God said, "Here is a man after my own heart." You do not get those words by ignoring God. God said of him, "You will always have a king from you family line on the throne." King forever.
 6. **Josiah** - became a king at age 8. Rebuilt and restored the Temple. He destroyed false temples, altars, and priests.
 7. **Cyrus** - this child that was born became King of Persia. He was not even a believer in God yet God spoke through prophets 150 years earlier of his birth, calling him by name and pre establishing what he would do in rebuilding of Jerusalem. He ever sent back he sacred things of the Temple that had been stolen earlier.
 8. **Jesus and John the Baptist** - both famous children who responded to the Word of the Lord. JTB - Prepare the way of the Lord. Jesus - Son of God! King Forever and ever!
 9. **Little children who came to Jesus** - I count these because they have no name, they have no fame, they get added because they responded to the presence and Word of God.
- C. You can't escape the fact that these children/men responded to Word of God to them.

II. God Communicates Through His Word

- A. I love what God says about those who listen and respond to His Word: "**I will bless those who have humble and contrite hearts, who tremble at my word.**" Is 66:2
1. God is not just communicating the story of our salvation, how to become His children
 2. God is also communicating how much we mean to him, and He gives us insight on how to live in order that we might have very productive lives.

3. In our passage to tremble at His Word, means to shake: with excitement, with fear, or just because...God has spoken. It is to be filled with awe at what God has spoken.
- B. God communicates. There is a process to what this looks like.
 1. God communicates. He sends a message that is meant to be received by us. Sometimes it is with the Bible, a dream, a thought, someone else teaching us, etc.
 - a) When He is communicating we are to be listening.
 - b) The word listen is found over 331 times in the Bible and the majority of those have to do with us listening to what God saying. "Listen!"
 - c) The word hear is used 347 times in the Bible. Meaning listen the message being sent with the purpose of doing!
 - d) Luke 8:18 Jesus says, "Pay attention how you hear."
 - e) Letter to the churches, "He who has an ear hear, what the Spirit is saying."
 2. We comprehend. We are to understand what He is saying.
 - a) Psalms and Proverbs are constantly talking about getting understanding, help me understand, seek understanding.
 - b) We have to understand, so if you don't: ask questions, seek for answers.
 3. We are to have confidence. To trust what He has said.
 - a) It is God who is talking...you can trust Him.
 - b) It does not mean that we will have a pain free life... it means He will bless, "keep His eye" on those who are humble and not proud before Him.
 4. We are to be changed. To be transformed by what He has said. We are to apply His instruction to our lives.

III. What Is Our Response To The Word of God To Be?

- A. Be open and search. "And the people of Berea were more open-minded than those in Thessalonica, and they listened eagerly to Paul's message. They searched the Scriptures day after day to see if Paul and Silas were teaching the truth." (Acts 17:11, NLT)
 1. Be open to what the Word of God has to say.
 2. Search the scripture yourself to make sure you finding the truth.
- B. Receive and accept the Word. "Therefore, we never stop thanking God that when you received his message from us, you didn't think of our words as mere human ideas. You accepted what we said as the very word of God—which, of course, it is. And this word continues to work in you who believe." (1 Thes 2:13, NLT) to receive and accept means to hold tenderly. It is what Jesus did in John 14:3 tenderly received us.
- C. Have confidence in the Word. When you recognize the Word as truth and you hold it tenderly to yourself you exercise faith both in holding and acting on it. Ro 10:17 Faith comes by hearing the message and the message from the Word of God.

- D. Become skillful in the Word: “This Ezra was a scribe who was well versed in the Law of Moses, which the Lord, the God of Israel, had given to the people of Israel. ... the gracious hand of the Lord his God was on him.” (Ezra 7:6, NLT)
- E. Crave the Word. “Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment,” (1 Peter 2:2, NLT)
- F. Guard what you hear with your heart and seek to apply it to your life. “Then he added, “Pay close attention to what you hear. The closer you listen, the more understanding you will be given—and you will receive even more. To those who listen to my teaching, more understanding will be given. But for those who are not listening, even what little understanding they have will be taken away from them.”” (Mark 4:24-25, NLT)
- G. Give it away to others. Share it! Mt. 28:18 **Go and make other followers of Jesus.**

Conclusion:

- This morning we have looked at others in scripture who responded to the Word. And they are remembered today by us.
- We have looked at the way the communication process works between us and God.
- We have finished by noting the way the Bible encourages us to respond to His word.
- Invitation