

Good News for Families

Faithful Over (the) Little(s) November 2020

We live in unpredictable, tumultuous times. Not that any other era was better, but certainly we can all agree that our current age is volatile. There's no knowing what might happen next in the stock market, what new technology is going to take hold and transform our lives, or even what life will be like each time the political landscape changes.

For those of us charged with raising children and grandchildren, we wonder what the world will be like when these young ones are grown. Will the lessons taught in our homes now make a difference for them later? Will our training take root and bear fruit? At any point, can we stop panicking about how our precious children can be expected to make it in such a hostile, anti-Christian culture?

God has gifted us with these children. Whether He's given us one child or five, He's entrusted them to us and has certain expectations about how we should handle this gift. We're to raise them in the Lord and steep them in Law and Gospel. It's vitally important that we get this right. *No pressure. Don't panic.*

It reminds me a bit of the parable of the talents. Speaking about the kingdom of heaven, Jesus says:

For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. (Matthew 25:14-18)

Even while we bump fists with the first two servants, we tend to feel a little bad for the third one. He panicked. He didn't know what to expect. He knew how unpredictable and dire this situation was, and he operated out of fear. Not just fear of the unknown, but fear of the master himself, who he felt was an unjust and reckless man.

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The other servants instead put their heads down and got to work. They didn't panic. They simply did their work, faithfully sticking to their vocations and relying on the goodness of their master. They knew him to be a fair and just man.

Do we panic? Or do we go about our work faithfully, trusting that we serve a Lord who is good and just? He's given us quite the task, for sure, but He doesn't leave us to our own devices. He sent us Jesus to forgive us for our complete and utter failings. He sends His Holy Spirit to guide

and sanctify us, strengthening us for the work that He's given. He gives us faith to trust in Him and His goodness. He drives fear and panic from our hearts, enabling us to do this work. He doubles the profit and gives us the credit.

So fear not, moms and dads, grandmas and grandpas. Keep at that work. For the sake of Christ, you, too, are sure to hear those beautiful words: "Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master" (Matthew 25:21).



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Recommended Reading

Family Trees and Olive Branches *Creating a Culture of Grace in Your Family*

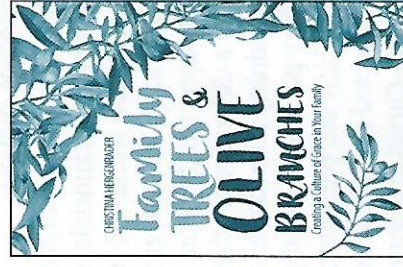
by Christina Hergenrader

Families: they are beautiful and complicated—and sometimes a big mess. They are equal parts caring and fighting with or for one another. Living as a family unit has never been easy, but what can we do to break this curse of fighting and arguing with one another?

God's grace and forgiveness offer us a guide to our troubles within our families. Follow Christina Hergenrader on this seven-part journey toward creating a culture of grace, inspired by Matthew 18:22. Learn about God's grace and how you can model it to help with forgiveness, even in the most broken of families.

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