

Honor, Gentleness, and Quiet Service

Family and friends gathered yesterday to honor the life of Burt Lindsey and offer encouragement. During the funeral and the luncheon that followed I witnessed three simple, but profound lessons.

At the funeral each of the Lindsey boys addressed the audience with memories of their dad. Some stories were humorous while others simply painted a picture of the good character of a wonderful man. Two years ago they honored their parents for fifty years of marriage.

But were these the only two occasions of honor? Even a casual glance from the outside would tell you that there have been many instances in their lives that they showed honor to their father and mother.

I was reminded of the importance and the value of showing honor to one's parents. You see, there is no time limitation on the words of the Apostle Paul: "Honor your father and mother."

Yesterday we saw three grown men, each with his own family, paying honor to their father and mother. That was good and right.

To our men and women who are grown and have families of their own: Honor your parents.
To our young adults not yet married: Honor your parents.
To our young kids and teens: Honor your parents.
And to our parents of young children . . . train your children to honor you.
Then, when they are grown and have families of their own, you will again be able to enjoy the honor that is rightfully yours.

God expects children to honor their parents . . . regardless of age.

Yesterday each of our three elders attended the funeral. Before, during and after each one demonstrated an uncommon tenderness and sensitivity toward the Lindsey family and others in attendance. I did not see lords or managers, rather, shepherds.

How wise was our God to see that his people needed leadership on earth? But he did not assign the task to overlords who would 'crack the whip.' He demanded his 'elders' to be gentle. Over and over in scripture he called them shepherds. Isn't that the kind of leader you want?

To the Christians in our congregation: Do you see our shepherds? Their gentleness?

I hope you will pause and give thanks to God for such men as these. Their devotion to God and tireless service are beneficial to us. It is by God's design. It is good and right.

Yesterday there a meal prepared for the Lindsey family . . . and the day before that as well. In fact, there have been countless meals, acts of kindness, words of comfort, and prayers for Burt and Carol.

In fact, there have been countless meals, acts of kindness, words of encouragement, and prayers for many other folks in our congregation and even friends and family of those of our congregation.

I was deeply moved as I began to think of only the kindnesses that I personally know about, realizing that there have been many more gracious favors that are invisible to me.

Seemingly invisible people performing seemingly invisible acts of kindness.

No one ever boasts of their good deeds; no one clamors for attention. Quiet people moving about in life, quietly doing good . . . making a profound difference in individual lives! And that is good and right.

"Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?"

The King will reply, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."

Matthew 25:27-40

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