

#16 – THE TEACHER

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A leader who fails to give moral training to his followers could carry the price tag of the loss of life. A patriarch should call his wife, children, and followers in general to listen to his words of wisdom. These teachings are to exhort, comfort, and challenge those to whom he is responsible.

To have a goal of being a dynamic leader is not enough! Our dynamic leadership is the tool that leads our followers to us for instruction. We need to be qualified teachers and moral trainers. Failure to fulfill this role can be devastating. It should be clearly known that a leader cannot teach the things of God unless he himself is taught. Many men in our modern culture are un-teachable--they teach themselves only the things that benefit their “bottom line”--money. Sad to say, most men learn just enough to prosper themselves.

One of the misnomers of “teaching” is that of a scholar imparting doctrines. Even though this is partially true, being a teacher is much more. Teaching encompasses training in all seven areas of life: spiritual, psychological, marital, parental, social, physical, and financial. Training and preparing a household in these seven areas of life requires a lifestyle of teaching. It is the simple process of explaining “how things work” as one goes through life. If the patriarch has any area of stumbling, in which he himself has not had training, he needs to first go for training and then return home to train those for whom he is responsible. This is why it is so important for the patriarch to be teachable.

Teaching is not just “downloading” information. It is, however, taking the information into the mind and then into the heart. Without heart transformation, change is only temporary. With heart change, the student will carry it as wisdom throughout all the days of his life. Now, how do we reach the heart? It is accomplished by making the information transformational through training the whole person. Proverbs 4:23 tells us that “for out of the heart springs all of life.” When we take information and show the followers how it works in a practical way, they will be more likely to embrace it as wisdom--knowledge from the heart.

Secondly, use God’s Word as the method of instruction. The Bible says that the Scriptures are alive, active, and will never return void (Heb. 4:12; Isa. 55:11). In other words, when we use the Word of God in our training and teaching, it is guaranteed to come back to us with a return--a heart change. Life training, plus God’s Word, produces heart change that will have eternal benefits.

Jesus did not tell His disciples to go to seminary, or formal school, in order to be great teachers. He simply walked and talked with them every day as they went about their mission--explaining life as they lived it.

The safest way to live is in the ways of God. Walking in His path brings blessings and hope. All patriarchs are “homeschool” teachers, even if their children attend traditional schools. The ways of a teacher are understood by watching how he lives his life and ultimately, how he passes on his life training to others.

**NEXT:** *The Discipliner*

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