

## Protecting Children

Joe Slater

How could a grandmother slaughter her own grandchildren? I can scarcely comprehend it, but wicked Athaliah did exactly that in her quest to be Judah's queen (2 Kings 11:1). Fortunately, a godly priest, Jehoiada, and his wife, Jehosheba, rescued their nephew, baby Joash, hiding him in the Temple for six years out of the reach of his murderous grandmother (vv.2-3).

At age seven Joash became king due to the continued protection of his uncle and other righteous men who guarded him and executed Athaliah (2 Kings 11:4-21. No doubt Jehoiada guided young Joash at the beginning of his 40-year reign.

Physically protecting children today requires us to do the obvious: feed, clothe, & house them; refrain from leaving them in hot vehicles; etc. Now that Roe v Wade has been overturned, states can even protect them in the womb. Our responsibility doesn't end, however, with physical protection.

Parents must fulfill their sacred duty to protect their children spiritually! Secular media, with their willing accomplices in government schools, are force-feeding young minds with ungodly propaganda. Our children are being indoctrinated, whether in Kindergarten or Saturday cartoons, not only to accept moral perversion, but to celebrate it! Secular progressives controlling the media and educational system push Darwinian evolution as if it were a fact while dismissing creation as an outdated myth.

If we think a couple of 40-minute Bible classes per week will stem this tide, we are deceiving ourselves! Bible classes are a good supplement to parental teaching, but never a substitute for it. Consistent parental teaching, regular prayer, excellent example, and faithful church attendance will go a long way toward protecting children from Satan's attacks. Let's protect our children!

## Winning By Losing

It's exciting to be a part of a winning team even if it is only as a fan. In sports, we teach our children that "winning is not everything." While such is undeniably true, we still recognize that success is a great feeling. But the "win at all costs" philosophy is deplorable in the realm of athletics. However, when victory is achieved through diligence and teamwork, winning can be a most satisfying experience.

Things are different in the spiritual contest faced by children of God. In our struggle against the spiritual forces of wickedness, winning is everything! The soul that would inherit everlasting life must do so at the expense of all that would distract him from his devotion to Christ. Jesus compared the kingdom of heaven to "*a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid again; and from joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field*" (Matthew 13:44). It is a win at all costs theology that requires a would-be disciple to "*deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow [Jesus]*" (Luke 9:23).

Spiritual victory is within reach of every obedient believer. John affirms that faith "*is the victory that has overcome the world...*" (1 Jn. 5:4). However, one who would win with Christ, must first lose his life in service to Him (Matthew 10:39). For one to win, he must lose.

--Glen Elliot (Greenbriar, AR)

## What I Deserve

In a commercial for Medicare Part C one speaker says, "I called to get everything I deserve." Speaking in a different context, of course, I don't want everything I deserve. I need grace and mercy.

--Cecil May, Jr. (via Preacher Talk)

## YOU CALL ME . . .

You call Me the Way, but you don't follow Me.

You call Me the Light, but you don't see Me.

You call Me the Teacher, but you don't learn from Me.

You call Me the Lord, but you don't obey Me.

You call Me the Truth, but you don't believe Me.

Don't be surprised if one day I say I don't know you!

via Facebook

## A Servant's Prayer

Make me a servant, Lord.

Give me a servant's eyes, able to see the slightest needs of those around me.

Let me have a servant's ears, tuned to detect the softest cry of help from the lowliest person.

Give me a servant's voice, one which speaks words of comfort and cheer to those in despair.

Give me a servant's hands. Let them be tough enough for hard work and tender enough to touch a crying child.

Make my back a servant's back, strong enough to bear both my own and the burdens of others.

Let me have a servant's knees. Let them be flexible enough to bend to the lowliest task and to pray.

Give me a servant's feet. Let them be quick to take me where I can do the greatest good for the weary pilgrim, my lowly brother, and my broken-hearted sister.

And Lord, most of all, give me a servant's heart, because with that, Lord, the rest will come in due time

--via Campbellsville, KY