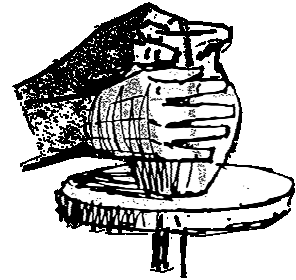


His Workmanship: Westside

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works.”
—Ephesians 2:10



Vol. XXIII

September 21, 2014

No. 38

Isaiah 64:8

Cowboy or Shepherd? by Jefferson David Tant

When I was younger, I worked some as a farm and ranch hand on my Uncle Clide Keeney's place in Eldorado, Texas. I also did some work on the place owned by my friend John Caughron's family in Oklahoma. This all involved various things—plowing, chopping cotton, running a combine, etc. But two things about this rustic life came to mind recently in thinking about leadership. We had sheep on Uncle Clide's place, and there were cattle on John's family ranch.

So this question has to do with elders and preachers, and anyone else who may be in a leadership position, like fathers and mothers, teachers and employers. In their role as leaders, should they be acting more like cowboys, or more like shepherds?

In the cowboy role, my horse and I were involved in rounding up cattle. In this activity, we had to drive the cattle. We cannot effectively lead cattle. That's why in the old west you had "cattle drives" when ranchers drove their cattle to the markets in Kansas City or other markets to be shipped by rail to their final destination. The famous Chisolm Trail ran through Uncle Clide's place, and the trail was still quite visible even after many years as

thousands of cattle had been driven along that way.

We might have to lasso a steer to get him back in line with the rest of the herd, and in effect we had to harass the herd constantly to keep it moving. If we were not diligent in this, the cattle would wander off in all directions. Gentleness is not a job requirement to be a good cattle driver.

I have known some preachers who act much like cowboys. They push and harass to keep everyone in line. They are stern and demanding. Gentleness is not in their vocabulary.

Then there are shepherds. Someone has suggested that the reason we are called sheep is because sheep are followers. We are all familiar with the 23rd Psalm and the several references Christ made to shepherds and sheep.

In working with sheep, we had to lead them rather than drive them. A true shepherd cares for his sheep. Jesus said: "I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep," Jn 10:11. His attitude was compassion: "When Jesus went ashore, He saw a large crowd, and He felt compassion for them because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and He began to teach them many things," Mk 6:34.

It is worth noting that elders are also

referred to as shepherds: "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood," Ax 20:28. Peter told his fellow elders to "shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock," 1 Pet 5:2-3, NASV.

Consider the qualifications for elders: "gentle, peaceable.," 1 Tim 3:3. Gentle means kind, honorable, amiable—easy to get along with, soothing; "free from harshness, sternness, violence." Peaceable means not contentious or quarrelsome, quiet, agreeable. James described these characteristics as "wisdom from above": "Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. Now the fruit of righteous-

“Save Your people, and bless Your inheritance; shepherd them also, and bear them up forever.” Psalm 28:9

ness is sown in peace by those who make peace,” Jas 3:13-18.

Peaceable – If we are to be followers of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, then “If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men,” Rm 12:18. Others may not be at peace with us, and we may not be able to control that, but we can control our own attitudes and behavior. One qualification for elders is “not quick-tempered” (“not soon angry”—ASV), Tit 1:7. Some seem to become angry at even slight provocations, and God said this is what leads to sin, and “unwholesome words” that “give the devil an opportunity,” Eph 4:26-27, 31; Col 3:8. If we are to be known as children of God, we need to be sure we live up to the name. “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God,” Mt 5:9.

Gentle—It should be obvious that gentleness and peaceable are close kin. The Greek word carries the idea of “mild, moderate, patient.” The word “gentleman” comes from this, and that brings up a picture of courtesy and good manners. Meekness suggests strength under control. In the Philippines I have seen small children riding large caraboas (we would call them water buffalos.) That is “strength under control.” Isaiah gives a picture that fits well here. “Like a shepherd He will tend His flock. In His arm He will gather the lambs and carry them in His bosom; He will gently lead the nursing ewes,” 40:11. Doesn’t that give us a picture of gentleness? That certainly describes the shepherd picture rather than the cowboy picture. Peter said that these leaders should not “lord it over” (ASV) those in their care, 1 Pet 5:3. Albert Barnes commented: “Neither as being lords, overruling. The word here used (*katakurieuw*) is rendered exercise dominion over, in Mt 20:25; exercise lordship over, in Mk 10:42; and over-

came, in Ax 19:16. It does not elsewhere occur in the New Testament. It refers properly to that kind of jurisdiction which civil rulers or magistrates exercise. This is an exercise of authority, as contradistinguished from the influence of reason, persuasion, and example.” Matthew Poole’s Commentary says that it “implies that gentleness (as we translate it) whereby we bear with others’ infirmities, forgive injuries, interpret all things for the best, recede from our own right for peace sake; and is opposed to that austerity and rigidity in our practices and censures, which will bear with nothing in weak, dissenting, or offending brethren.”

Children are not afraid to approach a gentle person. Luke told of the people who were bringing their small children to Jesus that he might touch them. Evidently



they saw that Jesus was gentle, Lk 18:15-16. How gentle do others perceive us to be?

Reasonable (easy to be entreated—ASV, willing to yield—NKJV)—This suggests that such a person can be reasoned with, is someone who can have an intelligent discussion or even a disagreement. Such a person is not stubborn or obstinate. This particular word has an obvious connection to leaders. If a shepherd is a harsh, unreasonable man, will his sheep feel comfortable around him? I think not. If Christians are to have confidence in their leaders—elders, preachers, etc.—certainly they need to feel free to approach these men, or even women who may be teachers. I have known preachers who seemed offended if anyone would dare question them. I have approached others with a simple suggestion, and was met with a sever-

al minute tirade of self-justification and blaming others. I have known elders and preachers who were always right. I have known teachers who seemingly would not consider another view. They may have been right in their understanding, but there are times when they may be in error, and thus need to be reasonable in their attitude and willing to listen. The opposite of that would be a spirit of arrogance. Thus others are hesitant, or even afraid, to approach them.

“The sense is, that he who is under the influence of the wisdom which is from above, is not a stiff, stern, obstinate, unyielding man. He does not take a position, and then hold it whether right or wrong; he is not a man on whom no arguments or persuasions can have any influence.” Albert Barnes New Testament Commentary. Those in positions of authority or influence must take heed that it not go to their head.

We remember the picture Christ painted of the shepherd who left the 99 to go look for the one that was lost, the one that had wandered away, Mt 18:12-13. When he found the lost one, do you suppose he beat it with his staff while shouting “Bad sheep! Bad sheep!” That hardly fits the picture of the gentle shepherd.

Both the sheep and the shepherds have responsibilities. “Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you,” Heb 13:17. The sheep are to submit to the shepherds, but the shepherds will have to “give an account” as to how they have led. Let those who are leaders, whether elders, preachers or teachers, see to it that we emulate the Chief Shepherd, Jesus Christ. Shepherds are better than cowboys with sheep.



Psalm 133:1

Let your faith be seen in 2014
“I rejoice to see your good order and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ.”
—Colossians 2:5

Discipleship Here At Home

Spanking, from p. 4

behaviors and guide them toward ultimately becoming responsible, healthy, happy adults. It is vital, however, that spanking be administered within proper guidelines. The reports about the punishment meted out by Peterson to his son and the consequent injuries his son suffered indicate his behavior on that occasion was far outside those boundaries. These kinds of experiences are why this whole issue is fraught with controversy—a child should never be abused. Abuse is condemned by the Bible, cf. Ex 21:20.

Properly understood and administered, spanking is most effective as a deterrent to undesirable behavior for younger preschoolers (but never for infants under 15-18 months). That's because reasoning and taking away privileges often simply don't work with kids in that age range. As children age, spanking should become less frequent as other types of consequences are utilized. Spanking should be phased out completely by adolescence. The eight strongest psychological studies demonstrate beneficial outcomes from corporal punishment.

Generally speaking, corporal discipline should only be applied in cases of willful disobedience or defiance of authority—never for mere childish irresponsibility. Spanking is never for accidents like spilled milk, but for when a child willfully defies a parent's clearly defined rules or is disrespectful. And spanking should never be administered harshly, impulsively, or with the potential to cause physical harm. Parents who have little control on their tempers should choose alternative forms of discipline. There is never an excuse or occasion to abuse a child. Spanking isn't the only discipline

option, says Dr. James Dobson, but it remains a valuable tool. He advises using a neutral object such as a paddle or a switch to administer spankings to children. It is to cause pain but not harm to the buttocks of the child. He believes this preserves the image of a parent's hand as an object of love, guidance, and comfort, not punishment. This separates the spanking from the person giving it. “The Lord prefers the inanimate object called the rod.” It is crucial, he emphasizes, that parents maintain control over their tempers and always balance firmness with love. After spanking, the parent must affirm his love and forgiveness to the child with hugs and kisses.

The Bible contains eight verses that relate to the spanking of children: Five in Proverbs specifically mention the use of a rod to spank a child: Pr 13:24; 22:15; 23:13-14; 29:15. Three other Proverbs verses (10:13; 14:3; 26:3) use “rod” to spank foolishness, anger, or pride out of a person. Often in the Bible the word “rod” is used to show authority, cf. Ps 2:9; 23:4; 110:2. Some 17 verses speak of God “chastening” (or using a rod to chasten) His people: Deut 11:2; 2 Sam 7:14; Job 5:17; 9:34; 21:9; 34:31; Ps 6:1; 38:1; 89:32; 118:18; Pr 3:11; Is 26:16; Jer 2:30; Hos 10:10; 1 Cor 11:32; Heb 12:7ff; Rev 3:19. Three others are about chastening from humans: 1 Cor 4:21; Pr 19:18; Deut 21:18-19. Four more are about chastening in general, such as pain or fasting or circumstances chastening a body, Job 33:19; Ps 69:10; 73:14; 2 Cor 6:9. “No discipline seems enjoyable at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it yields the fruit of peace and righteousness to those who have been trained by it,” Heb 12:11, HCSB. So spanking, when used judiciously, appropriately, and with other disciplinary methods, can be helpful in training our children.

Child abuse is a national tragedy. Counselors deal with the fallout from those who were abused as children on a daily basis. The pain from these horrific memories lingers with many of these people for a lifetime. Abusing a vulnerable child is always, and extremely,

PRAY FOR healing, protection, help, and comfort here and away

Virginia Menard—fell and injured knee

Bill Dennis—adjusting pacemaker and meds

Kay Ransom's mother, Zona—COPD

Sharon Rupinen, Sandra Perry's sister—heart

Giles Free—seizure from fall; confined at home, no driving for a few mos; scheduled for scan

Pat Wilkes—recovering from knee surgery; pain

Brittany Tope's grandmother—dialysis

Ed Fink—prostate cancer; current treatment for brain tumors. Undergoing chemo this month.

Judy Sartin's friends—Vicky Keyes, mastectomy; **Summer Jensen**, multiple tumors, cysts on both kidneys

Andrea Arvola (moved to FL), **Justin**

Hambrick, and **Gary Boyd**—spiritual strength

CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Logan Corray; Addison Tope; Christian

Harrod; Rocco Jr; Pat Wilkes—asthma

Autumn Hadders—epilepsy; celiac disease

Danielle Huelsman—vertigo, CV syndrome

Hannah Huelsman—polycythemia, thickening of blood; and acid reflux

Kirk Johnson—MS

Menards—aging; **Lloyd**, diabetes, weak;

Virginia, macular degeneration; high BP

Neil Free—pacemaker, heart; back pain

Judy Sartin—spinal stenosis; arthritis

Judy and Mike Strand—hepatitis treatment

Lynda Szymanski—COPD, lung weakness

Job concerns Linda Szymanski

Travel The Finks are in NM visiting family.

Directory Addition Please welcome **Willian** and **Andrizzi Lucas** 464 S. Wright St., Apt.209

Gospel Meeting at Northeast church in Colorado Springs, Sept 21-24

Lakewood, CO 80228 303-301-4137
damaging and wrong. Our hearts go out to Adrian Peterson's son. Peterson apologized for his behavior and expressed his desire to be a good father to his son, to “teach my son right from wrong.” We earnestly hope he has learned from this serious mistake and affirm his desire to be a good father.

Next week: more on spanking.



Exposing current thoughts & trends

Is Spanking OK? by Dr. Jared Pingleton, clinical psychologist, et. al.

NFL running back Adrian Peterson's recent arrest for allegedly abusing his 4-year-old son has once again sparked the debate over whether spanking is an appropriate form of discipline. Though some contend any form of physical correction equates to child abuse, there is a giant chasm between a mild spanking properly administered out of love and an out-of-control adult venting his/her emotions by physically abusing a child. All 50 states in the US and the District of Columbia permit the corporal punishment of children. 21 states in the US still allow corporal punishments in schools. However, physical abuse is not allowed. Unfortunately, thousands of parents start with spanking and escalate to abuse every year.

Parenting is teaching and training children. In parenting, our most important task is building a strong foundation for our children's relationship with God. Just like a wise master-builder, we simply must have a detailed blueprint to guide and order our parenting activities. A builder's plan is designed to be used to visualize the end result to make sure that the individual project elements provide the desired functionality and finish. For a building, the foundation comes first, and everything else is built on the foundation. It is essential to develop our knowledge and understanding of Biblical teachings on discipline while our children are still young and teachable. Our teaching at the outset of their lives forms our children's understanding of God and His creation. More than anything else, our behavior as parents when they are young will determine how they respond to God's authority as adults. Strong childhood spiritual foundations lead to a healthy walk with God in the teen-age years and beyond.

Parents want their children to be happy and successful as adults, but often undermine their prospects for success by being permissive and undisciplined in their parenting during early childhood. Many undiscerning parents are led astray by the many popular, but anti-Biblical teachings about parenting that infuse almost every aspect of modern culture. Make no mistake about it, ideas based on secular humanism can harm the long-term spiritual health of your family! Bible-based information is designed to help us develop a clear and winning strategy for training our children. Training children in accordance to Biblical truth leads to a unique family experience where love and harmony become the norm, rather than the exception. In short, we define success by the standards in the Bible. Rather than critique the Bible by modern ideas, we prefer to examine modern ideas by the Bible. If there is a difference of opinion, we are going to stick with what the Bible teaches.

Parents have been entrusted with the incredible privilege and responsibility of shaping their children's behavior in a positive direction—not just nurturing them but correcting them. In reality, each of us enters this world with desires that are selfish, unkind, and harmful to others and ourselves. Spanking, then, can be one effective discipline option among several in a parents' tool chest as they seek to steer their children away from negative

continued on p. 3



meets at
13789 W. 8th Avenue
Golden, Colorado 80401
720-295-4530

Pastors

Larry Campbell (303) 246-8810
DeWayne Howell (303) 973-7283

Preacher

Jim Reingrover (303) 973-5102

info@thechurchingolden.com

Assembly Schedule

Sunday

Bible classes	9:00 am
Morning assembly	10:00 am
Afternoon assembly	1:30 pm

Wednesday

Bible classes	7:30 pm
---------------	---------

Sunday morning

• **adult Bible class**, Lessons from Deuteronomy, Larry Campbell

• **Sermon**, September **Making Decisions** series: "Giving Yourself a Fresh Start," Jim Reingrover

Sunday afternoon

• **Special praise and prayer service**

Wednesday night adult Bible class, Pearls from Proverbs, Jim Reingrover