

Like Father, Like Son **2 Kings 21:19-26**

Introduction:

1. Read verses 19-22. I've entitled this message "Like Father, Like Son." Amon did just like his dad did. Manasseh was a wicked, idolatrous king, and his boy (Amon) trod in the steps of his father's identity.
2. Late in life, Manasseh repented of his evil and got his heart right with God. But it was too late for his son. He had already ruined his boy.
3. The story of Amon is a tragic story (vs. 23). Wicked, evil, and dead at 24 years old. But it all started in verse 20. He did evil in the sight of the Lord, "*as his father Manasseh did.*"
4. Fatherhood is such an awesome responsibility. Ephesians 6:4; Colossians 3:21
 - It is interesting that there is nothing directed to mothers in these passages. God puts all the responsibility on the shoulders of the dads.
5. Every father should positively impact his child for God. By the way, grandfathers can too (2 Kings 22). Obviously, Manasseh had impacted this young man as his grandfather, after he had repented and began serving God. He blew it with his son, but he impacted his grandson. How can fathers positively impact their children for God?

First, through your godly walk.

1. Verse 21 says, "*And he walked in **all the way** that his father walked in...*"
2. **God** has a specific **way** He wants us to walk and to live as fathers. (So does Satan.)
 - There is a way that may seem right, but the end of that way is death.
3. Men, what should characterize our walk? What should your children see?

Your children should see Christ in you.

- Colossians 1 talks about "*Christ in you, the hope of glory.*" Then Philippians 1 talks about Christ being magnified in our bodies.
- Do our kids see us excusing sin, or laughing at sin, or making light of sin? Or do they see a tender heart and a holy fear of sin and unrighteousness? Do they see us going the extra mile to protect ourselves, them, and our home from anything impure or unholy?
- We should never have to explain, protect, or excuse our sin to our children (habits, language, viewing habits, attitudes).
- Your kids seeing Christ in you does not mean that you are perfect, but your children see that you're real, and sincere, and trying to live unto the Lord. You love Jesus Christ.

Your children should see you treat your wife with love and respect.

- Men that demean their wives, talk down to them, and undermine their authority with the children are making a huge mistake. They are hurting themselves and destroying their children.
- Men, never allow the kids to walk all over Mom. You are her protector. Honor your wife and love her dearly. Your kids will see this and observe it, and it impacts them.

Your children should see that you love them enough to spend time with them.

- The only way to truly convey love is T-I-M-E. There is no other way.
- Money, toys, gifts, a beautiful home in nice neighborhood, etc., will not substitute for time spent with your children. I know life is busy, but you have to carve out time for them.

Second, through your worship.

1. Let's look at Manasseh who is our negative example of how to impact your child. vs. 21
2. He followed Dad's example of how to worship, and it damned his soul. Fathers, you are to be the worship leader of your home. We are to see to it that our home is a place that worships and reverences the Lord.
 - Read the Bible, pray, share the gospel of Christ with your kids, and brag on Jesus!
3. My heart's desire is that when they lay me in the ground, my kids won't say, "He built a big church," or "He made a lot of money," but that "Dad was a man of God that was real, and we saw how much he loved Jesus, and he impacted and influenced us to love Jesus."
4. Manasseh had some idols (carved images) that hindered his worship of the true God.
5. Do you have any idols in your life that are hindering your fellowship with Christ? You need to destroy them and clean up your heart so that you can lead your child in true worship of almighty God.
6. Here is what is interesting: Manasseh repented later in life and cast out the carved images (2 Chronicles 33:15), but didn't destroy them. God commanded in Deuteronomy 7:5 to burn them with fire. He didn't do this. He just put them away.
7. After his death, his son (Amon) found them, dragged out these carved images his dad had made, and served them, and worshiped them.
8. What is the lesson? It is not enough to simply hide or put away these sinful idols in our lives. We must destroy them, lest our children fall prey to them.

Third, through your wisdom.

1. Verse 22 says, "*And he forsook the Lord God...*" He did just like Dad. You know what this teaches me? This young man had no wisdom whatsoever. The Bible says that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. Proverbs 9:10

- This is a holy reverence and respect for God and who He is. Amon had none at all.
2. He was devoid of wisdom. He was a fool. He forsook the very One that was capable of blessing him beyond measure, and would have blessed him had he simply followed God and His Word.
 3. Amon's lack of wisdom cost him his throne, his kingdom, and his very life. vs. 23
 4. Men, we must impart wisdom to our children. How can we do this?

Carefully guard our lips. Proverbs 18:21a, 17:27-28

- We can really hurt our kids by running our mouths without thinking.
- Dads, you have the ability to greatly discourage your kids through your words. Colossians 3:21
- Sometimes those hurts don't go away very easily, do they?

Serve God now. Proverbs 27:1

- Manasseh repented in his old age, but it was too late for his son. He had already ruined him. Even if we repent and get right later, men, there are no guarantees our kids will follow our example and repent.
- "I'll serve God when I am older." Maybe so, but it may destroy your kids' lives. Perhaps Amon thought he would repent in his old age like Dad did. He never got a chance; he died at 24 years old.

Admit when we've been wrong. Proverbs 9:8-9

- This shows real wisdom. Your kids will respect you for this.