THE PROBLEM AND POWER OF PAIN
WEEK 5 • DAILY BRIEFING 3 • LOUDER THAN WORDS

WEEKLY MEMORY VERSE

Ecclesiastes 8:11

Because the sentence against an evil deed is not executed speedily, the heart of the children of man is fully set to do evil.

This week follows Sunday's sermon, "Restrain or Pain." You can watch or listen to the sermon at 1mso.church or on the One Missoula app.

OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, show me where my words and my actions don't match. I want the people who watch me to see genuine love for and loyalty to Jesus in all I do, not only hear about Him in words that are easy to say. Give me the humility and power to change where I need to change. In Jesus' name I pray, amen.

TODAY'S TEACHING

On Sunday we said that refusing to discipline and instruct your kids sets them on a pathway to pain. Today we are adding something that sits underneath discipline and instruction. Kids learn far more from what you do than from what you say. You can tell your kids that Jesus matters all day long, but if your calendar and your bank account say something else, they will believe your calendar and your bank account. As the saying goes, "Talk is cheap."

Every parent has heard their own words come out of a toddler's mouth, usually at the worst possible moment. Kids copy what they see. A dad who preaches honesty and then lies to the cable company on speakerphone is teaching his kids to lie. A mom who talks about trusting God but panics every time money gets tight is teaching her kids that God can't really be trusted.

If you are not raising kids right now, don't check out. Grandparents, aunts, uncles, coaches, and mentors are all being watched by somebody younger. If your kids are grown, they are still learning from how you live, and it is not too late to change what they see. If you don't have kids yet, the habits you build now are the ones your future kids will copy. And even if no kids are watching to see whether your actions match your words, everyone else is.

Today's first passage comes from Deuteronomy. Moses spoke these words to Israel about 1,400 years before Jesus, just before the nation entered the land God had promised them. Moses knew the next generation would only keep following God if their parents passed that faith on. Part of this chapter, called the *Shema*, has been recited daily by Jewish families for more than two thousand years.

The second passage comes from a letter the apostle Paul wrote near the end of his life, around AD 64 to 67, to a young pastor named Timothy. Timothy grew up in a mixed home. His mother was Jewish, and his father was Greek (Acts 16:1).

READ & MEDITATE

Deuteronomy 6:6–7

And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. [7]You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

2 Timothy 1:5

I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well.

As you read, notice where faith has to live before it can be passed on.

REFLECT

Answer these honestly. This is between you and God, and nobody else needs to see what you write.

Moses puts these two commands in a specific order.

1. Fill in the blank from Deuteronomy 6:6: “And these words that I command you today shall be on your _____.”

Why do you think God’s words have to be on a parent’s heart before they can be taught to the kids?

You can’t pass on what you don’t have. Kids can usually tell the difference between a parent who believes something and a parent who only says it. Faith that is real in your own life is what makes your teaching believable.

Verse 7 describes when this teaching is supposed to happen.

2. List the moments Moses mentions in verse 7. What do they have in common?

None of those moments is a formal lesson. Faith gets passed on mostly in ordinary moments like car rides and bedtime. That means your kids are learning from you even when you are not trying to teach them anything.

Paul describes Timothy’s faith with one specific word.

3. Fill in the blank from 2 Timothy 1:5: “I am reminded of your _____ faith.”

Who passed that faith on to Timothy?

The Greek word translated “sincere” literally means “without hypocrisy.” Lois and Eunice did not perform their faith; they lived it, and it carried across three generations. Notice that one of them was a grandmother. Your influence does not end when the kids move out.

The apostle John wrote, “Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth” (1 John 3:18).

4. What does this verse tell you about the kind of love God expects from His people?

God never asks for something He has not already done. Two verses earlier John says, “By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us” (1 John 3:16). God did not just tell us He loves us. He showed us at the cross.

Everyone is teaching somebody something by the way they live.

5. If the people closest to you only watched your actions this past month, what would they conclude matters most to you?

What is one place where your words and your actions don’t match right now?

PRAYER

Bring what you just wrote to God. Write your prayer or pray out loud.

MEMORY VERSE

Write or recite Ecclesiastes 8:11 from memory.