

The Cross and its Shadow

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CHAPTER XLVI.

JOSEPH.

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When considering the strict integrity of Joseph in the midst of Egyptian darkness, we must not forget that Rachel, his mother, lived until he was about sixteen years of age. *After she had, by her godly instruction, fortified her son for the great life-work before him*, God in mercy laid Rachel to rest before Joseph was sold into Egypt, so she was spared that great sorrow. And throughout eternity she will see the fruit of her training; for it was *no doubt his mother's godly instruction that enabled Joseph* to connect with God so closely that "his bow abode in strength, and the arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the mighty God of Jacob."

The Septuagint translation of Gen. 49:26 joins the mother's name with the father's in the blessing: "The blessings of thy father and *thy mother*, it has prevailed above the blessing of the lasting mountains and beyond the blessings of the everlasting hills." The dying patriarch, as he thought of the character of Joseph, remembered the years of faithful instruction which Rachel had given him from his birth until death separated them. The mothers of the other sons are not mentioned in the blessings.

Happy the mother that gives, and thrice happy the child that receives, such instruction. There is a power in godly training in childhood, that moulds the character. It places a "*diadem* of grace" on the head of the one who receives it.

Mary Taught Jesus the prophecies.

The measure of a man is not in the monuments he has financed. It is in the love, skill and experience he has passed on to his offspring to prepare them for their life.

The intellect is continually receiving its mold from opportunities and advantages, ill or well improved. Day by day we form characters which place the students as well-disciplined soldiers under the banner of Prince Emmanuel, or rebels under the banner of the prince of darkness. Which shall it be?—Manuscript 69, 1897. (Child Guidance, 200.) 2MCP 551.3

The influence of the mother who has a close connection with Christ is of infinite worth. Her ministry of love makes the home a Bethel. Christ works with her, turning the common water of life into the wine of heaven. Her children will grow up to be a blessing and an honor to her in this life and in the life to come. GW 206.3

ML 121, 3T60

God commanded the Hebrews to teach their children His requirements, and to make them acquainted with all His dealings with their people. The home and the school were one. In the place of stranger lips, the loving hearts of the father and mother were to give instruction to their children. Thoughts of God were associated with all the events of daily life in the home dwelling. The mighty works of God in the deliverance of His people were recounted with eloquence and reverential awe. The great truths of God's providence and of the future life were impressed on the young mind. It became acquainted with the true, the good, the beautiful. FE 95.3

By the use of figures and symbols the lessons given were illustrated, and thus more firmly fixed in the memory. Through this animated imagery the child was, almost from infancy, initiated into the mysteries, the wisdom, and the hopes of his fathers, and guided in a way of thinking and feeling and anticipating, that reached beyond things seen and transitory, to the unseen and eternal. FE 95.4

From this education many a youth of Israel came forth vigorous in body and mind, quick to perceive and strong to act, the heart prepared like good ground for the growth of the precious seed, the mind trained to see God in the words of revelation and the scenes of nature. The stars of heaven, the trees and flowers of the field, the lofty mountains, the babbling brooks, all spoke to him, and the voices of the prophets, heard throughout the land, met a response in his heart. FE 95.5

Such was the training of Moses in the lowly cabin home in Goshen; of Samuel, by the faithful Hannah; of David, in the hill-dwelling at Bethlehem; of Daniel, before the scenes of the captivity separated him from the home of his fathers. ***Such, too, was the early life of Christ***, in the humble home at Nazareth; such the training by which the child Timothy learned from the lips of his mother Eunice, and his grandmother Lois, the truths of Holy Writ. FE 96.1

Note: Pro. 22:6 "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Rom. 10:17 "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." This works for children to, so that at their earliest moments they had been trained in Faith, to seek God.

The old nature, born of blood and the will of the flesh, ***cannot inherit*** the kingdom of God. The old ways, the hereditary tendencies, the former habits, ***must be given up***; for grace is not inherited. The new birth consists in having ***new***

*motives, new tastes, new tendencies. Those who are begotten unto a new life by the Holy Spirit, have **become partakers of the divine nature**, and in all their habits and practices they will give evidence of their relationship to Christ. When men who claim to be Christians retain all their natural defects of character and disposition, **in what does their position differ from that of the worldling?** They do not appreciate the truth as a sanctifier, a refiner. They have not been born again (The Review and Herald, April 12, 1892). { 6BC 1101.1 }*

Distrust of God is the natural outgrowth of the unrenewed heart, which is at enmity with Him. **But faith is inspired by the Holy Spirit, and it will flourish only as it is cherished. No man can become strong in faith without a determined effort.** Unbelief strengthens as it is encouraged; and if men, instead of dwelling upon the evidences which God has given to sustain their faith, permit themselves to question and cavil, they will find their doubts constantly becoming more confirmed. GC 527.3