

A graphic illustration of a family of five walking across a bridge. The silhouettes are rendered in white and red against a dark, textured background. The father and son are in red, while the mother and two daughters are in white. They are holding hands and walking towards the right. The bridge is depicted as a white path crossing a dark, textured area.

Building Bridges

Romans 15:4

“Building Bridges for
Generations **NOT** to
Follow”

Rom. 15:4 For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.



- Bridges are built to remedy a problem
 - Building bridges requires a plan
- Built bridges results via perseverance

Two weeks ago we went to Job 22:21-30 to consider:

“Building a Spiritual Bridge to Satisfy Our Lives”

Last week, we considered:

“Building Bridges for Generations to Follow”

- THE PREMISE OF RECONCILIATION 5:14-16
- THE PRIVILEGE OF RECONCILIATION, 5:17-19
- THE PERETUITY OF RECONCILIATION, 5:20-21



This morning, we will consider...

*“Building Bridges for Generations **NOT** to Follow”*

This information comes from a book written in 1900 by A. E. Winship: *Jukes-Edwards: A Study in Education and Heredity*.

Jonathan Edwards’ Powerful Example of Leaving a Godly Legacy

Leaving a godly legacy for your children should be the goal of all Christian parenting. Although the faith and godliness of your children is ultimately the work of the Holy Spirit, God often uses the influence of parents to make a great impact on their children.



A great example of this is Jonathan Edwards, the Puritan Preacher from the 1700s. Jonathan and his wife Sarah left a great godly legacy for his 11 children.

At the turn of the 20th century, American educator and pastor A.E. Winship decided to trace out the descendants of Jonathan Edwards almost 150 years after his death. His findings are astounding, especially when compared to a man known as Max Jukes. Jukes' legacy came to the forefront when the family trees of 42 different men in the New York prison system traced back to him.



Jonathan Edwards' godly legacy includes:

1 U.S. Vice-President

3 U.S. Senators

3 governors

3 mayors

13 college presidents

30 judges

65 professors

80 public office holders

100 lawyers and

100 missionaries.



Max Jukes' descendants included:

7 murderers

60 thieves

50 women of debauchery

130 other convicts

310 paupers (with over 2,300 years lived in poorhouses) 400 who were physically wrecked by indulgent living.

It was estimated that Max Juke's descendants cost the state more than \$1,250,000.



This is a powerful example showing how a parent's leadership can have a profound effect on their children.

<http://www.unlockingthebible.org/jonathan-edwards-leaving-a-godly-legacy/>

*“Building Bridges for Generations **NOT** to Follow”*

I. COMMITTED CHRISTIANS MUST MAINTAIN VIGILANCE

A. The Premise is from Christ, Mt. 26:21

Mt. 26:41 Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: **the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.**

B. The Principle is for Christians, 1 Cor. 16:13, 1 Pet. 5:8

1 Cor. 16:13 **Watch** ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.



1 Pet. 5:8 Be sober, **be vigilant**; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

Rom. 7:18 For I know that **in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing**: for to will is present with me; but *how* to perform that which is good I find not.

Gal. 5:16 *This* I say then, **Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.**



1 Jn. 2:15 **Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.**

16 For all that *is* in the world, **the lust of the flesh**, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

II. COMPROMISED CHRISTIANS ARE VULNERABLE

A. Vulnerability is Always Present

Mt. 23:12 And **whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased**; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.



Gal. 6:3 For **if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself.**

Rom. 12:3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, **not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think;** but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

2 Tim. 4:10 “For **Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world,** and is departed unto Thessalonica...”

Prov. 28:26 **He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool:** but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered.



Prov. 3:5 **Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.**

6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

1 Cor. 3:1 **And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ.**

2 I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for **hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able.**

Heb. 5:14 **But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.**



Psa. 1:1 **Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly**, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

2 But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

1 Tim. 1:18 This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou **by them mightest war a good warfare;**

19 **Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck:**

20 Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme.



2 Chron. 18:1 Now Jehoshaphat had riches and honour in abundance, and **joined affinity with Ahab.**

2 And after *certain* years **he went down to Ahab to Samaria.** And Ahab killed sheep and oxen for him in abundance, and for the people that *he had* with him, and persuaded him to go up *with him* to Ramothgilead.

3 And Ahab king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat king of Judah, Wilt thou go with me to Ramothgilead? And he answered him, **I am as thou art, and my people as thy people; and we will be with thee in the war.**

4 And Jehoshaphat said unto the king of Israel, **Enquire, I pray thee, at the word of the LORD to day.**

6 But **Jehoshaphat said, Is there not here a prophet of the LORD besides,** that we might enquire of him?



Jehoshaphat built bridges with the wrong people = NO principles of discernment and separation.

2 Chron. 18:16 Then he said, I did see all Israel scattered upon the mountains, as sheep that have no shepherd: and the LORD said, These have no master; let them return *therefore* every man to his house in peace.

Jehoshaphat said he wanted to know what God said – but it did not matter enough to dissuade him.



2 Chron. 18:30 Now the king of Syria had commanded the captains of the chariots that *were* with him, saying, Fight ye not with small or great, save only with the king of Israel.

31 And it came to pass, when the captains of the chariots saw Jehoshaphat, that they said, It *is* the king of Israel. Therefore they compassed about him to fight: but Jehoshaphat cried out, and the LORD helped him; and God moved them *to depart* from him.

When a backslider runs with the wrong crowd, don't be surprised if the world identifies him with the wrong crowd!

2 Chron. 18:33 And a *certain* man drew a bow at a venture, and smote the king of Israel between the joints of the harness: therefore he said to his chariot man, Turn thine hand, that thou mayest carry me out of the host; for I am wounded.



B. Vulnerability will Affect Posterity

2 Chron. 21:1 Now Jehoshaphat slept with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the city of David. And **Jehoram his son reigned in his stead.**

6 And **he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, like as did the house of Ahab:** for **he had the daughter of Ahab to wife:** and he wrought *that which* was evil in the eyes of the LORD.



2 Chron. 21:12 And there came a writing to him from Elijah the prophet, saying, Thus saith the LORD God of David thy father, **Because thou hast not walked in the ways of Jehoshaphat thy father, nor in the ways of Asa king of Judah,**

13 But hast **walked in the way of the kings of Israel**, and hast made Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to go a whoring, like to the whoredoms of the house of Ahab, and also hast slain thy brethren of thy father's house, *which were better than thyself*:

14 Behold, with a great plague will the LORD smite thy people, and thy children, and thy wives, and all thy goods:

15 And thou *shalt have* great sickness by disease of thy bowels, until thy bowels fall out by reason of the sickness day by day.

18 And **after all this the LORD smote him in his bowels with an incurable disease.**

19 And it came to pass, that in process of time, after the end of two years, his bowels fell out by reason of his sickness: so he died of sore diseases. And his people made no burning for him, like the burning of his fathers.

20 Thirty and two years old was he when he began to reign, and he reigned in Jerusalem eight years, and departed without being desired. Howbeit they buried him in the city of David, but not in the sepulchres of the kings.



2 Chron. 22:2 Forty and two years old was Ahaziah when he began to reign, and he reigned one year in Jerusalem. **His mother's name also was Athaliah the daughter of Omri.**

3 He also **walked in the ways of the house of Ahab**: for **his mother was his counsellor to do wickedly.**

4 Wherefore he did evil in the sight of the LORD like the house of Ahab: for they were his counsellors after the death of his father to his destruction.

2 Chron. 22:10 But when Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she arose and **destroyed all the seed royal of the house of Judah.**



III. CONFUSED CHRISTIANS MAY BECOME VICTORIOUS

A. The Mess is usually our Fault

Psa. 107:17 **Fools because of their transgression, and because of their iniquities**, are afflicted.

Prov. 13:15 Good understanding giveth favour: but **the way of transgressors is hard**.

Prov. 14:14 **The backslider in heart shall be filled with his own ways**: and a good man *shall be satisfied* from himself.



2 Chron. 19:2 “...Shouldest thou help the ungodly, and love them that hate the LORD? therefore is wrath upon thee from before the LORD.”

B. The Message utilizes our Faith

Heb. 11:34 Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, **out of weakness were made strong**, waxed **valiant in fight**, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.

2 Chron. 15:4 But **when they in their trouble did turn unto the LORD God of Israel**, and **sought him, he was found of them.**



2 Chron. 20:2 Then there came some that told Jehoshaphat, saying, There cometh a great multitude against thee from beyond the sea on this side Syria; and, behold, they *be* in Hazazontamar, which *is* Engedi.

3 And **Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the LORD**, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah.

4 And Judah gathered themselves together, **to ask help of the LORD**: even out of all the cities of Judah they came **to seek the LORD**.

2 Chron. 20:12 O our God, wilt thou not judge them? for we have no might against this great company that cometh against us; **neither know we what to do: but our eyes are upon thee.**



2 Chron. 20:15 And he said, Hearken ye, all Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem, and thou king Jehoshaphat, Thus saith the LORD unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for **the battle is not yours, but God's.**

17 Ye shall not *need* to fight in this *battle*: set yourselves, stand ye *still*, and see the salvation of the LORD with you, O Judah and Jerusalem: fear not, nor be dismayed; to morrow go out against them: for **the LORD will be with you.**

18 And **Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground: and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell before the LORD, worshipping the LORD.**

22 And when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they were smitten.

27 Then they returned, every man of Judah and Jerusalem, and Jehoshaphat in the forefront of them, to go again to Jerusalem with joy; for **the LORD had made them to rejoice over their enemies.**

28 And they came to Jerusalem with psalteries and harps and trumpets unto the house of the LORD.

30 So the realm of Jehoshaphat was quiet: for his **God gave him rest** round about.



2 Cor. 12:9 And he said unto me, **My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.** Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for **when I am weak, then am I strong.**



IV. COMMITTED CHRISTIANS MUST MAINTAIN VIGILANCE

Psa. 127:1 **Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it:** except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh *but* in vain.

1 Cor. 16:13 **Watch** ye, **stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.**

1 Pet. 5:8 Be sober, **be vigilant**; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

2 Cor. 6:14 **Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers:** for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?



Conclusion

The Tragedy and the Triumph

2 Chron. 20:15 And he said, Hearken ye, all Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem, and thou king Jehoshaphat, Thus saith the LORD unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for **the battle is not yours, but God's.**

17 Ye shall not *need* to fight in this *battle*: set yourselves, stand ye *still*, and see the salvation of the LORD with you, O Judah and Jerusalem: fear not, nor be dismayed; to morrow go out against them: for **the LORD will be with you.**



Mt. 28:20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, **I am with you always**, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

Heb. 13:5 *Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.*

6 So that **we may boldly say**, The Lord *is* my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.



2 Pet. 1:5 And beside this, **giving all diligence, add to your faith** virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

8 For **if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

9 But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, **give diligence** to make your calling and election sure: for **if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:**

11 For **so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly** into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

