

Our Children Deserve Better

Changing Our World Through Godly Character

Devotionals by Sharon Stults

In my elementary years, we started school days with the same two traditions. We all pledged allegiance to the American flag and then a teacher or administrator prayed. This was normal in most American classrooms at that time. During my 2nd grade year, prayer went missing.

I'm sure my family talked about it around our dinner table a time or two, because we always discussed current events. Beyond that, I don't remember any groups of angry parents or teachers. No memories of my pastor bringing it up from the pulpit or my Sunday School teachers discussing it in classes. I'm not saying that some people weren't upset at that time but not enough to create a memory in my young mind.

I asked my parents many years later why they and other Christians didn't raise a ruckus about this issue, at the time. Their general response was, "Well, we figured, public schools are run by the government and they can do pretty much what they want." I'm not sure how many generations back we can trace this kind of disconnect of not understanding that we, the people are the government. For the moral health of our culture, it's been a tragic misunderstanding.

In my post, Wisdom Challenge #14, "God- Followers Can Be Purifying Agents in A Polluted Culture," I share many suggestions for becoming a change agent for goodness and righteousness. I believe we are in a season where God is judging and removing wicked people in places of power, not just in government but in business, media, entertainment and even the church. Yes, the church. We will need righteous people with wise, godly characters to fill those positions. You may be one of them.

My prayer is that these devotionals will challenge and provoke you to consider the areas where God may be trying to shape and change you to conform more to the image of Christ. As we consider dynamic character qualities of people from ancient and modern times, I believe we will be more motivated to submit to the inner workings of God in us. I want God to use you and me to impact our worlds as they did, because our children deserve better.

Learning together in him,

Sharon

Courage- Jim Eliot

The Verses: “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go,” Joshua 1:9-11 NIV.

“If you cling to your life, you will lose it, and if you let your life go, you will save it”. Luke 17:33

The Story: On the last day of his life, missionary Jim Eliot’s primary thoughts were only about communicating the gospel to the violent Auca (Waodoni) tribe of Ecuador. Known to be hostile, Jim still believed God called him to share the gospel with them. That day, Jim and four other missionaries flew into the jungle to make their second contact, with hope that Aucas would come out of and interact face to face, as they did on their first flight in.

Back home in the United States, some did not see Jim as courageous. With his charismatic speaking gifts, they believed his gifts were wasted in Ecuador’s jungles. He should have pastored a large church or reached crowds as an evangelist. Others, familiar with Ecuador and the violence of these unreached tribes, warned Jim that it was too dangerous to approach them. Before Jim’s adventures in Ecuador, he developed the courage to face critics. Sometimes it can be harder to stand up for what we believe in with people who know us. Jim never faltered. God planted an undeniable love for the Aucas in his heart.

Sadly, one of the tribesmen the missionaries met on their first trip lied to the rest of the tribe about the motives of the Americans. Previously, an American oil company tried to displace the Aucas and harassed them a lot. When the missionaries landed and stepped out onto the jungle.....

To read the rest of this devotional and nine others featuring key character qualities of Jesus-followers who changed the world, please check back on my website the last week of May where the full, free devotional will be found under “Wisdom Challenge Resources.”