

NOVEMBER 1947

My parents were blessed with 11 children. I was the first born, Ann was born 14 months later and 14 months after that came Jerry. When I was about 6 years old, we were blessed with twins, Marilyn and Marlin. The story begins here. After mom brought the twins home, she would nurse them on the davenport in the front room. While she was nursing one of them she asked me to close the front door because she was getting a draft. I said to her I didn't leave the door open so get the kid that did. After she asked me a second time and I didn't respond, Grandma, who was there helping her, got up and moved toward me. I knew I was in deep trouble, so I quickly got up and ran under the bed. That was always a safe place because Mom couldn't get under there to get me. After a few minutes I would come out and be safe as Mom had a soft heart. But not this time, Grandma came after me and grabbed both feet and dragged me out.

The punishment that I received really hurt. I had been hanging around all afternoon to go with Grandma to visit Aunt Lillian. Grandma told me that I was staying home! That hurt. Years later she told me that it hurt her more than I'll ever know. She said, after all you are the Apple of my eye!

Why this story? Have you ever disobeyed your parents? What I discovered that we learned in confirmation class that I broke at least 1 of God's commandments. The fourth, honor your Father and Mother that it may go well with you and that you may live long on the earth.

So, disrespecting your parents if continued can lead to a miserable life of disrespect for all authority, such as our teachers, government officials, police officers, pastors, just name a few. I sure am glad my grandma and parents disciplined me for my good. Who knows what I'd have become if they hadn't?

Everything we have, every blessing comes from His loving hands, what's not to love. That Jesus was born into this world, which we celebrate this month, to end up on the cross for the sinful life we lead. Through the repentance of our sins, we enjoy the forgiveness he has won for us. Repentance is true respect for the Father in Heaven.

Matthew 22:34-50 Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."



Joe's Rocking Chair Greetings
Joseph E Stickney December 1, 2018 - Vol 12 No 4
David's Star EV Lutheran Church
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