

AS ARROWS IN THE HAND

PSALMS 127

Text: Psalms 127:4

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As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth.

Introduction:

The Psalmist speaks of children as being arrows in the father's hand. The picture is the father carefully and skillfully guiding his children toward an intended target, like the warrior would his arrow.

Using this analogy let us as father's find instruction as well as encouragement to guide and direct the lives of our children.

1. THE MIGHTY MAN SKILLED AND STRONG

"Arrows are no more effective than the archer. And the bow is not better than the man who holds it."

2 Tim. 2:14-15

Of these things put them in remembrance, charging them before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, but to the subverting of the hearers.

15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

2. THE MIGHTY MAN SHAPE AND SHARPEN

A. We must shape our children.

1 Thes. 2:11

As ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father doth his children,

Ephes. 6:4

And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

B. We must sharpen our children.

Proverbs 22:6

Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

The question of the hour is not what are my children going to be, but rather what does the Lord want my children to be and how can He use me to shape them into that.

1 Samuel 3:13

For I have told him that I will judge his house for ever for the iniquity which he knoweth; because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not.

3. A MIGHTY MAN SEEING AND SIZING

The archer at whatever distance he is shooting from must see and size up his target.

What good are arrows without a target?

The target we should have for our children in found in
3 John 4

3 John 1:4

I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.

4. THE MIGHTY MAN SHOOTING AND SENDING

I have talked to bow hunters whose skill level in hitting the target is excellent, who could not release the arrow when it came to the moment of truth in the woods

staring at that trophy prize. One man said regretfully, "I just could not let go of the arrow."

Children grow up and the day will come they like the arrows must be released and sent out away from the hand of the mighty man.

It should be our aim to send our children out with the godly skills and desires to emotionally leave home and handle life on their own.

I am aware that my oldest is 16

But the greater awareness in my heart is that the day is quickly approaching they will no longer be in my hand as arrows are in the hand of a mighty man.

And so it is today that I must be skilled and strong in the use of God's Word so as to shape and sharpen their lives.

I must see and size up the goal so that when the day comes for them to leave I can pull the bow back with confidence and allow the arrow to be flung toward that intended target of Jesus Christ.

Close:

Psalm 127:3-4

Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. 4As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth.

Your children and my children are our heritage for they walk after us. Let's not think of heritage in terms of when we are gone, but let us live their heritage before them this day and all the tomorrow's to come.