

HOW WOULD JESUS PARENT?

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Jesus - Deep Understanding & Compassion

"When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd." Mt 9:36 (8 x's in Mt, Mk, Lk)

"But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. (Lk. 15)

Pharisees ask: "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" Jesus replies: "Those

who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick...For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners." Mt. 9:11-13 (Greek word "sodzo" means both "heal" & "save")

Jesus - Connecting Strategies

- Tells Stories (Playful)
- Preaches the Good news of the Kingdom of Heaven
- Calls people to follow him
- Casts out demons - frees the person from isolation and reconnects them to community.
- Is "with" the disciples in the storm
- Blesses the children through touch
- Raised from the dead, Jesus is alive and is with us now (Mt. 28)

Jesus - Empowering Strategies

- Body
 - Give food & drink to people
 - Instructs followers to give food & drink, welcome the stranger, give clothing, care for the sick, visit the imprisoned (Mt.25)
 - Heals many people; blind, lame, deaf, leprosy
 - Casts out demons - gives back the person's voice & power
 - "Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake?...how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!"
- Environment
 - Calms the storm storm

Jesus - Correcting Strategies

- Proactive (when all are regulated)
 - Mt. 5-7 Sermon on the Mount (one of 5 teachings sections in Matthew)

Trust-Based Parenting & Jesus



- Live your life in complete trust of God, who is faithful.
- Rules for Anger, Enemies, Anxiety, Judging others, Money, Legal Testimony, Pride, Marriage, etc.
- Responsive (when facing behaviors)
 - Playful: After drawing on the ground, Jesus says "Let he who is without sin, cast the first stone."
 - Structured: To those who prefer power, money, tradition, over caring for people. (Pharisees, Scribes, Priests, The Rich, Kings & Governors)
 - To the Pharisees who believed Jesus should not heal on the Sabbath; Jesus argues, "How much more valuable is a human being than a sheep!" Mt. 12.12
 - "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. Mt.23:23-25

The Question - What do parents do when we are trapped in "Protection Brain - Fight mode"?

- "Jesus, this child was caught in the very act of...?" John 8:4
- "First take the log out of your own eye, then you can see clearly to take the speck out of your child's eye." Matthew 7:5

Adoptive/Foster Beatitudes

- "Blessed are the exhausted, depleted, those giving w/o receiving back.
- "Blessed are those who grieve the loss of dreams, relationships, hope.
- "Blessed are those feeling ashamed and guilty, like failures.
- "Blessed are those who long to help kids thrive.
- "Blessed are those who open their homes & hearts to other people's children.
- "Blessed are those focused on being an instrument of God's healing.
- "Blessed are those working to bring wholeness into a child's life, putting the pieces back together.
- "Blessed are those who feel like no good deed goes unpunished; when they are criticized by kids, schools, mental health workers, child welfare workers, other parents.
- "Blessed are you when you are cussed at, f-bombed, criticized, reviled and rejected.
- Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. Matthew 5:3-12

<p><i>I follow the one who was crucified, why would I think that I should have it easy? - Kim Blakley Rea (1964-2020)</i></p>	<p><i>Your life would be easier, if you didn't do hard things. - Jason Johnson (CAFO Conference 2021)</i></p>
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