Intro: 1 My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments, 2 for length of days and years of life and peace they will add to you. 3 Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart. 4 So you will find favor and good success in the sight of God and man. 5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. 6 In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. 7 Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord, and turn away from evil. 8 It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones. 9 Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; 10 then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine. 11 My son, do not despise the Lord’s discipline or be weary of his reproof, 12 for the Lord reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights.

• Last year we started the series called “dirt road lessons from dad”. I got this idea from a man who wrote as song about his dad and in it there was the phrase that he wrote about how his dad would teach him some dirt road lessons. As a dad I never had that role model to look to, so I took my raising my two boys from the book of Proverbs. They were my dirty road lesson I taught them using God’s word. So here is some more dirt road lesson from God’s word for Dad’s. The Proverb and the dirt road lesson from it.

I. Keep reassuring your children to learn from God’s rules – 1 My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments,

• Boundaries, rules, laws, or commandments are put in place to keep us from staying from the plotted course. They are not put in place to make us mad, doubt our abilities, or even doubt our beliefs. They are there for a reason and that reason is to learn from mom and dad’s prior mistakes.

° Our dirt road lesson: A good teacher learns from the failed pass; a great teacher teaches how to avoid their mistakes.

II. Listening to your dad’s advice will add days to your life – 2 for length of days and years of life and peace they will add to you.

• Note that it is not adding days to dad’s life, but it is adding days to your life. The reason he said be home before 10:00 pm is because nothing good happens after 10:01 pm. The reason he tells you not to pick up strangers is to protect you from being killed.

° Our dirt road lesson: listening to dad could save you some trouble, not listening could be more costly.

III. Commit yourself to two things loving-kindness and faithfulness – 3 Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart. 4 So you will find favor and good success in the sight of God and man.

• In the King James Bible love and faithfulness is translated into mercy and truth. It is a loving-kindness that the world lack, and we are not grounded in the true faithfulness of God.

° Our dirt road lesson: A commitment to true love and faithfulness is a joyful life, but a rejection of God’s loving-kindness and mercy is the tragedy of itself.

IV. Trust and Acknowledge in the Lord for a straight path in life – 5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. 6 In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

• Always trust in the Lord, acknowledge His wisdom, and never trust in yourself or someone who will lead you away from God.

° Our dirt road lesson: The first step is to trust in the Lord in everything you do, never take a step without God.

V. Dads we need to teach to have respect for the Triune God – 7 Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord, and turn away from evil.

• There were a time not so long-ago people would show respect to the church just because of the Lord, and now, thanks to the false prophets and pastors sleeping with prostitutes, we have lost that important attribute we had with God, showing our respect to His divinity.

° Our Dirt Road Lesson: A wise man respects the Lord, and an unwise man will only respect himself.

VI. Being respectful to God is for your benefit not His – 8 It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones.

• When we teach our children to respect a higher authority, we are teaching them to respect the rule of law. If that rule of law violates God rules, we obey God’s rule first. Why? Because we respect Him first which will benefit me the most.

° Our Dirt Road lesson: My greatest benefit in life is to respect God and not myself.

VII. We need to show our children to honor God with their money – 9 Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; 10 then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.

• God knows that money, wealth, and fame are the most pride possessions we have on the earth. We will even sacrifice our families to gain one or all three of these things. Jesus Himself said that we cannot serve God and money.

° Our Dirt Road lesson: God will bless you when you honor Him with what you pride yourself in the most, money.

VIII. God correcting us should be seen as love not punishment – 11 My son, do not despise the Lord’s discipline or be weary of his reproof,

• Dirt Road lessons from Dad is if I don’t bust them then God will, and His discipline will hurt them more than mine. “This really hurts me more than you.”

° Our Dirt Road lesson: If God never punishes you how do you know He loves you?

IX. Correcting your children shows more love than not correcting them – 12 for the Lord reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights.

• It is hard to understand that when we were young our parents disciplined us and said this hurts me more than it will you. Parents don’t like to discipline their children, we don’t want to see them hurt in any way, especially if we are giving them the hurt that they don’t want. But parents if we don’t then the pain that they are going to feel will be much greater than the belt to the bum. We, by nature, need to feel pain so we can be directed in a different way.

° Our Dirt Road Lesson: “Dad set my pants on fire, so God wouldn’t have too”.