



**TEACHER: BETH SEIFERT**

**ONAOMI'S TABLE 2016**

**Day 17: Ephesians 6:1-4 Be Careful With Your Arrows**

**Read Proverbs 23:22.** What reason does this proverb give for listening to your father? According to this proverb, is there a time limit on listening to your parents and showing them respect?

**Read Proverbs 22:6.** Knowing that the proverbs are not promises, but are general bits of wisdom, what should our goal be in raising our children?

**Read Colossians 3:20-21.** What does Paul tell us pleases the Lord? What could take away the courage of our children? (What could discourage them?) What does that tell you about the role of a parent?

**Read 1 John 5:1-3.** John tells us that if we believe Jesus is the Christ, what have we experienced? If we love the Father, who else will we love? How will we know that we are children of God? What does that tell us about the importance of training our children to obey human parents?

**Read Hebrews 12:7-11.** How does the Hebrews writer say God is treating the people? What does that demonstrate, regarding our relationship with God? What do earthly fathers do? Does this lower their value in the eyes of their children? Why does God discipline us? Is it pleasant? What is the goal of discipline?

As you spend time with God today, consider the importance of a parent loving and trusting God in their parenting. What dangers arise when a parent leans on their own understanding? What long term consequences can result from that? If you are a parent, consider whether you have discouraged your children and, if you have, be reconciled to them, asking for their forgiveness. Ask God to help you in every single step of your parenting so you are in line with Him; every child should be discouraged from wrongdoing in a manner that is God honoring, but only God can help you to do that. If you are not a parent, consider how your role as a “child” has changed over your life and yet, consider

the things that have *not* changed. How can you continue to show honor and respect to your parents, even as they are no longer your primary source of discipline? Remember, even if your parents are not believers or behave in ways that do not honor God, you can still show honor and respect to them while not going along with them in dishonoring God. Thank God today that He is the perfect Father, disciplining us never too much or too little, but always perfectly, drawing us more in line with Him to be sanctified a little more every day.