

**THE ART OF PARENTING  
FROM CURSINGS TO BLESSINGS.  
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(Story)  
Marilyn Monroe -

In the 1950's a free-lance reporter from the New York Times was interviewing Marilyn Monroe. She was aware of Marilyn's past – how she bounced around from one foster home to another in her childhood. The reporter asked Marilyn, "Did you ever feel loved by any of the foster families with whom you lived?"

"Once," Marilyn replied, "when I was about seven. The woman I was living with was putting on her make-up and I was watching her. She was in a happy mood, so she reached over and patted my cheeks with her rouge puff... For that moment, I felt loved."

Marilyn Monroe had tears in her eyes when she remembered this event. Why?

Def: Because for all the attention, money, and stardom Marilyn received it never gave her the desire of her heart... A deep and constant feeling of being loved, valued, and believed-in.

↳ In reality Marilyn lived with a kind of curse

Marilyn received all the food, shelter and instruction she needed growing up. She went on to make enough money to buy whatever she wanted.... But it wasn't enough.

↳ It's not enough for children to be fed, instructed, and given a place to live.... They need to be blessed.

T>> This is an interesting thought... Even Jesus needed to receive the blessing from his heavenly father.

Luke 3:21-22

Four very important things happen here that make-up the basic elements of a blessing.

Here's the beauty of what God the father shows us hear.

- 1) This is something you can pass on to your children everyday... and
- 2) This is something you can pass on to others. Everyone needs the blessing

✓ Friends, neighbors, co-workers, children and grandchildren

Jesus made it a life-style to constantly pass the blessing onto those around him.

We live in a world of people living under the same curse of Marilyn Monroe

(ILL)

There's a man covered w/ leprosy and Jesus heals him by touching him...

Jesus didn't have to touch him to heal him physically, but maybe a man who hadn't been touch by another human being in decades needed that touch to be healed in his heart...

(ILL) Jesus meets a woman at a well who isn't much different than Marilyn Monroe when it comes to "relational self-destruction".

He doesn't shame her... He blesses her with words of care and understanding. He offers to quench the thirst of her heart, rather than the thirst of her lust.

- Friends... You can do the same thing for your children, grandchildren, friends, and those you know.

T>> The best example of a blessing is the way God blesses Jesus.

Luke 3:22a Just as Jesus reached out and touched the man with leprosy... The spirit of God manifests Himself in a physical form and touches Jesus.

1. Meaningful Touch

Gen 27:<sup>26</sup> Isaac is near the end of his life and when he goes to bless who he thinks is Esau he says come here and let me kiss you.

I can picture Isaac as an old man wrestling his son over saying come over hear, or I'm going to give you a noogy. *Just between the lines*

Mark 10:16 One day parents are bringing their children to see Jesus "And He took them up in His arms, put His hands on them, and blessed them."

(Story) Dorothy <sup>Blessing p.47</sup>

There was a young girl in college girl named Dorothy who had a large deep red birth mark that covered most of one side of her face. Being very embarrassed about it she wore her hair long and held her head down most of the time to hide it.

One of her professors was a wonderful Christ follower in his early sixties who started his first day w/ his new class by asking the question: What do you like most about yourself?

Dorothy sunk down in her chair hoping to be over looked. She was silent when it the question came around to her, and thinking she didn't hear the question he repeated it.

Finally, with a deep sigh, Dorothy sat up in her chair, pulled back her hair, revealing her wine colored birthmark – "That" she said, "Should show you what I don't like about myself."

Moved with compassion, this godly professor leaned over and gave her a hug... The kissed her right in the middle of her birthmark and said, "That's Okay, Honey, God and I still think you're beautiful."

At which point she started to cry uncontrollably for almost twenty minutes. Soon other students had gathered around her and were offering their

comfort as well. When she finally could talk, as she dabbed the tears from her eyes she said to the professor.

“I’ve wanted so much for someone to hug me and say what you said.... Why couldn’t my parents do that? My mother won’t even touch my face.”

- Meaningful touch communicates warmth and affection. A meaningful touch can be very affirming and disarming.

Q: When is the last time you hugged and kissed your child?  
When is the last time you gave a co-worker a real pat on the back

(Story) I have a close friend who always greets me with a handshake that always turns into a hug... and to try and avoid it would only turn it into a weird dance that would end in a hug. ***He just reels you in like a giant Alaskan Salmon.***

And every time... It affirms that he values our friendship, I always feel honored and valued around him.

Luke 3:22b After the dove descends on Christ what happens? God speaks.

2. Spoken Words of Love

God didn’t leave it up to Jesus to assume He loved him – He told him!

- God didn’t leave it up to us to assume that he loves us. He gave us His (Word) which tells us “That God so (loved) the world that he gave us his one and only son.

For a child in search of the blessing, the major thing silence communicates is confusion.

(Story) During practice a young football player dropped a simple pass, and the coach pulled him over to the sidelines and chewed on him a little. After the coach moved on the player remarked “Boy, I wish the coach would get off my case”. Then another player... who didn’t get to play much said: “don’t say that – At least he’s talking to you. If he ever stops talking to you, that means he’s given up on you.”

We live in a world where a lot of children think they’ve been given up on.

(Story) Gary Smalley  
Q: When was the last time you told your wife you loved her? “I told her on our wedding day and it still stands until I revoke it!”

Luke 3:22b “with you I am well pleased.” This points out a 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> element of a blessing.

### 3. Attaching “High Value” to the One being blessed

{Hebrew }

To value something means to attach honor to it. In fact, this is the meaning of the verb “to bless.” In Hebrew, the word “bless” literally means “to bow the knee.” It was used in showing reverence, even awe, to an important person.

That doesn’t mean every time your kid’s walks in the room you bow to them.

- ✓ It means we value what they have to say.
- ✓ We value their opinions... and their creative energy.

(ILL)

Child creates some art work...”Well son you’ve really lost any sense of definition from the lack of contrast w/ your Sponge Bob drawing / And who’s Sponge Bob anyway?

(Story)

Author Patsy Clairmont from book “Normal is Just a Setting on Your Dryer

She tells the story of being on a flight to Detroit that at first seemed to be very frustrating. Her original flight was delayed and so she was added to another flight which meant she would be stuck in a middle seat. But she decided to make the best of it by pretending she was Oprah Winfrey and she would interview her seat mates. She remembered the young man next to her said called her ma’am. “Are you in the military? Yes ma’am... year and half.

He was beside himself over seeing family... I’ve missed so much  
4 months – Emotional time as, women waved from doorways, and children ran up to us.

Patsy Clairmont told the flight attendant... we have a war hero.

Flight attendant – VIP aboard. He is returning from Desert Storm and is in seat 12F. As a representative of his airline and citizen of the US, I salute you, Michael, and thank you for a job well done.”

As she looked over he was crying.

T>>

Lastly, when God says “I am pleased” he is referring to what Jesus will become.

### 4. Choosing to believe in their future

First let me say what this is not.

- ✓ This is not creating a grand expectation that they must live up to... That hangs over their head year after year.
- ✓ This is not your unrealized dreams... being lived out through one of your children

- ✓ It's not an expectation that earns, proves, or reveals their value.

Rather... this is a belief that creates value in them.

Believing in your children lets them know they have a great future even if they can't see it.

- ↳ You can become the biggest fan of their lives before they accomplish a single thing!!!

(ILL)

I'm a Wild Cat, I'm a UofA grad – I chose many moons ago to believe in our football team. So at half-time yesterday I dreamed of the Pasadena... Of the Rose Bowl (maybe not this year, or next)

But some day we will make it – I just pray it happens before I grow old... really old...and then die.

Now is the most important time to be a fan...

- Now! Is the time to believe in your child... before the report cards come, before they make the team.

Q:

How much ministry had Christ really carried out by this time? None. Jesus hadn't done anything yet.

God believed in Jesus before he ever made it to the Championship game.

(Story)

A young couple was excitedly driving to the hospital, filled with anticipation as they were about to have their first child. It was extra special to them because for years doctors had said they would never have a baby, but here they were. They gave birth to a little baby girl they named Diane, but when she was born her left arm was barely formed. But right there in the hospital room with baby Diane nestled in her mother's arms, her parents prayed that their love for her would make up for any lack of physical abilities she possessed. They decided that morning that they would encourage her to become all that God would have her be, in spite of the problems they and Diane would have to face along the way.

Diane has had to deal with tremendous obstacles in the 19 years of her life. The stares, giggles, and the tactless questions of her peers in grade school; the fears and uncomfortable feelings of whether to go to a dance in junior high: wondering if she would ever be asked out on a date.

But Diane received a precious and powerful gift from her parents – the security of knowing she was highly valued and unconditionally accepted.

She said." My parents didn't try to hide from me the fact that I was different, But they have been very realistic with me. But I always knew, and they have told me over and over that I am their greatest claim to fame."

Whether I was trying out for softball or my dad was teaching me how to drive, they have been my biggest fans

And if you ever meet Dian the thing that will attract your attention will not be the empty sleeve of her blouse... It's smile on her face and the way she can play a beautiful melody on the piano.

Closing	Ask parents to come forward.
Parents to child	You are my child, Whom I love with all my heart.
Congregation to parents	You are our parents and our children Whom we love and support.
Parents to child	I believe in you, and I will bless you all the days of your life.
Congregation to parents	We value the future God has given us in these precious children
Everyone	May God bless these children with His love, grace, and favor

### Blessing

1min	Ask parents & children to come forward (Roger comes up on the platform) Read Scripture – Glenn
5min	Rose (stages of child and parenting as the child grows) – Roger
5min	Recognize families – Glenn <b>Congregational Reading – Glenn</b> Closing Prayer - Glenn

