

TIPS FOR TERRIFIC FATHERING

- Esther 2

**From the example of Mordecai, let us see that
a terrific dad will be a tender trainer.**

I. BE TENDER (7-8, 11)

A. THE EXHORTATION

1. Ephesians 4:32 “Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.”
2. Colossians 3:21 “Fathers, do not exasperate your children, so that they will not lose heart.”

B. THE EXAMPLE

1. Mordecai’s Tender Compassion (2:7)
 - Raising his orphaned cousin Esther as his own daughter
2. Mordecai’s Tender Consideration (2:8)
 - He knows his daughter, considers her credentials, and provides her with an opportunity to excel.
3. Mordecai’s Tender Concern (2:11)
 - The purposeful watchfulness of an involved dad who is interested in his daughter’s safety and success

II. BE TRAINING (2:9,15, 20 and 4:13-16)

A. THE PRINCIPLE: Proverbs 22:6

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

1. Create his desire (“Train”)
 - The role of parents is to create in a child a taste for the things of God.
2. Control his direction (“the way he should go”)
 - Training involves bending the bow of a child’s uniqueness with the aim of pleasing God and going His direction.
3. Consider your duty (“When he is old, he will not depart”)
 - The duty of the parent is to direct the child in such a way that when he becomes an adolescent, he will not depart from the truth.

B. THE PRACTICE

- Mordecai practiced the principles of training as is evidenced by Esther's qualities.

1. Character Training (2:9, 15)
 - Esther demonstrated a pleasant humility
2. Conduct Training (2:20)
 - Esther was obedient and observant
3. Commitment Training (**4:13-16**)
 - Esther was ready to put her faith on the line

III. **BE TREATED**

- Mordecai lived to reap the ripe fruit of faithful fathering, he was "treated" for his tender training.

- A. Mordecai was HONORED by Esther (8:1-2)
 - Setting Mordecai over all that had been Haman's
- B. Mordecai was PROMOTED by the King (8:15)
 - Given royal apparel and a crown
- C. Mordecai was CELEBRATED by the Jews (8:16-17)
 - They had joy and gladness because of him
- D. Mordecai was RESPECTED by the authorities (9:3-4)
 - The dread of Mordecai fell on them
- E. Mordecai was SITUATED with the best (10:3)
 - Decorated in government, greatness and grandeur!

CONCLUSION:

HOW ARE YOU DOING DAD?

1. Are you tender or tempered?
 - Does your conduct reflect compassion, consideration and concern?
2. Are you training or turning away?
 - Are you working to instill good character, conduct and commitments in your children?
3. Are you treated or mistreated?
 - Do your actions merit honorable attention?

MEN, MIGHT GOD HELP US TO BE TENDER TRAINERS LIKE MORDECAI.