



Welcome to  
***Raising Daughters of the King***  
*Princesses that bring Honor to their Royal Father*

**Courage in Difficult Situations**

Bullies! Sounds like they are everywhere. Everyone is talking about them. Many people are blaming them. Some of us are them! Well, I hope you and I are not really actively bullying anyone. Maybe we have been in the past, but hopefully we have figured out how to stop. Not every unkind act is bullying. Sometimes kids do mean things, but that does not make them a bully. So, what do we tell our daughters about them and how do we empower them to have the courage to face them? That is quite a lengthy subject to touch on in a short newsletter. There is a book on the horizon, but for now, let me tell you that the first step is to train our daughters in such a way that they do not become bullies. Hmmm, once more, you are given the great opportunity to decide whether you will swim with or against the current of today's culture. Secondly, we give them the opportunity to express courage in light of difficult situations that they are facing or to help when they see others with less courage.

Okay, so how are either of those things accomplished? It's the easiest thing we do and the hardest thing we do. We teach our children (by example, of course) to do what is right, no matter what. Today's bullies have increased, their hurts are much more intense, and there is social media to multiply it and make it go viral in a matter of a few moments in time. However, God had answers before today's challenges, and He has them today, as well; *If*, we will find a way to seize them and put them to practice. You know, lately, I've quoted this scripture several times: The Kingdom of Heaven has endured violent assault, and violent men take it by force [as a precious prize – a share in the heavenly kingdom is sought with most ardent zeal and intense exertion]. Matt. 11:12 Amplified Bible. I used to wonder what it meant, but it simply means that being a believer in Jesus Christ is not an easy task; you have to work hard at it. This is one of those times we have to work at it.

Remember how important communication is: I can't begin to tell you how many times my daughters, no matter which young stage they were in, would share an injustice that a friend or *not-*

*friend* had committed. The indignation was often great. I tried to reassure each one that I understood and also thought it was bad, but that the only behavior that she could control was hers, and that one day she would stand before God and give account for her behavior. Knowing that we will stand before our Maker over all of our behaviors, words, and attitudes, is a big step in character and “choosing to do what is right when no one is looking.” Continual, consistent training to tell the truth, to speak and act kindly, to use self-control, to respect others and their belongings are keys to our children not becoming bullies.

The first step in standing up for ourselves and others is what we just mentioned in above ***having the ability to take responsibility for our own behavior gives us self-respect that is not easily trampled on.*** Knowing that one has a mom (or dad) who will listen to whatever a child needs to say, give good advice (and pray for the outcome), and respect the child, is huge in this process. On a couple of occasions, I have told a daughter that she needs to say words like these: I want to be your friend. But if you continue to speak to me like that or treat me like that, then we will not be able to be friends. I'll still care about you and pray for you but I cannot be around someone who treats me so mean. The first time that a shy daughter repeated those words to a mean friend, she came running out to the car in tears. The girl had said that she didn't want to be her friend. Oh, how I prayed that night, that God would somehow step in and show us if it was wise counsel or not. Praise His name, the very next day, that same little girl came to my daughter in tears and apologized. Not an easy task to tell your little girl to be brave when it would be much easier to just call the other mom, but how I grew in that event and so did my daughter. Often, we must intervene when the damage being done by the bully can be irrevocable or physically harmful. But, if it can be settled simply, it is good to allow our children the opportunity to practice courage and then to experience victory.

If we look to the Bible, we see stories of Bible heroes facing bullies such as David vs. Saul and Joseph facing many bullies from brothers to employers using sexual harassment to colleagues, so to speak, that forget to keep their word. The thread that runs through all of these stories is that of the hero doing what was right no matter what. In some, the bully is confronted and in some, God applies justice. Either way, justice is done. A strong faith in God's goodness and sovereignty allows the hero to achieve victory over the bully – and, in many cases, the bully also is changed. Once more, I would like to refer you to the book *Search for Significance*. The principles stated and taught there are key in allowing our children (and ourselves) to keep from accepting a victim role and in walking into a victorious role with our Creator.

## Game Plan

- ❖ Monitor their cell phones, tablets, Facebook, etc. No need to allow these items in their rooms at night.
- ❖ Train your child to tell the truth always – even when it could have consequences. (Be smart enough to not over react to the truth that your child has bravely expressed. This builds confidence that honesty truly is the best policy. Truth can actually become a habit!!!!)
- ❖ Train your daughter to choose her words wisely; to think before she speaks and if the word she is about to say will hurt someone- to choose not to speak them. Unless, of course, she feels she must. Even self-respect in self-talk should be trained. If she is not allowed to disrespect herself, she will be less likely to allow others to disrespect her.
- ❖ Give your daughter the gift of understanding that there is a Supreme Being who will hold us all accountable for our behavior. That He sees us when we are good and bad. That HE loves us unconditionally but that there are consequences to our behavior. (Much of this lesson is taught by being a parent who is very alert to their child's behavior and you offers unconditional love and consistent consequences.)
- ❖ Pray that you can help guide your daughter into a self-respect that comes from knowing that she is made in the very image of her God. What a huge gift we can give our children!!! To give them a bit of this self-concept as stated by C.S. Lewis: “I would rather be what God chose to make me than the most glorious creature that I could think of; for to have been born in God's thought and then made by God is the dearest, grandest and most precious thing in all thinking.”
- ❖ Teach your daughter to guard her heart and how to recognize “safe people”. (see *Safe People* by Dr. Henry Cloud and Dr. John Townsend)
- ❖ Encourage your daughter to talk with you about all things. Literally, all things. Pray and give wise advice that you feel is consistent with the Bible. This means seeking God over things like this. Turning the other cheek may be appropriate at times. At

other times, courage to say “no” is needed. Sometimes authorities need to be brought into the situation. All of these are consistent with Biblical principles. Whereas, an eye for an eye is no longer appropriate.

- ❖ Instill in your daughter the ability to recognize when someone treats her with disrespect and give her “permission” to change that situation through appropriate actions, like those mentioned above, or by leaving the situation or asking for help.
- ❖ Give your daughter the courage to stand up for others if she can do so safely.
- ❖ Give your daughter the freedom to know that asking for help is still a courageous way to act in many bullying situations.
- ❖ Build habits of positive words. Negative joking was out-lawed at our house. That reduces sarcasm and flaw-seeking for jokes.
- ❖ Help you daughter learn how to forgive with boundaries.

## **From Jan's Heart**

Maybe you can guess from the length between newsletters that life has been very busy in my neck of the woods. As a famous quote says: Life should not be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in a pretty and well preserved body, but rather to skid in broadside in a cloud of smoke, thoroughly used up, totally worn out, and loudly proclaiming ‘Wow!’ What a ride! By Hunter S. Thompson.

I have asked God not to let me rust out, but rather to burn out serving Him. To allow me to follow closely behind my Good Shepherd, and that has kept me very busy. Maybe you are in the same position and have been even too busy to read. Whatever our condition, I have been hit with a bout of not-sleeping. After reading some devotionals and prayer, I finally went back to bed determined to sleep and instead was compelled to follow again; this time to the writing desk, which is actually my very comfortable old couch. ☺ And so a new section in this newsletter is born; a section I call "From Jan's Heart".

### **Unconditional Love**

Recently, a dear friend made a statement about our world that was hard to hear. She said: Not many of us, living in this world today, have experienced the kind of unconditional love that will fly across the world to sit with her child during a severe loss; and even more so that counts it a privilege rather than a sacrifice. Think on that for a moment.

And, think again, I'm sure we'd all love to be the recipient of that kind of love, either again or for the first time, now realize – we can be the one who gives that kind of love. How astounding is the fact that this image of God's love is the very thing that God desires to put in each of us. It is so much higher to be the giver than the recipient. (Or in the words of the Bible: It is more blessed to give than to receive.)

Now, take a look at your darling sleeping baby girl or your two year old baby with a poopy diaper or older daughter with a poopy attitude and realize that God longs to put that kind of love in her – and He wants to use your life to do some of that. That was the thought that made me get back out of bed to write you. One of my readers must have needed to read that. I think I needed to realize that.

Thank God we don't have to do that ourselves! Goodness! That would be too overwhelming to even attempt. Thank God, that we can't do that. Only the Almighty, All-powerful can do that. All we have to do, is follow closely behind the Good Shepherd, Who will willingly lay down His life for His lambs. He will teach and He will do. As we follow Him, He can transform us so that we then can teach and we can do.

So how do you even start? How do you, a tired mama, whose plate is full just trying to get herself through life and who seems to have bitten off more that you can chew by adding a child to the mix? (Throw in an occasional foot in the mouth, and it's more than impossible.) But, I want to encourage you today, that you already are training your child to allow unconditional love to fill her heart and life and, like a powerful river, flow through her.

First off, you care enough to read this website. Its contents are not for everyone. And no doubt you have prayed for wisdom and help in parenting and have read some really good resources, several have been listed at <http://www.raisingdaughtersoftheking.com/books.php>. Secondly, you love your child. Daily your little one experiences your love. Start the instruction by simply naming it. If your daughters are in their teens, this may be a little harder to do, so use your discretion. By talking about what you are doing and what is in your heart, you are training your child. I don't really want to put examples here because I think you know what I mean. You are not trying to look like a martyr by describing your sacrifices, but you are simply educating your child. If you need to start by telling them why daddy works so hard, start there. But if you cannot speak of your loving tasks that you do for your child or cannot train them to say thank you or be respectful to you, then I'd say you may need to examine your self-esteem. I found it difficult at first, to tell someone (even my child) to say thank you, but it is so necessary to value myself as Christ does so that I can teach my children to value themselves as Christ does.

The good news is, the more you practice this, the easier it becomes. The more you train yourself and your daughters to look for and see love, then it is easier for them to see opportunities for love, all of this prepares your child to hear the soft whispers of the Holy Spirit as He guides her (us) to allow Him to love through us. Recently, I've heard people say that a characteristic or a learned talent becomes part of one's DNA in order to emphasize that habits can become a part of us. There are some crazy things I'd love to change about my DNA and there are some genetic traits of mine that I wish I had not passed down to one or more of my beloved daughters; however, there do exist characteristics that I can allow God to form into the

growing character of my newborn, or toddler, or even my adult daughters. Find that which you feel is worth fighting for, and go for it, sister! Faith, hope and love, but the greatest of these is love.

### **Priceless Opportunities**

Recently, I was talking with a friend about what a loving gesture it was when my daughter rubbed my feet with oils after a particularly difficult time. It was a picture of Mary anointing the feet of Jesus. That was a very extravagant expression of love to the Savior. As we know from Scripture, that was only a few days before Jesus died on the cross. On that early Easter morning, when the ladies went to the tomb to anoint Him, they found He was raised and gone – and the opportunity to anoint His precious feet had passed. I wonder if she realized what a once in a lifetime opportunity she was given, and she seized the moment.

Sometimes I think of those who are difficult to love....how long will we have them with us. Could this be the last opportunity to love them? Seize the moment to love the unlovable.

Once we are in Heaven, our thanksgiving will be complete and pure – nothing tainted with regrets or “I’d druthers” or selfishness. Pure thanksgiving that sees every situation for what it really is without misunderstandings. Pure worship and praise. No more offering up the sacrifice of praise that is a challenge because we do not like the situation, but we praise Him in the middle of it anyway. Once we are totally transformed, we will praise easily. Then we won’t have the opportunity to offer the sacrifice of praise. Seize the moment to offer Jesus the most pleasing kind of praise and worship – that which costs us effort, courage.

God has given me several opportunities to go on mission trips. I pray hard over each trip and try to follow God’s leading whether it is to stay or to go. This year they have been pretty hard on me physically leaving me with limps and health issues, etc. This makes me question whether I am an asset or whether it’s time for me to lead from home. However, when God leads, I want to seize the moment. Once I get to Heaven, the time to dig wells, give water and love to the needy, or share His Word will be over. The time to serve Him when my feet hurt or when I’m sick and tired will be over and the time to praise Him when I don’t feel like it, will be over. I’m sure His feet were tired, but still He served. Serve Him while we can in whatever way He offers us to serve – not all of us are called to go on mission trips. But all of us can love or pray. Seize the moment.

2 Samuel 24:24b "...I will not offer burnt offerings to the Lord my God which cost me nothing."

### **Difficult Circumstances Still Giving Thanks**

I Thessalonians 5:18 "In everything give thanks for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." Much is said about the giving of thanks during hard times. Many times we start with thanking God that things are not worse. This is good, but there is more also. Other times we get to the point where we can thank God anyway. We thank Him that somehow God will turn all things around for our good. But, I wonder if we can thank God for giving us the difficulty because that is the opportunity to grow and to praise Him in the hard things.

After a particularly difficult moment of loss, I was praying when I felt God turned my prayer into a statement "That not even this will rob my lips from praise." Not even this! The Savior who gave all He had for me and suffered physically, emotionally, and spiritually infinitely more than I could ever suffer, deserves my praise no matter what. Nothing I encounter on this earth should ever be able to rob my lips of His praise.

Even situations that appear to have been directed or designed by the enemy of our soul, don't have to rob our lips of praise. These things will be turned around by the All Powerful God so that the vilest of challenges work the opposite of the intent of the devil and the situation works for our good.

### **Thoughts about Millennials**

I have heard so much criticism of this generation. I actually am feeling compassion for them. Yes, there are some challenges that they encounter that other generations do not, but who raised them that way. The criticism might be better placed on my generation. Well, I've heard that as well. They say we should have let our kids get the accurate view of themselves by letting them lose and not reward effort only reward the talented achiever. Well, go ahead and throw me under the bus as well. I never wanted my kids to feel they were "losers" just because one might not be fast or aggressive or a speller or whatever. Yes, we moved them to events that highlighted their strengths, but when they are very young, it's hard to know what that might be and sometimes, they lost. So, what created this problematic generation? Is it the inability to recognize that they are not the best at everything they try? Is it that coaches and teachers were not allowed



to dish out consequences for poor behavior? Is it parents that wanted to be friends with their kids? Kids that never had to take responsibility for their actions? Too many activities? Latch-key and microwave generation? Well, maybe all of this combined to create a struggling generation – but the real problem they have faced is a lack of the reality of Christ in their lives. But, I really want to declare for them that God is the God of the difficult as well as the easy. Don't count Him out of their lives yet. And He can do it in a heartbeat. Pray for them. Seize the moment.