



Nuggets 21: Mom and My Career in Crime

I went down the street to play with neighbor kids. I could not have been over five. One of the kids had a neat button pin with a picture, the kind you pin on your shirt. The button got passed around and laid down. I liked the button, so when it was time to go home, I picked it up and left. "Where did you get the button?", Mom asked. I had to tell her. Without hesitation she said, "We are going back to that place. You are going to return the button and say you are sorry." We did, and I did. I wish I could claim a perfect life after that. But I did remember the experience. It and seed from my parents eventually formed in me a desire to respect the property of others.

Mom was also strict about our afternoon rest. We didn't want to stop playing but we knew we had to lie down and listen to Mom reading to us from a Bible story book. It is amazing how learning adds up a little at a time. At a relatively young age we kids knew the basic stories of the Bible. Now we are so glad our mother was like that.

My wife's father was tragically killed, leaving a wife with four young children and another on the way. His strongest wish was that his family have a devotional together every day. Ruth's mom struggled to provide for the children but she always made time to honor her husband's tradition. Even when the kids were in high school, they knew they could not leave for a date or school event until they had read and prayed together for that day. I am sure they complained at times but they all became outstanding servants of God.

Neither of our moms would ever waver when it came to putting first things first. They loved us more, not less. Because mothers shape their children, they determine more than anyone else what society becomes.

2 Timothy 1:5; 3:14-17; Exodus 20:12; 1 Samuel 2:19; 2 Chronicles 22:3; Proverbs 15:20; 23:25; 31:1,10-31; Luke 2:51; John 19:25-27;

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