

Katy First Ward Spiritual Message #49

WHAT THEY HEARD YOU SAY IS WHAT YOU ACTUALLY SAID

Our children are great teachers. Some of the most profound lessons Janice and I have learned in life, our children taught us. Here is one example.

Years ago our oldest son sometimes had a hard time coming home on time when he was out with his friends. We decided that if he came home after midnight he would not be able to take the car again for a week. He agreed to that. A few weeks later he did not come home until 2 a.m. We always waited up for our kids. When he came in I asked him what happened. He said they got lost. That is pretty hard to do in Salt Lake where all the streets are square. We had a talk about it and I told him because he had come home that late he could not take the car for a week. He agreed to that.

It just happened that earlier in the day the school called and told me that he had not been coming to Seminary lately. So while we were talking about coming home late I also talked to him about Seminary. I told him that if did not like Seminary he did not have to go. We would let him decide. He seemed OK with that. It was a very pleasant conversation. I was not upset with him and he seemed to agree to what we had talked about. He then went to bed.

The next day I was in his room putting some things away and I noticed his journal was laying open on the bed where I was picking up things. As my eyes came upon it, I saw that he had written these words in his journal the night before. "LAST NIGHT DAD GROUNDED ME FROM DRIVING THE CAR FOR A WEEK BECAUSE I HAVE BEEN SKIPPING SEMINARY". I was shocked when I read that. We never once talked about Seminary in relation to him not being able to drive the car for a week. Then I realized I just had learned one of the most important lessons of my life. "WHAT SOMEONE HEARS YOU SAY, FOR THEM, THAT IS WHAT YOU ACTUALLY SAID". For them, it doesn't really matter what you actually said or meant. That is true for our friends and acquaintances but it is especially true with children and grandchildren. That has been a valuable lesson for me and Janice to understand in our lives ever since. That is part of the reason I so love the saying:

"We see the world not as it is, but as we are."

Anaïs Nin

Brother Vail

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