

June 10, 2022 ~ A Parent's Concern over Adult Daughter's Choices

What would you do? (Lesson c43)



Warm up:

Everyone should choose a statement about the picture, and briefly explain why you chose it.

- A train takes you someplace, after you make a choice.
- I think the young woman is doing something dangerous.
- If this young woman was my daughter, I would...

Phrases in the story:

Remember: **sth** = something; **sb** = somebody.

sb seems oblivious to sth = sb seems totally unaware of sth

common sense = reasonable thinking; the ability to behave in a sensible way and make practical decisions

an over-achiever = somebody who always tries to achieve more things than most people try to do

sb is drawn to sb or sth = sb is attracted to sb or sth; sb wants to spend time with sb; sb wants to spend time doing sth

he talks a good game = he says he will do something well, but in fact he doesn't even try to do it

we're finding it difficult to = it's hard for us to

talk you out of it; talk you out of doing it = successfully persuade you not to do something

drive her away = push her away; cause her to want to stay away from sb or sth

back off = stop giving pressure; stop criticizing sb, especially so that they can deal with sth themselves

a passing thing = a temporary situation; a temporary desire

Emotionally, few things hurt a parent more than when an adult child seems oblivious to common sense, and makes poor choices. Danny's daughter Megan graduated from a top university with two degrees and also academic honors. Now 28, she is an outgoing, intelligent, hardworking over-achiever, with a great job and a promising career ahead. The problem, according to her father, is the boyfriends she chooses. Megan is drawn to uneducated, jobless, or part-time-employed men who talk a good game but never do anything. Megan's latest boyfriend moved in with her, and she is supporting him financially. Megan's parents and sister are finding it difficult to support her choices. They have tried talking Megan out of "living together" outside marriage. They just want the best for Megan. But Megan becomes defensive during such conversations; she thinks her family should see the good things she sees in her boyfriend. Danny realizes that his daughter is old enough and smart enough to make her own decisions, but he is very worried about Megan's future (not to mention possible financial problems, unwanted pregnancy, co-dependence, and other long-term consequences). He also blames himself for his daughter's poor choices (which is common for parents in such situations). He loves Megan, and doesn't want to drive her away. Recently, Danny asked his best friend James for advice. James told him to back off, and suggested that Danny see a counselor or pastor. He said that although those men were not what Danny wanted for Megan, they obviously were filling some need she has. James said that, whether or not this is a passing thing, Megan's choice of a mate is hers to make, not Danny's choice.

Questions:

(First, ask your teacher about any unfamiliar words or concepts in this article.)

Questions:

1. Share about one thing you are finding it difficult to do, or one problem you are finding it difficult to solve? Why?
2. Why do you think parents feel “hurt” when an adult child makes an unwise choice? Explain
3. What is your opinion of Megan? How do you think she would describe her choice of boyfriends? Explain (If you can, use the phrase “to be drawn to.”)
4. What is your opinion of Megan’s father Danny? Explain.
5. If you were Megan’s father or mother, what would you do in a situation like this?
6. Choose Megan or Danny; pretend that you are a close friend, and give her/him some good advice. (*This would be a good “role play” situation.*)
7. Think of a time you (or a friend/family member) were about to make a difficult decision. Did someone try to talk you out of it? Do you wish someone had tried to change your mind? What was the final result in that situation?
8. Choose a vocabulary phrase, and use it in a sentence or two. (Example: Share about something or somebody you are drawn to, or someone who talks a good game.)

If you have more time, discuss #5 of the Bible’s “Ten Commandments”: “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.” (Exod 20:12 ESV) Question: Do you think this command applies only to young children, or to “adult children” too? What does it mean for a 30-year-old to “honor his/her parents”?

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