

In the early 1700s two men started families: Jonathan Edwards and Max Juke

#### JUKE:

- Was not a Christian and lived an ungodly life
- He married a woman of similar character
- 1,026 descendants' lives were studied:
  - 300 died prematurely
  - 67 died of syphilis
  - 190 public prostitutes
  - 100 alcoholics
  - 280 lived in abject poverty
  - 140 received government aid
  - 150 were criminals of which 7 were murderers
  - Incarcerating 150 of them cost the state more than 1.2 million
  - Juke himself made no contribution to society

#### EDWARDS:

- Was a godly man and married a woman of like character
- 729 of their descendants' lives were studied
- 300 were ministers
- 65 were college professors
- 13 were university presidents
- 60 authored books
- 3 were Congressman
- One was Vice President of the United States
- The family has not cost the government a single dollar.

- Edwards was used to spearhead one of the most influential moves of God in American History – “The Great Awakening”

The decisions we make today in our personal lives have a “Domino Effect” for years to come.

What is going to be the “Domino Effect” of your marriage?

King David is a negative Bible example of the “Domino Effect.”

### The Dominoes of David

Samuel the prophet tells David’s father Jesse to come to a sacrificial offering with his sons.

#### 1 Samuel 16:5-7 –

5 Samuel replied, "Yes, in peace; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Consecrate yourselves and come to the sacrifice with me." Then he consecrated Jesse and **his sons** and **invited them** to the sacrifice.

6 When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed stands here before the LORD."

7 But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks

at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

- Jesse has 7 of his 8 sons to pass before Samuel
- Do you have any sons left? ... "Well, there is my youngest David who is tending sheep."
- David started life being overlooked.

### **David's Dominoes**

- When he should have been doing his job and at war, he was bored, walking on the top of his palace and saw Bathsheba bathing.
- He has her brought to him and they commit adultery
- She finds out that she is pregnant
- David tries to cover his sin:
  - He brings her husband Uriah home from the war.
  - Uriah refuses to sleep with his wife while his men are at war.
  - David gets him drunk the next night and again he doesn't go home.
  - David sends him back to the war and orders Joab to put him on the front lines and retreat and let him be killed.
  - After Bathsheba mourns, she marries David and gives birth to a son.
  - Their child dies and then their second son Solomon is born.
- The Bible records David, with multiple wives, at least 10 concubines, having 19 sons and one daughter. Tamar is mentioned.
  - His son Amnon rapes his half-sister Tamar.

- Deceptively gets her alone in his bedroom.
- Tamar's full brother, Absalom hates him for it and has him murdered.
- Absalom flees for three years, and David is heartbroken over the death of Amnon and the loss of Absalom.
- David brings Absalom back.
- Absalom begins to gain influence in order to overthrow his father's throne.
- He mounts an attack against David and David flees the city.
- Absalom takes over the palace and dishonors David by sleeping with his concubines.
- Absalom is killed when David's army confronts him.

**II Samuel 18:33** - The king was shaken. He went up to the room over the gateway and wept. As he went, he said: "O my son Absalom! My son, my son Absalom! If only I had died instead of you - O Absalom, my son, my son!"

The pain of godly decisions weighs an ounce, while the pain of regret weighs a ton!

ABRAHAM was a positive biblical example of the "Domino Effect."

**Genesis 18:19** - For I know Abraham, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD **may** bring upon Abraham that which he has promised him.

There is much that God wants to do in our lives and more importantly through the lives of our children and grandchildren.

You can approach the future with fear or with faith.

Faith expects God to act on the behalf of our children.

**Genesis 22:17-18** –

17 I will bless you with incredible blessings and multiply your descendants into countless thousands and millions, like the stars above you in the sky, and like the sands along the seashore. They will conquer their enemies,

18 and your offspring will be a blessing to all the nations of the earth—all ***because you have obeyed me.***"

**Galatians 3:29** - And now that you belong to Christ, you are the true children of Abraham. You are his heirs, and now ***all the promises God gave to him belong to you.***

Let's put God first place in our marriages and in raising our children.

Let's expect God to enable our children to conquer their enemies and be a blessing upon the earth!

**How Will They Hear Project**

- Let's all act together and make a difference!
- For 45% of the church:

- You have learned to live beyond yourself.
- Some of you have been doing it here for 18 years!
- I know you will seek God and do what he leads you to do.
- You will not weary in well doing...
- For 55% of us:
  - This may be the first time you have given for something beyond yourself.
  - Please know that the 45% was once just like you!
  - Make God's purposes a priority in your budget.
  - I am not talking about large amounts, but a change in focus.
  - There are more than 2,200 families that call Victory their home.
  - If the 55% or 1,200 families participate, in many cases not even sacrificially but with a minimal commitment, we will raise more than 85% or \$1.7 of the 2 million dollar goal.
  - I am talking about a commitment at the level of:
    - Owning a Dog
      - \$700 per year to own a dog
      - 2 Years - \$1,400
- At this level of commitment we will raise approximately \$1.7 million dollars!
- When you add the commitments from the rest of the church, we could easily pay off the entire project.
- Make it a priority - Write it in your monthly bills – **Be Intentional**
- Through our website you can give automatically every month. - Let's all join together and do something beyond ourselves and great for the Kingdom of God!