



## Monday Matters

March 2, 2015

### Laying The Brick

This week I was reading a story about Josiah. This story contained quite a bit of wisdom, something everybody can learn for their daily lives.

Josiah realized early on that his youngest child was going to be a challenge. His name was Ben and he loved to read books and gain as much knowledge as possible. Josiah thought he might be well suited for the ministry, some type of clergy position. That would require Josiah to send him to college and that would take a lot of money that this family, 17 children, just didn't have.

Josiah tried for a few years to introduce Ben to his own trade, that of a candle maker, but it was increasingly obvious that Ben was not suited for this work and disliked it immensely.

Josiah thought of other ways to expose Ben to the world around him and to help define his career path. He took Ben on long walks in and around the city of Boston where they lived. They observed the various tradesmen around town - builders, bricklayers, shoemakers, craftsmen and so forth. He carefully watched Ben during these walks to see if he had any interest in any of the trades or businesses they had observed. It was in later years that Ben realized how helpful it was to see those trades and businesses in action and how they were conducted had benefited him and used what skills he learned from time to time in other endeavors.



In Proverbs chapter 22, it says in the Amplified Bible, "Train up a child in the way he should go

[and in keeping with his individual gift or bent], and when he is old he will not depart from it." Although "training up a child in the way he should go" primarily refers to spiritual and moral training, it is also important to note that timing is everything. The young child is most influenced by parental guidance. The older the child, the less receptive they often are to the guidance of his/her parents.

In addition, note that this verse does not mean forcing the child in the direction that the parent has predetermined for them. Every child is unique, and the parent's job is to note the physical and mental abilities of the developing child and train them accordingly.



**The Isaacs - Walk Together Children**

Ultimately Ben did not settle on any of the trades that he observed with his father during those walks. Finally Josiah, noting Ben's strong desires for books and knowledge (and to keep him from running away to sea) helped Ben settled on an apprenticeship with a printer. Over those early years Josiah laid the bricks for Ben to follow.

There is great wisdom to learn, both from the Bible and the story of Ben. The rest of the Benjamin Franklin story is of course history.

RN



Ron Nelson, CCA - Email - [MondayMatters.us@gmail.com](mailto:MondayMatters.us@gmail.com)

Linda J. Nelson - Email - [ArtByLJNelson@bellsouth.net](mailto:ArtByLJNelson@bellsouth.net)

Click below to view previous posts to Monday Matters

[www.MondayMatters.us](http://www.MondayMatters.us)