

My heart aches seeing how a youngster loses it and causing his parents so much pain

Bible passage

Judges 14: 1-5 *Samson wanted to marry a Philistine girl*

3 His father and mother replied, 'Isn't there an acceptable woman among your relatives or among all our people? Must you go to the uncircumcised Philistines to get a wife?' But Samson said to his father, 'Get her for me. She's the right one for me.' (NIV)

Devotion

The saying goes, "Small children step on your lap, but bigger children step on your heart." Samson's parents, like many other parents, experienced the pain of a child who lost the way. His parents watched helplessly while their only son went completely off the rails. At his birth, God had promised his parents that he would free the Israelites from the Philistines. Now he chooses to marry a Philistine girl, one of the enemy! It drove his parents nuts. You may feel that your parents are old fashioned and that they don't understand you. Maybe your parents have reason for concern.

I once asked a friend of mine what he thought parents should do if this happened to their children. His answer was, "Weather the storm with them. If you choose differently, you take the risk of losing them along the way." Fortunately, Samson's parents did not leave him but weathered the storm with him.

There are not always clear-cut answers for problems at home. What do you think you can do to make a difference?

Prayer

Lord, I pray that You will give me the strength and forbearance to weather the storms of life.

Today's Quote

Your children need your presence more than your presents.

— Jesse Jackson

storms