

# Elijah Now

Turning Hearts Preparing People

## **Raising Giant Slayers – A Vision for Parenting Today**

*Our goal is to release into the world young men who know Jesus personally, obey his voice, and fear no one but God.*

This summer we dedicated our two boys to God and His service. The dedication service took place in a beautiful outdoor setting not far from our home. Many of our favorite people gathered to share the occasion with us. Before our pastor lead out in a powerful service of dedication, I had the chance to share our vision as parents for our two boys. Here is a polished version of what I said.

*When I contemplated what we would be doing here today, it struck me that there has never been an unimportant child, never an insignificant birth. There has never been a child that didn't matter to God. And yet, when I consider the times in which we live, I come to the conclusion that while it's always been a difficult task to raise Godly kids, there's never been a time when it was more important than now. At a time like this the kingdom needs little Elijahs, little John the Baptists, and young Martin Luthers. So our goal is not just to raise good boys - although that would be hard enough! We want to raise warriors. We seek to raise giant slayers. Our goal is to release into the world young men who know Jesus personally, obey his voice, and fear no one but God.*

*Some could read this and think, 'that's pretty arrogant, they must really think they're something special.' But we understand that WE can't do that. We are not capable; we're not able. We have some talent. We have some skills, but this is more than we are able to do. Yet, we are learning that this IS possible if Timi and I will both daily commit our lives to Jesus, our Divine Coach. We must seek His wisdom, His guidance, His direction, and let Him reign in our emotions when we want to react to little people who are pushing us to the edge.*

*Some time ago Ellen White wrote, "The greatest want of the world is the want of men,--men who will not be bought or sold; men who in their inmost souls are true and honest; men who do not fear to call sin by its right name; men whose conscience is as true to duty as the needle to the pole; men who will stand for the right though the heavens fall."*

*{SD 214.4}*

*As I think about our boys and what we dream for them, I know that those are the kind of men that we hope to raise. This is the kind of man that both the world and the church desperately needs today.*

*So we want to dedicate our boys to the love and service of Jesus. We want to dedicate ourselves to disciple them toward this destiny. And we covet your support to work with us toward this end.*

It was good for us to put words to our goals for our children. It's been good for me to reflect back on those goals several months later. Have you taken time to consider the purpose of your parenting? To what noble end has God entrusted children into your care? It's too easy to lose sight of our long-range objectives as we get caught up in the daily pressures of parenting. Let's make some time this week to reflect on the goals towards which we are leading our children.

All heaven stands ready to aid us in this mission. So let's focus our energy and see what God will do through us!

- Richie