



MONDAY'S MEAL

SUSTAINABLE NOURISHMENT FOR THE LONG DISTANCE RUN

Always Training

by Lawrence
Lucas

Monday's Meal is a service of The Oaks Classical and Christian Academy.

Each meal is selected specifically to feed and nourish parents for the long distance run. If you found it helpful, consider passing it along.

"...and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds..."

Hebrews 10:24

We're always training our children—always. We have no choice about it. We don't get to call "time out". Regarding obedience, we're either training them to obey after being asked once, or after we've asked a second time, or after we've raised our voice, or after we've threatened, or after we've gotten up out of our chair.

When your mother and I realized this, the question naturally arose, what do we prefer? The answer was easy. We wanted you to obey after being asked once in a normal tone of voice, and that's just how we explain it to you. All of us were then working with the same understanding. Anything short of prompt obedience would be disobedience. It would be choosing the wrong fork. Now this took some work on our part: we had to train ourselves to ask only once and resist the urge to ask a second time. We had to learn to let the silence build as the choice sat on the table before you. And sit it did until the point at which your lack of obedience because disobedience.

We also decided we'd like you to obey cheerfully, without complaining. So again, once we explained this to you, anything short of this was disobeying, choosing the wrong fork.

So that's where we set the bar. And really, it's no more difficult to set the bar where we did than it would be to set it lower (assuming se the bar at all, which most parents do if even in an inconsistent way). Actually it's easier.

We discovered that one of the benefits of choosing as we did was that we avoided countless initiations to get impatient. If there was a call for discipline, it came quickly. We weren't slowly growing irritated as we repeated our request. The whole idea of raising our voices seemed unfamiliar. When we were true to our decision to hold you to the one request we simply weren't afforded the time it takes to work up a head of steam.