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**London Calling**

Parents Turn in Daughter for Rioting. Did They Go Too Far?

By Paul Asay

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**What Happened:**

Chelsea Ives was supposed to be one of the faces of London during the 2012 Olympic games. Designated as an Olympic Ambassador, she was to greet visitors at airports and train stations. Now, she's the face of London for a much worse reason—thanks, in part, to her parents.

For several days, London has been awash in violence. Rioters took to the streets and raided stores, trashed cars and burned businesses to the ground. More than 1,000 people have been arrested so far, half of them under the age of 18. Chelsea's parents, as were most Londoners, horrified by the destructive rage that seemed to consumed the city—but were even more shocked when they got a better look at one of the rioters while watching television.

“Roger and I were watching the TV news and it was absolutely sickening,” Adrienne Ives, Chelsea's mother, told *The Daily Mirror*. “Then we saw our daughter. I could not believe it. For a minute we did not know what to do.”

The indecision did not last long. “How can you sit there and see that and say, ‘That's OK?’” Adrienne said. “We were watching people lose their homes and businesses. As parents we had to say, ‘She can't get away with that.’”

The Ives turned in their daughter, learning during court proceedings that she proclaimed the day she rioted as “the best day ever.” They cried as she was led away; and Chelsea's father, Roger, said, “I don't want my daughter to go to prison. But we would do the same again.”

“My children have always been taught right from wrong,” Adrienne later told the *Sun*. “We were not being brave; it's what any right-thinking person would have done.”

**Talk About It:**

If you were Chelsea, how would you feel about your parents? Do you think she's mad at them? Embarrassed because they caught her doing something bad? Do you think there will ever come a time when she'll be glad her parents did what they did?

While not many of us have taken part in riots, a lot of us have been caught doing something we know we shouldn't be doing. Maybe it was something really serious,

maybe even illegal. Maybe it was something that, at least legally, was a little less critical—such as lying to your parents about something or shirking a chore.

Has your mom or dad ever caught you doing something wrong? What did they do? Did they punish you? Did you feel worse because you got caught or because you disappointed your parents?

Sometimes, parents will tell you a punishment hurts them more than it hurts you. Do you think that's true? Why or why not? Have you ever been *glad* you've gotten punished? Has it ever taught you something?

Have your parents or other adults ever covered for you when you got caught doing something wrong? If so, did you learn from that experience, too? Do you think Chelsea's parents did the right thing?

**What the Bible Says:**

“Even if I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it. Though I did regret it—I see that my letter hurt you, but only for a little while—yet now I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led you to repentance. For you became sorrowful as God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us. Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death” (2 Cor. 7:8-10).

“If they violate My decrees and fail to keep My commands, I will punish their sin with the rod, their iniquity with flogging; but I will not take My love from him, nor will I ever betray my faithfulness” (Ps. 89: 31-33).

“Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates correction is stupid” (Prov. 12:1).

“Better is open rebuke than hidden love” (Prov. 27:5).