

Exodus: Journey of Revelation week 7

Sermon Date 10/30/2016

QUICK REVIEW

- 1) Looking back at your notes from Sunday's teaching, was there anything that caught your attention?

MY STORY

- 2) From last week's study was there something you did differently to include rest in your schedule?
- 3) Do you have a plan to be sure to put rest into your schedule? If so share it with your group.
- 4) What stood out to you the most from last week's study?

The Goal

This week we are discussing Exodus 20:12 Honor your mother and father. The primary role of Dad and Mom are summed up by focus on the family beautifully; Mom and Dad each have one primary responsibility. Dad, your number one task is to validate your children. That means encouraging them, building their confidence, and saying 'We love you, and you belong here.' Mom, your number one responsibility is to nurture your children. Pour life into your kids. No one can be eye-to-eye, smile-to-smile, and tear-to-tear with a child quite like a mom. You both have different roles, but the goal for each is the same. Dad's validation and mom's nurturing get the child headed on a healthy trajectory. Their inner message will be positive. 'I belong. The people in my world are looking out for me. I'm okay.'^{vi}

We recognize and want to acknowledge that many of us had outright poor role models in our parents while other had great role models and some of us have had outright bad examples. This makes it hard for us to Honor them. However, what some parents do give us is an example of who not to be. Some in your group may have some wounds that are still fresh and we need to give space to let God speak to them. Please remind your groups this commandment is in the Context of the Holiness of God being revealed at Mount Saini. God's Holiness illuminates what **CAN** be seen not necessarily what has been seen.

The principle of this commandment goes beyond just honoring our parents, this is about learning to live in authority structures. It is with our parents that we first experience the structure of the 4th Commandment, but this Commandment also applies to other situations (relationships) like work, sports and church.

DIGGING DEEPER

Exodus 20:12 (NLT)

“Honor your father and mother. Then you will live a long, full life in the land the LORD your God is giving you.”

The New American Commentary

The prior commandments were all concerned in one way or another with the necessity of honoring God as a basic means of keeping his covenant. Now comes a commandment that follows logically because it is concerned with honoring parents, who have the awesome role in the family of representing God to their children. Although this word/commandment requires children to honor their parents in all sorts of ways large and small, there can be little doubt that its most basic insistence from the point of view of establishing a responsibility that might otherwise be shirked is to demand that children take care of their parents in their parents' old age, when they are no longer able to work for themselves, as well as to honor whatever their parents have prescribed by way of inheritance for their children. Thus the commandment is followed by the promise of living long in the promised land. Just as parents who have lived long in their own personal lives need to be cared for at the end of those long lives, so Israel as a nation (not every individual therein) would be able to enjoy a long life in the land God was giving them.

This commandment is thus like the one that precedes it in linking the requirement to an action of God: As God rested on the creation Sabbath, so individual Israelites must do so each week in their own families; as God promises to take care of his dependents, Israel, for a long time in the promised land, so individual Israelites must take care of their dependent parents for a long time, as necessary, in their own families. The prior commandment looks back on the creation Sabbath, whereas the present commandment looks forward to the nation's tenure in the land of promise. There is not promise here of individually long life spans. Rather the promise refers to God's protection of his covenant people if and as long as they keep his covenant.¹

5) What does it mean to Honor someone?

Special Note:

Webster's dictionary defines honor as "respect given to one who is admired." Further definitions describe the character of the person being honored. However, this is not the qualifications God gives to us to honor.

6) Does a person have to have high moral character to be honored?

7) Why can this idea of honor be hard for some people?

Billy Graham has some great thoughts for those among us who have had painful experiences with parents. He says, "allow me to say a word to those who have not had the joy of being reared by godly parents. This kind of pain is severe because the relationship between parents and their offspring is meant to be positive, nurturing and wholesome. Nonetheless, there are many who hurt deeply because of various kinds of parental abuse. How does a believer carry out God's commandment here, and what would God have to say about this? May I suggest six things to consider?

- Pray for your parents.
- Keep on trying to help them, even though that may be difficult at times.
- Model Jesus for them.
- Exercise restraint in front of them.
- Weep for them before the Lord, pouring your heart out to Him on their behalf.
- Forgive them. The Lord can help you do this!"^v

8) Of these six points which is the hardest for you to do personally?

Leadership tip.

If this is a hot button issue with some of your group members, this may be a great place to break out 3 by 5 cards and have each member write their prayer need on the card and trade it with a different person in the group.

TAKING IT HOME

The family is the first place in our lives where we experience an authority structure. This is also one of the reasons God commands us to Honor our father and mother. God knows that we will experience many places in our lives when we will have someone in authority over us.

Below are some passages on how we should treat people in authority.

Hebrews 13:17

Obey your spiritual leaders, and do what they say. Their work is to watch over your souls, and they are accountable to God. Give them reason to do this with joy and not with sorrow. That would certainly not be for your benefit. ²

Philippians 2:14-15

¹⁴ Do all things without grumbling or disputing, ¹⁵ that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,³

Titus 3:1-2

Remind the believers to submit to the government and its officers. They should be obedient, always ready to do what is good. ² They must not slander anyone and must avoid quarreling. Instead, they should be gentle and show true humility to everyone.⁴

9) What are the themes of these verses?

Humility, gentleness, and without grumbling.

10) With these verses in mind what should our attitudes be to our leaders?

11) How should we live our lives in an authority structure?

Final thoughts

We know this, you can be the change in your family. If you had a difficult upbringing only Christ can break the cycle of the things you learned while young.

If you struggle with authority, and many in our culture do, we encourage you to seek Jesus and his example. If you are grumbling about a boss or a church leader we encourage you to humble yourself, trust God, and follow scripture's path on how to approach those in authority. His plan is perfect and as the world gets darker and darker the brighter your light will shine if you walk in his ways.

CHAIR TIME TOOLS

We live a society that says "do what you like, and what makes you feel good" In this commandment we are challenged to submit and honor others in our lives.

12) How do you think others see us in how we honor our parents, employers, and authority in our life?

13) Are these areas that we are being challenged in?

Ephesians 6:1-4

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ² "Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), ³ "that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land." ⁴ Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

- 14) What does it mean to bring your children up in the discipline and instruction of the lord?
- 15) What does it mean "do not provoke?"

¹ Douglas K. Stuart, *Exodus*, vol. 2, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2006), 461-462.

² Tyndale House Publishers, *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2013), Heb 13:17.

³ *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version* (Wheaton: Standard Bible Society, 2016), Php 2:14-15.

⁴ Tyndale House Publishers, *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2013), Tt 3:1-2.

^v Billy Graham <https://billygraham.org/decision-magazine/june-2013/honor-your-mother-and-your-father/> , accessed, October 24, 2016 at 7:00am

^{vi} Focus on the Family http://jim Daly.focusonthefamily.com/parents-job-description/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+JimDalyBlog+%28Blog%3A+Jim+Daly%29 , accessed, October 24, 2016 at 4:30pm