

## Exodus our Journey: Family Matters – The Fifth Commandment.

1. Joke: There was a young couple who had just purchased brand new appliances for their house, and they decided to give their old refrigerator to their parents. Since they lived many miles apart, they just shipped the refrigerator to their parents. A few days later the phone rang, her mother said, "Honey, we want to send you a check for the refrigerator." The daughter said, "No, Mom, it's a gift. We want you to have it." The mother said, "But you could have sold it and made money." The daughter said, "Look, Mom, just consider it as repayment for all those days that you took care of me when I was at home." After a slight pause her mother said, "In that case the refrigerator doesn't cover it."
2. This morning we are going to look at the 5<sup>th</sup> commandment, which addresses how society functions at its most basic level...the family. We will look at the original commandment and then we will look at how the early church further interpreted it.
3. Our first passage is found in **Exodus 20:12** "*Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the LORD your God gives you.*"
  - a. This is the only one of the Ten Commandments which has a promise attached to it.
    - i. The promise? "*that your days may be prolonged in the land which the Lord your God gives you.*"
      1. In other words...Kids, your mama brought you into this world and if you don't obey her, she can take you out!"
      2. It is true that obeying our parents is directly related to the length of our lives. Those who are obedient early in life have the best prospect of living long. This occurs because
        - a. Obedient children are saved from the vices and crimes which shorten life.
          - i. No parent in his right mind would command his child to be a drunkard, a gambler, a thief, or a murderer.
          - ii. But these vices and crimes, which often come from a lack of appropriate parenting, all shorten the lives of those who commit them.
        - b. Obedient children develop good habits that are conducive to long life.
          - i. These habits make a child industrious, subject to authority, and will lead him to restrain his or her passions.
          - ii. The proper regard for the authority of one's parents and others in authority will also lead him to form habits of self-government which will protect him from the snares of temptation.
      3. There is a direct connection, both on a physical level as well as a spiritual one on the keeping of this command and a long life.
    - b. **What does it mean to "honor" your father and mother?**
      - i. Let's begin by looking at the average teenager. If you've ever had a teen, you have discovered that about the age of 12 or 13 that they begin to act strangely.
        1. Suddenly they think they know better than their parents.
        2. They think that they know it all, they become argumentative, and sometimes become emotionally difficult.
        3. That sweet child that used to cuddle for hours just a few years ago now doesn't want you to get within 5 feet of them in public.
        4. This is because at puberty, a child's brain begins to change. They seem to develop overnight an analytic ability they never had before.

- a. This ability leads them to ask questions that really get on your nerves, like “why can’t I stay out past 10 o’clock?” or “what’s wrong with riding a motorcycle without a helmet?”
  - b. These questions really don’t have a suitable answer because each answer you give will be countered by another question or a statement such as “all my friends get to!”
  - c. It is at this age, I believe that the 5<sup>th</sup> Commandment is broken about every 10 minutes by most teens.
- ii. Did you know that Jesus was a pre-teen and a teenager?
1. Jesus demonstrated his obedience to this commandment at the age of 12.
  2. He was a pre-teen, who in fact didn’t just think he knew everything, but really did.
  3. He disappeared one day when his family was in Jerusalem and they found him in the temple courts answering the questions of the learned scholars.
  4. Lets read it just to get a picture of what happened:
  5. Luke 2:41 *Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Passover festival. 42 When Jesus was twelve years old, they attended the festival as usual. 43 After the celebration was over, they started home to Nazareth, but Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents didn't miss him at first, 44 because they assumed he was with friends among the other travelers. But when he didn't show up that evening, they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. 45 When they couldn't find him, they went back to Jerusalem to search for him there. 46 Three days later they finally discovered him. He was in the Temple, sitting among the religious teachers, discussing deep questions with them. 47 And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. 48 His parents didn't know what to think. "Son!" his mother said to him. "Why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been frantic, searching for you everywhere." 49 "But why did you need to search?" he asked. "You should have known that I would be in my Father's house." 50 But they didn't understand what he meant. 51 Then he returned to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them; and his mother stored all these things in her heart. 52 So Jesus grew both in height and in wisdom, and he was loved by God and by all who knew him.* “NLT
  6. 51 *Then he returned to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them”*
  7. Even in his ability to be smarter, better, and wiser than his parents, Jesus continued in obedience to them.
    - a. He understood what it meant to honor his father and mother...that they were responsible for him; they deserved his respect and obedience.
    - b. Teens, that is tough I know, especially when you think you know better than your folks.
    - c. But if it was good enough for Jesus it must be good enough for you, cause you only THINK you know more than your folks.
- iii. Three aspects of Honoring your parents:
1. **Obey your parents** – give them the benefit of the doubt.
    - a. They don’t make rules just to make you miserable!
    - b. Obedience is the highest form of honor you can give someone.
  2. **Give them reverence and respect.** (Hebrews 12:9)
    - a. You might not realize it, but most parents give up a great deal for their kids.
      - i. I have a feeling that most of us don’t appreciate how much until we are parents ourselves. Amen?

- ii. Most parents sacrifice everything for their kids, giving up stuff they want so their kids can have what they need.
  - b. Sometimes respect is tough.
    - i. I know of some whose fathers or mothers had done everything possible to lose the respect of their children, through anger, beating, alcohol, drugs, or infidelity.
    - ii. If you feel you cannot respect the person, respect their position.
    - iii. Just because a parent breaks a command does not give you permission to do so.
    - iv. You are commanded to give your reverence to your parents.
    - v. What does that look like?
      - 1. Don't speak badly about them, to their face or behind their back. Look for their qualities and not their shortcomings.
- 3. **Bring comfort to your parents**, to support them and to be there for them.
  - a. 1 Timothy 5:8 *If any one does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his own family, he has disowned the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.*
  - b. Our parents, many who served in WWII, are aging quickly. There is a terrible trend of abandonment of these parents by their children.
  - c. Nursing homes, retirement centers, and hospitals have become the places where we hide our parents from our sight so we can go on living without interruption to our own lives.
    - i. The "me" generation of the 60's and 70's, the generation who legalized abortion because babies were inconvenient are the same generation who has looked at their parents the same way.
  - d. Yet the bible makes it clear that it is the child's responsibility to minister and care for his or her parents when they are old. It is not easy. But it is part of Honoring them.
  - e. You don't know how long your parents will be there. They will pass on before you do and you may have a heart-full of regrets and words unsaid. Don't wait until they are gone to honor them!
- c. **What is so important about this command?**
  - i. **This commandment protects the home (and society).**
    - 1. The home is the basic building block of civilization.
      - a. If there is ever to be a better world, it must begin with better homes.
      - b. The home is the place where every person must learn to accept and honor authority.
      - c. If he does not do so in the home, he becomes a troublemaker in school, and soon will discover the authority of the court of law.
      - d. The beginning of all law and order lies right here in Commandment V
  - ii. **This commandment reveals the divine order.**
    - 1. The honoring of father and mother is the divine order, not merely for children and young people, but for all people.
    - 2. For a considerable time parents stand in the place of God to their children, and therefore rebellion against their lawful commands is considered as rebellion against God.
    - 3. God requires the children to provide for their parents, just as he required the parents to feed, nourish, support, instruct, and defend the children when they were helpless and unable to do so for themselves.
  - iii. **This commandment will be ignored in the last days.**

1. 2 Timothy 3:1-5 *But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of stress. 2 For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 inhuman, implacable, slanderers, profligates, fierce, haters of good, 4 treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 holding the form of religion but denying the power of it*
  
4. New Testament versions of this passage on the 5<sup>th</sup> Commandment.
  - a. Colossians 3:20-21 *Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord. 21 Fathers, do not exasperate your children, so that they will not lose heart.*
  - b. Ephesians 6:1-4 *Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER (which is the first commandment with a promise), 3 SO THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH. 4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord*
  - c. This passage raises the question of how do we parent?
    - i. This is because the honoring of parents by children must be taught by parents.
    - ii. And that is the primary and historical role of the father.
      1. If you wanted to destroy a nation, you could do so by eliminating the positive influence of fathers in their homes.
        - a. Satan has done exactly this.
        - b. Fathers are being attacked when they're diverted from their wives and children to fulfill their own desires.
        - c. They are derailed from their the priority of loving their family, providing for and caring for the family, and offering them strength, stability, character, leadership, and solid teaching-in other words...bringing them up in things of God..
        - d. But it's sad to see that so many Christian fathers have become preoccupied with the television set, their business, making money, accumulating materials things, lusting after other women, and other things that tend to overthrow the priorities of a godly man.
      2. In 18th-cent. America lived a secular and profane man named Max Jukes. Since then he has had 1,026 descendants. 300 of them spent time in prison; 190 were prostitutes; 680 were alcoholics. They have cost the state hundreds of thousands of dollars, and made no contribution to society whatever.
        - a. One of his contemporaries was named Jonathan Edwards. Do you know who he is? He was a preacher that God used to usher in the Great Awakening in 1700's.
          - i. He has had 929 descendants, of whom 130 were pastors, 86 university professors, 13 university presidents; 75 published books; 5 served in the U.S. congress and 2 in the senate; and 1 served as vice president of the U.S. They have never cost the state one cent, but have contributed immeasurably to every are of public well-being. While it does not always work out so dramatically, their stories certainly illustrate the importance of the influence of godly--or ungodly--fathers.
  - d. What kind of teaching must parents do?
    - i. **Teach them Obedience**
      1. This not only means that children have the responsibility to obey, but parents have the responsibility to teach their children obedience - one of the most important jobs for a parent.
      2. Children will not naturally obey; they must be trained to obey.

3. Did you ever have to teach your child to disobey?
  - a. No, because it comes naturally.
4. They have all inherited an inclination to sin from Adam - obedience must be taught.
5. It is essential that a parent teach the child obedience, so that the child will grow knowing how to obey God even when he doesn't understand everything or doesn't want to.
6. It is also how they learn submission to authority.

ii. **Teach them what is right.**

1. It isn't enough to send our kids to Sunday School, Team Kids, and Bible camp.
  - a. It is not the responsibility of these organizations to teach your kids what is right and wrong. They learn God's word there.
  - b. But they need more than the bible training at church.
2. Our kids need to be taught what is right and what is wrong by their parents.
3. Our kids learn their values from their parents:
4. You catch values, you don't teach them.
5. If a man does not teach his children truth, others will teach them error.
  - a. The young skeptic that the child meets in the street; the atheist; the immoral person, and others, if given a chance, will teach the child all they know.
  - b. It is better for a parent to teach his child the truth than for a stranger to teach him error.

iii. **Teach them the right master.**

1. They need to know your master. Whomever you are serving they will serve.
  - a. If you claim to serve Jesus but secretly serve the enemy, they will copy your behavior.
  - b. If you don't serve Jesus, if you don't know Him, you cannot impart the knowledge of Him to them, because you cannot teach them what you do not know or practice.
    - i. This morning, I would like to invite each of you here today to come to Christ.
    - ii. Come to Him by faith...trust Him as your Lord and Savior
    - iii. You can create a legacy for generations to come, but it must START with you, the parent.

e. What about the warning to fathers found in these two passage?

i. *Fathers, do not exasperate your children, so that they will not lose heart*

ii. *Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.*

1. Exasperation, losing heart, provoking to anger...those are powerful words.
2. You have the power as a parent to provoke, exasperate and discourage your children.

a. "When you are disciplining a child, you should have first controlled yourself. What right have you to say to your child that he needs discipline when you obviously need it yourself?" (D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones)

iii. **How do we provoke our kids to anger or exasperate them?**

1. This provocation can be evidenced through depression and suicidal tendencies which is anger turned inward, or disobedience – anger turned outward.
2. What are some of the ways in which we provoke our children to anger?
  - a. One way is through being **unreasonable**.

- b. If we fail to consider what our children are capable of and load them down with too many demands, then we will give them a burden which they cannot bear.
- c. This will inevitably lead to frustration and anger on the part of the child.
- 3. **Fault-finding** is another way in which we can provoke our children.
  - a. We do this by continually finding fault with them.
  - b. He who always finds fault with a child; who is never satisfied with what he does; who scolds and complains will break the spirit of a child.
  - c. We all have a tendency to point out what is wrong, and I must confess this is one of my greatest shortcomings as a parent.
  - d. It's so easy to criticize.
  - e. We must also take special care to point out what is right in what they do.
  - f. And just as obedience must be learned, so the art of encouragement must be learned.
  - g. Our children will respond much better to our criticism when we take the time to compliment them on what they do well.
- 4. Another cause of provocation is **inconsistency**.
  - a. When the ground rules change all the time, children become frustrated.
  - b. If we react one way on Monday and a different way on Thursday to the same situation, our children are rightfully provoked.
  - c. It is not fair to change the rules without letting them know in advance.
  - d. This is one reason why both father and mother must be united in dealing with their children.
  - e. One parent cannot tell the child one thing only to have the other parent shoot the child down for doing it.
  - f. Children respond to consistency. They are frustrated by inconsistency.
- 5. I believe one of the leading causes of angry, rebellious children is **parents who do not demand obedience**.
  - a. There is a fascinating dynamic at work here.
  - b. A subtle deception parents believe is that if we give in to the demands of our tantrum-throwing kids, they will be happy, not angry.
  - c. After all, they do seem very angry when they are throwing their tantrums. Don't we just add to their angry behavior when we don't let them have their way? **But that's the deception.**
  - d. When we do not demand obedience from our children, and let them have their way every time they throw a fit, we simply reinforce and encourage angry behavior as a means for them to get their way.
  - e. Anger becomes a good thing for them, because it produces the results they want.
    - i. You are actually developing an angry, rebellious child.
    - ii. And while that kind of behavior might work with mom and dad, when they enter the real world they will be in for a rude awakening.
- 6. **One more cause is disciplining in anger:**
  - a. When we discipline in anger, we can over respond to the wrong that our child has done and instead, become the wrong-doer, which negates any attempt to bring conviction on the part of the child for what they have done wrong. If they feel they have been wronged, then they will not know the wrong they themselves have done.

## 5. How long shall we honor our parents?

- a. How many people are children here today? Oh, oh, you guys are lying. Everyone one of you is a child of a parent somewhere. You may not be a child by age, but you are still *their child* as long as your parent lives. In fact, even after they die, you are still their child!
- b. Ephesians 5:31 *FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND SHALL BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH.*
- c. One is technically under their parent's authority until marriage.
  - i. By authority we don't mean control, but under their umbrella of wisdom and divine protection.
  - ii. Most of us look at this as something horrible.
  - iii. I want out! I hate the fact that my parents tell me what to do all the time...so I will
    - 1. Get married
    - 2. Join the marines!
    - 3. Duh!
- d. The bottom line is that we must honor our parents forever. Even their memory. That is the fulfillment of this command.
- e. A parent who disses his own dead parents sets a poor example for his kids.
  - i. Once there was a little old man. His eyes blinked and his hands trembled; when he ate he clattered the silverware distressingly, missed his mouth with the spoon as often as not, and dribbled a bit of his food on the tablecloth. Now he lived with his married son, having nowhere else to live, and his son's wife didn't like the arrangement.
    - 1. "I can't have this," she said. "It interferes with my right to happiness." So she and her husband took the old man gently but firmly by the arm and led him to the corner of the kitchen. There they set him on a stool and gave him his food in an earthenware bowl. From then on he always ate in the corner, blinking at the table with wistful eyes.
    - 2. One day his hands trembled rather more than usual, and the earthenware bowl fell and broke. "If you are a pig," said the daughter-in-law, "you must eat out of a trough." So they made him a little wooden trough and he got his meals in that.
    - 3. These people had a four-year-old son of whom they were very fond. One evening the young man noticed his boy playing intently with some bits of wood and asked what he was doing. "I'm making a trough," he said, smiling up for approval, "to feed you and Mamma out of when I get big."

I have given you a lot to think about his morning. Perhaps God has spoken to you about something you have done or failed to do.

Perhaps you are a child or a teen who has struggled with your parents authority. You can tell them today and ask for their forgiveness.

Perhaps you are an adult and you realized that you have not honored your parents properly. They may not even be alive today for you to tell them. But you can begin today to honoring them in a godly way. Use the altar and spend some time with God and bring that to a close.

Your parents may have been horrible, tough and difficult. You may even question whether they loved you. But God gave you to them and them to you. If you will honor them in a biblical manner, God declares that you will experience special blessings that will change your life. Won't you begin today?

Romans 1:28-32 *And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a base mind and to improper conduct. 29 They were filled with all manner of wickedness, evil, covetousness, malice. Full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malignity, they are gossips, 30 slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, 31 foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. 32 Though they know God's decree that those who do such things deserve to die, they not only do them but approve those who practice them*

6.

i.

7. More than anything else, parents want their children to be saved

- a. I cannot imagine anything worse than being lost, unless it is being lost and finding one of my children lost as well!

8.

9. Illustrations:

i.

b. Complaints - In the 10-year-olds in Mrs. Imogene Frost's class at the Brookside, N.J. Community Sunday School expressed their views of "What's wrong with grownups?" they came up with these complaints:

- i. Grownups make promises, then they forget all about them, or else they say it wasn't really a promise, just a maybe.
- ii. Grownups don't do the things they're always telling the children to do—like pick up their things, or be neat, or always tell the truth.
- iii. Grownups never really listen to what children have to say. They always decide ahead of time what they're going to answer.
- iv. Grownups make mistakes, but they won't admit them. They always pretend that they weren't mistakes at all—or that somebody else made them.
- v. Grownups interrupt children all the time and think nothing of it. If a child interrupts a grownup, he gets a scolding or something worse.
- vi. Grownups never understand how much children want a certain thing—a certain color or shape or size. If it's something they don't admire—even if the children have spent their own money for it—they always say, "I can't imagine what you want with that old thing!"
- vii. Sometimes grownups punish children unfairly. It isn't right if you've done just some little thing wrong and grownups take away something that means an awful lot to you. Other times you can do something really bad and they say they're going to punish you, but they don't. You never know, and you ought to know.
- viii. Grownups are always talking about what they did and what they knew when they were 10 years old—but they never try to think what it's like to be 10 years old right now.

i. For Families Only

2. Hebrews 12:19 *Since we respect our earthly fathers who disciplined us, should we not all the more cheerfully submit to the discipline of our heavenly Father and live forever?*
  3. Proverbs 30:17 *The eye that mocks a father and despises a mother will be plucked out by ravens of the valley and eaten by vultures.*
  4. Proverbs 15:5 *A fool rejects his father's discipline, But he who regards reproof is sensible.*
  5. Proverbs 20:20 *He who curses his father or his mother, His lamp will go out in time of darkness.*
  6. Proverbs 23:22 *Listen to your father who begot you, And do not despise your mother when she is old.*
- c. Proverbs 1:8-9 *Hear, my son, your father's instruction And do not forsake your mother's teaching; 9 Indeed, they are a graceful wreath to your head And ornaments about your neck.*