

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of August 11, 2019

THEME: "Time with Family" FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS

Sunday Read Ephesians 5:28-6:4

"For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined to his wife, and they two shall be one flesh." God began the human race with a family! The family was first and foremost in the mind of God. He created only two people to start things off. He told these two to *"replenish the earth."* Communities of people followed later as the world was replenished with more and more people. It was later that the human culture developed cities and nations: religions and races; neighborhoods and schools; colleges and universities; leagues and unions. All of those are secondary to the family: family relationships are the foundation for a society: critical! When there is a breakdown in families, the culture has problems. As I see it, that is the main cause of the problems we are now facing in the American culture, which has been on downhill path ever since the courts determined that reading God's Word in public schools was unconstitutional: a huge mistake! That families should be developed is clear from what we read in Genesis 2:24: *"Therefore shall a man leave his father and mother and shall cleave unto his wife."* That does not mean he should abandon his parents, but to start a new home and extend the family to include what we call grandparents and grandchildren. The truth is that if things are done God's way, the children leaving the home are drawn closer to their own parents in an emotional sense because they now become parents and understand the love that their parents had for them when they were children and adolescents!

SACRIFICIAL & UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

Monday Read Ephesians 5:21-33

"The husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church...Husbands, love your wives even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it." In giving this command to the husband, God was saying that the climate for a home should be an atmosphere of love. Among all the other responsibilities of the husband, it is imperative, as the head of the home, that he establishes an atmosphere of love by demonstrating a Christlike love for his wife. If the children sent by God to this home see love, they are privileged children indeed and could not have a better start for their lives. Always this should be first and foremost in the smooth operation of a home. If there are any areas in which a man falls short, and no man is perfect, extreme care should be taken that it is not a lack of love! It is a tall order to match the love of Christ, but that is what a husband is told by God! It would be good for a man to study the gospels that speak of the life of Jesus to see the kind of love He showed in His life. One thing we know is the love of Christ is sacrificial by the verse above; Jesus gave Himself for the church. The church was His primary focus, a real model for husbands! And the love of Christ is unconditional as is stated in Romans 5:6-10: *"But God commendeth His love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."* God assigned to the husband the responsibility for managing the home as we read in the Bible reading for today. This does not mean a husband is superior to his wife; we know that because of what God had said in verse 23, just before he emphasized the husband's ultimate responsibility: *"Submitting yourselves one to another."* In any organization, someone must bear the responsibility for leadership, or there will be confusion; and the door would be wide open for disagreement. God gave that job to the man! Such a task is something for which he undoubtedly needs his wife. He could not possibly do it alone!

INSEPARABLE LOVE

Tuesday Read Romans 8:38-39

"For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." The love of Christ is inseparable; nothing can take a believer away from Christ! We are eternally secure in Him! When a person receives Jesus as personal Savior, that name is in the Lamb's Book of Life in heaven forever. Jesus Himself said this in John 10:28: *"And I give unto them eternal life: and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand."* In the scripture above from Romans 8, Paul lists a lot of things which may threaten our relationship with our Savior; none of those will ever take us away from Christ, thanks to His love for us. God's plan is that wives should have the same security. Obviously, the home is a primary target of our adversary; he is making relentless assaults on the family in the American culture. Separations and divorce are far too common, and there is no legitimate excuse! If we were to fix

families, we would be doing our land a big favor. That is a primary reason we should return to the Bible as our moral authority, and live up to our national motto: In God we trust! All who have that as a personal motto are blessed people!

RESPECT

Wednesday Read I Peter 3:1-7

"Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honor unto the wife." God expects respect in family relationships beginning with the spouses. One of the very basic ten commandments points that out: *"Honor thy father and mother that it may be well with thee."* All the child and adolescent psychology books in the world cannot match that advice for our youth to have a productive life. Love, honor and respect are keys to a happy life! All this begins with the attitude of the man of the house and the atmosphere he creates. After all, if his children are told to honor him, then he should be honorable; that would make the responsibility of his children much easier. It is very difficult to honor a dishonorable person. When anyone in the family is acting rude, it still is possible to be respectful in our reactions. As a matter of fact, it is in such times as that when a believer can really please our Heavenly Father. That is a great victory over the adversary who is trying to get people to disobey God! Notice the phrase *"according to knowledge."* The implication is that we should try hard to get to know each other. To know the strengths and weaknesses of others will help immensely in showing respect. If someone seems to be impatient, it is respectful not to try his or her patience. If we know someone is having a bad day, it is respectful to try to bring something good into his or her life. This does wonders for the home!

GIVING SPIRIT

Thursday Read Mather 7:7-11

"If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your heavenly Father which is in heaven, give good things to them that ask Him?" Jesus spoke about that in Acts 20:35: *"Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how He said, It is more blessed to give than to receive."* I think we all like to receive things, but it is true that the greater blessing is that which we get when we give. Making others happy makes us happy! Our Heavenly Father sets the example; no one can possibly be more giving. We are the beneficiaries of our giving Heavenly Father, and we should be very grateful. One way to show we are appreciative is to follow his example. Children are ecstatic when they receive gifts; and, if they are in a home where the father has a giving heart, the likelihood of his children to follow his example is far more likely. Children should be encouraged early on to learn giving; and when they see how happy it makes the one to whom they have given something, it may well become a part of them to want to give. That will add immensely to their having a life of joy, the joy of giving to others!

LOVING SUPPORT

Friday Read I Timothy 5:8

"If any provide not for his own, and especially for those of his own house, he hath defied the faith, and is worse than an infidel." An obvious responsibility of a father in his establishing a home is to provide for the needs of his family. To have gainful employment makes this increasingly likely, which means it is good for him to establish the reputation of being a good worker. When Jesus said what He did in Matthew 6:33, I think the most common way God fulfills His part in that promise is by giving a man a job. Jesus said this: *"Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you."* The things about which He was speaking were our needs, not necessarily all our desires. It is possible that we may be asking for things that would do us more harm than good. That is the warning we are given in James 4:3: *"Ye ask, and receive not, because you ask amiss, that you may consume it upon your lusts."* Our Father in heaven is very careful not to spoil any of His children, and earthly fathers do well to follow His example. A father is responsible to provide for his family! That is an indisputable mandate. The fact that there are so many fathers today that are negligent in this matter has caused a lot of problems, particularly in areas where crime is rampant. The chief cause may be fathers abandoning their families.

GODLY ADVICE

Saturday Read Proverbs 22:6

"Train up a child in the way that he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Without a doubt, the most important responsibility of a father is the mandate God gives to them in Ephesians 6:4: *"Fathers, bring up your children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord!"* This will do

a child more good than any thing else, if a father is faithful in doing this for his children. Meeting the spiritual needs of sons and daughters will serve them in good stead their whole lives. You can be certain that the enemy of human souls and the enemy of God will try to prevent fathers from bringing their children up in the ways of God. The most important thing in this training in the time of their youth is to have a father who is a good example of the Christian faith. Children are highly privileged if they are taught the Scriptures and see Biblical principles lived out in the lives of their fathers. They are truly blessed if they learn from their father that worship of God is a high priority! They should see the Bible is very important!