

First Commandment with a Promise – Session 11

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I. Introduction:

- *Mal 4:5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.*
Mal 4:6 And he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.

1. The Impact of Jezebel upon the Nation:

- Replacement of worship of the one true God with worship of idols
- The destruction of prophets and loss of prophetic revelation to the nation
- The moral and spiritual corruption of the nation
- **The defilement and hardening of hearts resulting in family relational breakdown.**
- The impending danger of the nation being cursed because of its idolatry and experiencing judgment of God
- Elijah was a prophet raised up by God to confront the idolatry and of jezebel and *"repair the altar of the Lord"*

2. The Promise of Elijah

- **Elijah was sent by God and called to turn the hearts of the nation back to Father God**
 - John the Baptist was a partial fulfillment of this promise. He called the nation to repentance
 - John was a Forerunner...to prepare the way for the coming of the Lord
 - This implies there will be a massive breakdown in family relationships in the EndTimes
 - The problem is the result of hearts of fathers and their children being cold towards each other
 - Cold...dead, hardened
- **Since the Fathers are responsible for the family this hardness a result of heart idolatry and its consequent impact on relationships between generations**
- **What is a Father?**
 - Father...source.....identity, provision, protection, discipline, direction
 - We see the impact of fatherlessness on the current generation...Boys and girls
 - **A Fatherless generation.....An Orphan generation**
 - Academic failure, abuse, drugs, immorality, gender confusion, prison, abortions, unmarried mothers
 - The ministry of Elijah is to turn and heal hearts and restore Family foundations
- **Sons are to be representatives of their Father**
 - God is a loving Father...He is concerned for His family, and the impact of idolatry, in home and in the church

II. The First Commandment with a Promise

1. Instructions to Fathers and Children

- Eph 6:1 *Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right (righteous, keeping God's law)*
Eph 6:2 *"HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER," which is the first commandment with promise:*
Eph 6:3 *"THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU AND YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH."*
Eph 6:4 *And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.*
- **Obey.....**to hear under, to listen attentively to, to conform to
 - Eph 6:1 *Children, if you want to be wise, listen to your parents and do what they tell you, and the Lord will help you. TPT*
- **Honour....**to place value or weight upon them and what they have to say.
 - This is the first commandment with a promise attached to it
 - The promise is made and empowered by God Himself
- **Parents are the first authority figures, representatives of God in the life of a child.**
 - **Our response and attitude to our parents God's representatives reflects our attitude to God**
 - Luke.2:51-52 *Jesus, our example, put this Principle into practice as a child of 12...and He grew in wisdom, stature, and **favour with God and man***
 - **Jesus not only practiced honour of parents he also taught it**
Mat 15:3 *He answered and said to them, "Why do you also transgress the commandment of God because of your tradition?"*
Mat 15:4 *For God commanded, saying, 'HONOR YOUR FATHER AND YOUR MOTHER'; and, 'HE WHO CURSES FATHER OR MOTHER, LET HIM BE PUT TO DEATH.'*
- **Honour of authority and the blessing it brings from God begins in the home**
 - Matt.15:4-6. Jesus also reinforced the importance of this Kingdom Principle

2. **Promise:** *To announce upon, a pledge, a binding declaration, assurance given by God*

- **Two parts this promise**
 - (i). That it may be well with you.....**thrive in relationships and experience favour**
 - (ii). That you may live long on the earth.....**Longevity, health and protection**
- **This promise is conditional on the conditions being met.**
 - Christ Himself has met all the conditions on our behalf as our representative to qualify for blessing
 - As we align with Him and Kingdom relational order, then blessings promised will flow to us
- **Conversely:**
 - **If we refuse to align with Kingdom patterns and order, we no longer live under covering and protection and we experience the consequences of violation...Life not going well**

- Dishonour of parents brings a lifetime of conflict with authority figures, spouses and children

3. Honour:

- To fix a value upon, a weight
 - To treat as having value
 - To respect, look back and appreciate
 - Honour is a Kingdom principle that attracts and releases favour upon our lives
 - Honour is a gift that we choose to give people. It cannot be demanded
- Honour is a key value of the Kingdom of God
 - *Psa 104:1 Bless the LORD, O my soul! O LORD my God, You are very great: You are clothed with honor and majesty*
 - *1Sa 2:30 Therefore the LORD God of Israel says:.....for those who honor Me I will honor, and those who despise Me shall be lightly esteemed.*
 - *Mal 1:6 "A son honors his father, And a servant his master. If then I am the Father, Where is My honor? And if I am a Master, Where is My reverence? Says the LORD of hosts To you priests who despise My name.*

4. Dishonour

- To treat as having little or no value
- To despise, look down upon,
- To treat as being like vapour, no substance or value
- Dishonour blinds us to the value of people and shuts off access to what they can impart to us
- Dishonour is a choice made in the heart to devalue people
- Once we have dishonoured people in our heart we will mistreat them without any remorse

5. Some Personal Examples

- Sing: Boy bitter against father....spirit of infirmity
- USA: Mother competitive with daughter
- Taiw: Girl adopted at 5.....adopted and aborted
- NZ: Boy adopted.....authority issues

III. Biblical Consequences of Dishonour of Parents

- Violation of Kingdom principles always have consequences

1. Cursing instead of Blessing

- *Deu 27:16 'Cursed is the one who treats his father or his mother with contempt.' "And all the people shall say, 'Amen!'"*
 - Curses are cycles of oppression and failure empowered by demons that continue until they are broken
 - The many consequences of this curse are outlined in Deut.28

- Broken family relationships, oppression, slavery, depression, accidents and premature deaths

2. Legal right for torment by Spirit of death

- Lev 20:9 *'For everyone who curses his father or his mother shall surely be put to death. He has cursed his father or his mother. His blood shall be upon him.*
 - Violations of the laws of God have consequences more painful than we realize
 - The legal penalty of physical death was seldom carried out
 - However legal rights remain for a spirit of death to come and torment
 - Evidence of a spirit of death are emotional numbness, and feelings of separation and aloneness

3. Spiritual and Relational Blindness and Insensitivity

- Pro 20:20 *Whoever curses his father or his mother, His lamp will be put out in deep darkness*
 - Lamp in the darkness is a picture of lack of revelation or understanding
 - It means an inability to see or discern the root cause of problems in relationships.
 - We have problems we cannot solve because they are rooted in sin

4. Demonic oppression

- Pro 30:17 *The eye that mocks his father, And scorns obedience to his mother, The ravens of the valley will pick it out, And the young eagles will eat it.*
 - Ravens are unclean birds and can be a picture of demonic spirits
 - This means oppression by demons that result in rebellion and spiritual darkness

5. We Reap what we have Sown

- Gal 6:7 *Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.*
- Gal 6:8 *For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.*
 - Because there is a delay between sowing and reaping people do not connect their problems to Kingdom violations
 - We tend to reap more than what we have sown
 - When we sow dishonour and judgments, we reap dishonour and judgments

IV. The Root of Bitterness

1. Bitterness is a poisonous root

- Heb 12:15 *looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the **grace of God**; lest any **root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled**;*
 - When people hurt us we need to receive and release grace rather than judgment
 - When people get hurt they tend to become angry instead of turning to God for grace to help

- Bitterness is a root that grows and develops unseen in the heart
- The fruit of bitterness is defilement of all relationships and erosion of faith
- **Bitterness was the first issue God addressed with the people of Israel**
- **They were oppressed and developed a Victim Mindset and Identity**

2. The Progression of Bitterness

- Hurt/injustice
- Anger
- Offence
- Refusal to extend grace and forgive
- Resentment
- Bitterness
- Retaliation

3. The Heart Defilement of Bitterness

- **Bitterness:** A heart poison that overflows with criticism, ingratitude and dishonor
- **Bitter Root judgments:** A judicial decision is made in the heart that is general
- **Inner Vows:** Vows are made to protect self and control and prevent further pain
- **Negative expectations:** Expectation of being treated the same way in all relationships
- These sins of the heart are **carried into all relationships** and progressively poison them
 - Bitter people become ungrateful and entitled and see life through the filter of their offence
 - We begin to reap what we have sown in every area of life

VI. The Example of Michal

1. The Key Passage: 2Sam.6:16-23

- *2Sa 6:16 Now as the ark of the LORD came into the City of David, Michal, Saul's daughter, looked through a window and saw King David leaping and whirling before the LORD; **and she despised him in her heart.***
2Sa 6:17 So they brought the ark of the LORD, and set it in its place in the midst of the tabernacle that David had erected for it. Then David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD.
2Sa 6:18 And when David had finished offering burnt offerings and peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD of hosts.
2Sa 6:19 Then he distributed among all the people, among the whole multitude of Israel, both the women and the men, to everyone a loaf of bread, a piece of meat, and a cake of raisins. So all the people departed, everyone to his house.
*2Sa 6:20 Then **David returned to bless his household.** And **Michal the daughter of Saul** came out to meet David, and said, "How glorious was the king of Israel today, uncovering himself today in the eyes of the maids of his servants, as one of the base fellows shamelessly uncovers himself!"*

2Sa 6:21 So David said to Michal, "It was before the LORD, who chose me instead of your father and all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the LORD, over Israel. Therefore I will play music before the LORD.

2Sa 6:22 And I will be even more undignified than this, and will be humble in my own sight. But as for the maidservants of whom you have spoken, by them I will be held in honor."

2Sa 6:23 Therefore Michal the daughter of Saul had no children to the day of her death.

2. Their Abuse and Mistreatment

- David and Michal were both severely abused by King Saul, the Father of Michal
 - David was hunted down as a criminal with a kill on sight order
 - Anyone who showed him friendship was put to death
- Michal loved David deeply as her first and only love
 - She was forced into adultery and a marriage with a man she did not love
 - She remained in this marriage until David became King and sent for her restoration
 - This should have been the greatest day in both their lives....their receiving the Promise of God

3. Their Response to Injustice

- Everyone in life at some points experience injustice...what counts is how we handle it
- **David**
 - David maintained a soft heart before God and continued to honour Saul
 - He was willing to forgive and find comfort in God
 - When given the opportunity to kill Saul twice , he refused choosing to trust and obey God
 - David was promoted to King and celebrated at the Ark and presence of God returning to Jerusalem
 - **David chose forgiveness and honour: David's life went well**
- **Michal**
 - Michal instead became bitter against her father. She judged and dishonoured her father
 - Michal was unable to celebrate the promotion to honour, she observed through a window
 - Michal also bitterly despised her husband for his freedom in worship
 - She became barren...spiritually barren, barren marriage, barren womb, barren of legacy
 - **Michal chose bitterness and dishonour: Michal's life did not go well!**

V. How to Move from Bitterness to Honour

1. God has promised to send the spirit of Elijah to turn hearts...to bring deep repentance and change

- God invites us to come to Him and be healed and changed
- It is not by our effort ...but by the Spirit of God...the Spirit of our Father
- God wants to turn our hearts backremove the hearts of stone

2. We need an Encounter with the Love of the Father

- **We need healing and deliverance from fatherlessness ...an orphan heart**
- *Luk 15:20 "And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him."*

3. We need to resolve Rejection and Bitterness in the heart

- *Mat 18:35 "So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses."*
- Refusing to forgive exposes us to demonic torment

Practical Steps of Action

1. Recognise:

- If the fruit of dishonor is present we know there is a root in the heart
 - Acknowledge the presence of offense, bitterness and dishonor
 - Because there is a delay between sowing and reaping people do not easily connect the current problems s that are experiencing to violations of Kingdom Laws
 - Often we need help to connect the current reaping with earlier sowing dishonor

2. Responsibility

- Blaming others blinds us to the reality and consequences of our own choices and reactions
 - Blaming others is the pattern of a Victim Mindset
 - Blaming others for your pain causes powerlessness and bitterness
 - We are called to bear the Image of God. He is not a victim. This is not who we are in Christ
- We need to identify and acknowledge damage and pain and anger in our heart and take responsibility for its presence and its removal
 - Anger letter can help with the process
 - Journal what has happened....the pain and impact...the response to control pain

3. Release Grief

- Acknowledge and release the grief and pain to the Lord and bring it to the cross to receive comfort and healing
 - Grieving brings buried pain to the surface
 - Choosing to release it to the Lord and seek His comfort is an act of faith
 - In order to move forward to Forgiving from the heart we acknowledge injustice and heart pain

- Ask Holy Spirit to remove the pain

4. Release Forgiveness

- Release forgiveness from the heart to the offender....speak forth release
- **Forgiveness does not mean:**
 - It didn't matter
 - The relationship is now reconciled
 - Can now Trust the person
- **Forgiveness does Mean**
 - Releasing the debt totally
 - Closing the legal right to demons to torment
 - Break free of the person and their destructive actions

5. Repent of and Renounce and Cancel all Judgments made in heart against parents

- Our own reactions are our own choices and we are responsible for them
- What is held in your heart that needs to be confessed and repented of?
- Any judgments made about people must be cancelled and withdrawn
- Often people do not realize they have made judgments

6. Confess and Renounce Generational Curses

- Sometimes the brokenness and sin in the family is Generational
- You maybe wrestling a destructive spiritual force in the family that no one has overcome
- You may be the one God has chosen to bring this destruction to an end
- Declare it and bring it to the cross and cancel its power

7. Resist and Remove Spirits

- Speak to all oppressive spirits and command them to leave
- What have agreed with and tolerated in your heart

8. Bless The Parent in Prayer

- Speak words of gratitude and blessing in prayer as an act of faith and obedience
- Do this intentionally and if necessary ask the Father to help you see them as He does

9. Practice Honour in Practical Ways

- **Inclusion and gratitude and listening are key ways of expressing honour**
- **Honour releases what people have been gifted to give us**
 - Apology?
 - Gratitude
 - Kindness
 - Asking them to share life experiences and lesson
- **Note:**
- What about:
 - Abusive parent?

- In cases of an abusive relationship boundaries need to be set and maintained
- Dead parent?
 - In case of a dead parent honour can still be given by honouring and appreciation their good
- **Tonight:**
- **God wants you to experience and Encounter with the Love of your Father**
 - Luk 15:21 *And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am **no longer worthy to be called your son.**'*
 - Luk 15:22 *"But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out **the best robe** and put it on him, and put a **ring on his hand** and **sandals on his feet.***