

BIBLE LESSONS

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BIBLE STUDY

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August 7, 1966

GOD'S WAY IN THE HOME

Ex. 20:12; Mark 7:9-13; Luke 2:51, 52, Eph. 6:1-4

Ex. 20:12 Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

Mark 9:7 And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition.

10 For Moses said, Honour thy father and thy mother; and, Whoso curseth father or mother, let him die the death:

11 But ye say, If a man shall say to his father or mother, It is Corban, that is to say, a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; he shall be free.

12 And ye suffer him no more to do ought for his father or his mother;

13 Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered and many such like things do ye.

Luke 2:51 And he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart.

52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.

Eph. 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.

2 Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise;

3 That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

4 And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath; but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Memory Verse: And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Eph. 6:4.

Practical Truth: A Christian home is one with a love for God, each other, and God's Word.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

God's plan is perfect for all homes. Many today are not willing to follow that perfect plan. God told Hezekiah, who was about to die, "Set thine house in order." (2 Kings 20:1) Many homes today need to be set in order. Wives need to be in subjection to God and their husbands. Husbands need to love their wives and be willing to give their lives for them. (Eph. 5:22, 25.) Parents need to be honorable so their children will honor them. Children need to be brought into subjection and taught respect for God, their parents, and the rights of others. Parents need to know how to correct their children and "bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." (ver. 4). Today many feel that "self-expression" is what the child needs and "let them be free." But when this goes beyond God's laws and parental restraint, it

will bring heartache to the parents and the child when he goes out on his own. The Bible says, "Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell." Prov. 23:14. This does not mean to be unmerciful, but means to conquer a child and not just provoke him to wrath. (ver. 4). Some parents whip until they get over their angry or upset feelings. Prayer needs to go along with corrections. Make them know that they have disobeyed God's laws. The breakdown of families means the ultimate breakdown of a nation.

Jesus was an example to children. He was in subjection to Joseph, Mary, and to God. He honored his mother when he died on the cross by asking John to take care of her. In the garden of Gethsemane, He submissively prayed to his heavenly Father, "Not my will but thine be done." (Luke 22:32.)

Our lesson tells us that Jesus firmly rebuked those who shirk their responsibility, through tradition, in caring for their parents when they are old.

August 14, 1966

RESPECT FOR HUMAN LIFE

Ex. 20:13; Matt. 5:21-24, 43, 44; 1 John 3:15-18; 4:20, 21

Ex. 20:13 Thou shalt not kill.

Matt. 5:21 Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment:

22 But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.

23 Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee;

24 Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.

43 Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy.

44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

1 John 3:15 Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer; and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.

16 Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

17 But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?

18 My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue, but in deed and in truth.

1 John 4:20 If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?

21 And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.

Memory Verse: Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him. 1 John 3:15.

Practical Truth: Love needs to be cultivated so it will grow. Love and hate never mix.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Some might think they were measured up on the sixth commandment if they had not committed murder, but our lesson brings out the fact that if you hate your brother, you are a murderer already. Jesus firmly declares, "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them that despitefully use you, and persecute you." (ver. 44) Where there is love, there is no hate, no unkind feelings, nor lack of mercy. One would rather take a wrong than do a wrong. Love will cover many things and give one grace to return good for evil. Jesus is our example in love. He laid down his life for those who put Him on the cross. He forgave them and loved them.

Cain killed his brother, Abel, through anger and jealousy. Many have taken the life of others through letting the seed of jealousy get into the heart and grow. Husbands and wives have allowed jealousy to grow and bring them to this terrible crime. We are thankful that Jesus died on the cross to bring salvation even to the murderer. If he will repent with godly sorrow, God will forgive him.

Under the law of Moses, provision was made for those who killed accidentally. There were six cities of refuge that they could remain in until the death of the high priest and be saved from death. (Num. 35:9-28.) Otherwise the penalty was a life for a life.

August 21, 1966

PERSONAL PURITY

Printed Portion Ex. 20:14; Matt. 5:27; John 8:3-11

Ex. 20:14 Thou shalt not commit adultery.

Matt. 5:27 Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery:

28 But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

John 8:3 And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst,

4 They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act.

5 Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou?

6 This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down and with his finger wrote on the ground, as though he heard them not.

7 So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.

8 And again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground.

9 And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.

10 When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee?

11 She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.

Memory Verse: Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. Philippians 4:8.

Practical Truth: The Lord wants pure minds to use.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The seventh commandment is, "Thou shalt not commit adultery." Moses gave the law but could not change the heart so the laws could be kept. Jesus came to fulfill the commandments or laws. He came to give man a change of heart so he could keep them. Jesus gives power to control your thoughts and keep them pure so you will not be tempted to commit the sin of adultery. God is expecting us to be pure-minded. Think on those things that are lovely, virtuous, and clean. We are called to a high calling. We are to be a clean, holy people. What a person thinks might not be known by anyone but themselves but he assured it is known by God. Just as hatred makes one a murderer, lustful thoughts make one an adulterer. There is a little verse I learned when young: "Sow a thought, reap an act; sow an act, reap a habit; sow a habit, reap a character; sow a character, reap a destiny." Thoughts will sometimes determine our destiny unless resisted and rebuked. The devil is ready to present a thought but Jesus gives you power to resist that thought and not let it linger in your mind and get down into your heart. The mind is the sorting room for the heart. Think on those things that are lovely and resist everything that is contrary to God's purity. Don't forget our memory verse.

No doubt Jesus knew the thoughts of the dear woman who was brought to Him and also the thoughts of her accusers. She could have slipped away as they did but she wanted forgiveness. Jesus told her to go and sin no more. He had forgiven her.

God's law against adultery was to protect the family that God had ordained for mankind. He created only one woman for Adam. "For the woman which hath a husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband." Romans 7:2.

August 28, 1966

HONESTY IN ALL THINGS

Ex. 20:15; Amos 8:4, 5; Mark 12:38-40; Titus 2:7-10

Ex. 20:15 Thou shalt not steal.

Amos 8:4 Hear this, O ye that swallow up the needy, even to make the poor of the land to fail.

5 Saying, When will the new moon be gone, that we may sell corn? and the sabbath, that we may set forth wheat, making the ephah small, and the shekel great, and falsifying the balances by deceit?

Mark 12:38 And he said unto them in his doctrine, Beware of the scribes, which love to go in long clothing, and love salutations in the marketplaces,

39 And the chief seats in the synagogues, and the uppermost rooms at feasts:

40 Which devour widows' houses, and for a pretense make long prayers: these shall receive greater damnation.

Titus 2:7 In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity,

8 Sound, speech that cannot be condemned; that he that

is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you.

9 Exhort servants to be obedient unto their own masters, and to please them well in all things; not answering again;

10 Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.

Memory Verse: Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth. Ephesians 4:28.

Practical Truth: Make honesty a vital part of your being. Be honest in everything.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

People can steal in many ways. They can steal by taking advantage of others, who are unsuspecting to their devices. They can steal a person's good name by telling lies about them. They can steal from employers by wasting time they are paid for. And of course, just taking things that do not belong to one is stealing. Honesty is commanded by God. We are to be honest with God, others, and ourselves.

A person who has stolen, must clear himself before God and the person that he stole from to be clear in his soul. The things stolen must be returned or restitution made in some way. When Zaccheus stood before Jesus and repented, he said, "If I have taken anything from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold." Luke 19:8. He meant to give back four times as much as he had falsely taken. We are taught to "give again that he had robbed." Ezek. 33:15.

It is wrong to borrow from someone and promise to pay back at a certain time and then fail to do it. I know there are those things that come up that are unexpected but it is better to do without some things than not keep your word. Our lesson tells us to be a "pattern of good works ... in sincerity." Being honest covers a large territory. Long prayers and outward pious living will not be enough. Our dealings with others must be strictly honest and our hearts right. —Sis. Marie Miles

The Eye of God

"The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good." Prov. 15:3.

There is an eye looking down upon this earth. There is nothing that can be hidden from Him. He sees and knows every secret thing that you do. Nothing is too small or too big for Him to see. His eye not only sees the bad, but His eye sees the good, also. This should bring some serious thoughts to every person who realizes this fact.

God is keeping a record of all that is done by every person. (Rev. 20:12). You and God are the ones who know what is on that record. When you do evil to another person you are going to have to give an account to God. He is keeping the record. We need to examine ourselves as Job did. Job said, "Doth not he see my ways, and count all my steps? If I have walked with vanity, or if my foot hath hasted to deceit." Job 31:5, 6. In the whole chapter Job continues to examine himself. He knew that God could see everything. He checked to see if he had

"withheld from the poor," "mine heart walked after mine eyes," "deceived by a woman," "eaten my morsel myself alone, and the fatherless hath not eaten," "lifted up my hand against the fatherless," "made gold my hope," "rejoiced at the destruction of him that hated me." Job then says, "Let me be weighed in an even balance, that God may know mine integrity." (verse 6) Each of us will be weighed in the balances of justice. How will we weigh out? "There is no darkness, nor shadow of death, where the workers of iniquity may hide themselves." Job 34:22.

God sees those who are "filled with unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity, whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, without understanding, covenant breakers, implacable, and unmerciful." Rom. 1:29, 30. He tells us that those who "have pleasure in them that do them" will be punished, also. They are treasuring up unto themselves "wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; Who will render to every man according to his deeds." Rom. 2:5, 6. What an awful sight God sees when He sees all of the wickedness in this world. You and I see a tiny amount but God sees it all. We realize that His mercy is great. His eye sees into the heelish dens, where the greatest and most corrupt sins are committed. Wicked men have others enslaved to them through dope. They use them to commit many corrupt sins and crimes. I read the testimony of a man who escaped from a den of crime of this kind. He heard the song of redemption that came over a loud-speaker through the tiny window of his prison where he was in the hands of a man who fed him dope. God in a miraculous way brought him out, saved him and delivered him from sin. Praise God, there is a way out from the clutches of sin, through the precious blood of Jesus. He died on the cross to set the captives free. He will save every soul who will humble himself before him, repent and forsake his sins. He wants to blot out those sins from that book that is kept. Only Jesus' blood can erase every stain of sin from the soul of man and from the record that is kept.

"Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do." Heb. 4:13. God sees all. I am glad that it is this way. I am glad that the Lord can see down into our hearts. I am glad that there is a way that we can come to Him and we can know that He will forgive us of all those things that are wrong. Then, too, if others might misunderstand us, we are glad that God knows. He sees and understands all about it. We stand or fall before God. He is the One to whom we must give an account.

God looked down upon the earth one time and He saw all the wickedness. He even saw that the people's thoughts were wicked continually. (Gen. 7:5-8). He was sorry that He had made man. He wanted man to be someone He could enjoy and wanted him to honor and glorify God, but man turned away from Him. This

grieved the great loving heart of God. He decided He would destroy all the people that He had created but His great eye saw one man who was righteous. He loved Noah. He didn't want to destroy him. So he had Noah build an ark to preserve himself and his family, also some of the animals, birds, etc. that He had made. It brings great pleasure to the Lord when He looks down and sees those who love Him.

God saw Jonah who refused to go and preach to the city of Nineveh. He saw him on the ship. God's eye saw him when he was thrown overboard. He prepared a big fish to swallow him. God saw him when he was in the fish's belly. God also heard his cry. He caused the fish to throw him out on the dry land. Then Jonah was willing to obey God. Oh, the mercy of God to mankind! He is not willing that any should perish, but that all come to repentance. 1 Pet. 3:9.

"For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers, but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil." 1 Pet. 3:12. Dear ones, God's eyes are over those who are righteous. He knows your every sigh. He hears your every cry. He loves and cares for you. He wants you to look up to Him. He wants to be your helper in every time of need. He wants to lead you aright. He has told us that "I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye." Psa. 32:8, 9. He is a wonderful teacher. He leads us step by step. He is patient and kind. He waits for us to understand and then gives us another lesson. But He wants us to always look to Him and watch His eye. He will be guiding us by His eye. Many times my mother guided her children by her eye. When company was at our house, she would give us one look and we knew what she meant. We also knew by that look if we would be punished when the company was gone. We knew when we were polite and kind because her look was a look of approval. Oh, how tender the Lord is, also! He will smile upon us with all of heaven's blessings when we walk in His ways. He is ready to give grace when it is needed.

God was looking down when Stephen was stoned to death for standing up for Jesus. God gave him special grace to bear the cruel stones which brought death to his body. He opened up heaven to his view at this time. Dear ones, God will not forsake His trusting children.

Some day Jesus will burst through the clouds and the Bible tells us that "every eye shall see him and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him." Rev. 1:7. Dear ones, that will be a time that all will be brought into judgment and those records will be opened. We are told that "they that feared the Lord spake often one to another: and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name." Mal. 3:16. That "book of remembrance" will be opened. "And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which

were written in the books, according to their works." Revelation 20:12.

Dear ones, let us be ready when God calls for us. We should strive to have everything clear between us and God. We can't do wrong and get by. There is an eye watching us. He is beholding the good and the evil.

—(Mrs.) Marie Miles



You Can't Do Wrong and Get By

There's a God who is standing at heaven's door,
He's looking this universe o'er;
And He sees each mortal with a searching eye,
You can't do wrong and get by.

You can't do wrong and get by,
No matter how much you may try;
Nothing hidden can be, everything He doth see,
You can't do wrong and get by.

Out into the darkness you alone may go,
And seeds for the wicked one sow;
There's an eye that's watching from the throne
on high,
You can't do wrong and get by.

Yes, He knows your secrets, everything you do,
He knows that your life is untrue;
You can never deceive him, there's no use to try,
You can't do wrong and get by.

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