

The Adventure of Honoring Your Parents

Deuteronomy 5:16

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My translation:

“Make honorable/appraise highly your father and your mother . . .

As God has already instructed you

in order that your days might be long

and that in order that it might be well for you

in the land which YHWY your God is in the process of giving to you”

I won't ask for a show of hand, but I'm willing to guess that most of us here are familiar with a popular show on PBS called the Antiques Roadshow . . .

For those who are not familiar with the show . . . or those embarrassed to admit that you watch it . . . let me describe it for you . . .

The Antiques Roadshow is a traveling assortment of antiques appraisers . . . really . . . they travel all over the United States . . . were in Philly a while back . . .

And people bring in their antiques . . . and have them appraised on the spot . . .

And I know it sounds really exciting the way I'm describing it . . . but that is really what it is . . .

And there is an interesting dynamic that occurs during the show . . .

¹Relied on Tim Jordan Calvary Baptist in Lansdale

Because the appraisers sit down with folks and their stuff . . . and then talk about the item they have . . . the appraisers are just gushing with information about the item . . . and its interesting to hear about, sure . . . but that's not the draw . . .

The draw is that the appraisers wait until they are all done with the appraisal . . . then they always ask . . . “so, do you have any idea what it is worth?” . . . pause . . . pause . . .

And that is where the hook is . . .

Sometimes, people have had something in their house for years . . . got it at a yard sale years ago . . . or inherited it . . . and it turns out that is worth thousands and thousands of dollars . . .

The appraisers always ask, “So, may I ask you how much you paid for this item?”

And the owner sheepishly says, “Well, I saw it at a yard sale . . . and I paid \$5 for it . . .”

And then the appraiser says, “would you like to know what it is worth?”

And then hits them with the pause . . .

And then breaks the news . . .

But sometimes the news is bad . . . and that's part of the intrigue also . . . a guy pays hundreds for an item he thinks is valuable . . .

Brings it to the antiques Roadshow . . . only to be told on national television that the item is a fake and only worth a couple of bucks .

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Sucker . . .

On the other hand, fans of the show remember when Roadshow stopped in New Jersey. Claire Beckmann, a retired local schoolteacher, brought in a mahogany card table . . . she had paid \$25 for it at a yard sale some 30 years earlier.

Identifying it on the show as a 1798 masterpiece by Boston craftsmen Thomas and John Seymour, the appraisers on the show explained how hot sand was used to create its inlaid satinwood bowknots and tapering bellflowers. Summing up, the appraisers declared the table to be worth between \$200,000 and \$300,000 -- the highest-ever estimate on Roadshow.²

Not a bad return on her \$25 investment in a card table . . .

The premise of the show is people bring in their stuff . . . they have no idea what it is worth . . . and those who have the knowledge appraise the stuff . . . tell them how valuable or worthless the item is . . .

The key of the show is in the knowledge of the appraisers . . . you & I would have looked at that table and said, "I'll give you a couple of bucks for it . . ." and we would have thrown away a masterpiece . . .

We would have said its just junk . . . but those who know what they are talking about said . . . that's a masterpiece . . .

You know, if you could take all the things you own . . .

And get them appraised by God . . .

What do you think He would say is just junk . . .

And what would He say is priceless?

You can know . . .

And if you would like to see one of the things in your life God appraises as highly valuable . . . please open your Bible to the book of Deuteronomy . . . chapter 5 . . . page _____

Moses has been used of God to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt . . . out of slavery and into a relationship with the living and true God . . . the one and only Lord of creation . . .

God has taken Israel out of Egypt and is leading them into the Promised Land . . .

They are camped right on the border to the Promised Land . . .

And God has Moses remind them what a relationship with Him entails . . .

These are called the ten commandments . . . but they are really more than just commandments . . . these are to be the norms of the believer's life . . .

These are the terms of the covenant . . . if you want to have a relationship with God . . . these are what must be in your life . . .

God is letting us know what He expects from us . . .

Let's see what He says . . .

²<http://nymag.com/nymetro/urban/home/features/1851/>

READ Deut 5:1-16 . . .

One of the tremendous blessings of the 5th commandment is that we are familiar with it . . .

But on the other hand, one of the difficulties we have is that we are familiar with it . . . but we really don't know what it means . . .

If you were asked on the fly to name all of the 10 commandments, you could probably hit this one pretty soon in your list . . .

Which is a good thing . . . but it is also a problem . . . b/c while we are familiar with it, for most of us, we have no idea what it means . . . or how these ancient words are supposed to apply to our lives . . .

I mean, they are nice words . . . and they are in the Bible . . . but we really don't know what they mean or how they apply to us . . .

So let's see if we can today 1) learn what it means, and 2) how it applies to us . . .

First, what it means . . .

If you are in the habit of writing in your Bible, please circle that word "honor" and write out in the margin of your Bible, "to prize highly . . ."

"Honor" = to make honorable . . . to appraise highly . . . to give much weight to . . . to be valuable to you . . .

The word "honor" means to respect, to highly value . . . to appraise as important . . .

One of the great blessings in this word "honor" is that God gives us plenty of examples of what He means by it . . .

This word, this idea of something being appraised as valuable to us come up in Proverbs 4 . . .

The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom, and whatever you get, get insight. Prize her highly, and she will exalt you; she will honor you if you embrace her.
(Pro 4:7-8)

God says . . . in all your getting . . . make sure you get wisdom . . . b/c that is what is really important . . .

You think about all the times you walk into your house with something else in your hand . . . we are constantly getting more and more stuff . . .

And most of it is unimportant . . .

God says . . . in all that getting, make sure you get wisdom . . . b/c wisdom is important . . .

He tells us over in the book of 1 Peter that husbands are to appraise their wife . . . and understand that she is priceless . . .

Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.
(1Pe 3:7)

weaker vessel = like china . . .

that is, husbands are to understand that your wife is of exceeding value . . . you are to realize and act as if she is priceless to you . . .

That she cannot be just mistreated . . . taken for granted . . .

The word “honor” means to appraise as highly valuable . . . to realize the real worth . . . to respect . . . to prize highly . . .”

So He says were to are . . .

REREAD v. . . . prize highly our father and our mother . . .

You are to reappraise your parents . . . they are to be important to you . . . they are to be esteemed as highly valuable . . .

And I need to remind all of us . . . Moses is not addressing kindergartners here . . . he is addressing adults . . .

In the following verses he talks about murder, and adultery, and “your wife . . .”

He is hardly standing up in front of a bunch of 1st graders at a junior church . . . and telling those little ones that they must honor their parents . . .

That is true that smaller children are to honor their parents . . . and that is in fact what Ephesians 4 says . . . Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), "that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land." (Eph 6:1-3)

And it is equally true that parents are commanded by God to bring children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord . . . And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Eph 6:4

But here in Deuteronomy 5, the fact remains that Moses is not addressing little kids . . . although it does apply to them . . . it is directed to us adults . . . Moses is looking parents dead in the eye

here . . .

And saying to them . . . you must reappraise your father . . . and your mother . . . and understand that they are to be highly prized . . . they are to be esteemed in your eyes . . .

And in your actions . . . after Clair Beckman had her table appraised, she treated it differently . . .

And your reappraisal of your parents means you are to now treat them differently . . .

B/c what this means is that we treat them in a way that is honorable . . .

Clair Beckman walked into the antiques roadshow with a table she bought for \$25 bucks . . . I promise you, after she learned of the table’s value, she treated that table a whole lot differently . . .

Honoring doesn’t just mean we think that they are valuable to us . . . it means that we **act** as if they are valuable to us . . .

As Eugene Merrill says, “The command to honor is therefore a command to demonstrate in tangible, empirical ways the respect people must have for their parents . . .”

He is looking at married men and women . . . who have children of their own . . . and he is telling us that our parents are to be treated as prized possessions . . . as highly valued

We live in a day and age where getting older and being up in years is seen as a problem . . .

We buy creams to rid us of wrinkles . . . we get surgery to remove the effects of time . . .

In our culture, being young is esteemed . . . being young is desired . . . it is highly prized . . .

In the Jewish culture, youth, too, was highly prized . . .

These are farmers . . . who are having to go in and not only plow and plant and weed . . . and do all the hard work that farming requires . . . but they are first going to have to fight military battles . . .

And the aged parents were not going to be able to work like they once could . . .

Their hands couldn't grip the way they used to . . .

Their stamina was lacking . . .

In the home, on an economic level, they were going to be takers . . . and not producers . . .

They were going to be there . . . and living in the house . . . and eating the food . . . but they were not able to do the work . . .

The human tendency would be to see the elderly parents as not needed . . . as getting in the way . . . as drains on the family budget . . . strains on the family calendar . . .

The human tendency would be to look at them and think about them as unimportant . . . they are not bringing in money . . . they take my time and my money . . . having these people in my life costs me . . .

And God has Moses look we adult children in the eye and states dogmatically, "My people are never allowed to think of their parents like that . . . you are to honor them . . ."

They are of extreme value . . .

"But God they are not working a job nowadays" . . . you are to honor them . . .

"But they are stuck in their ways of doing things . . . you are to honor them . . .

"But they don't listen to me . . . you are to honor them . . .

"But they cost me money . . . and time . . . and energy . . . and I'm tired of it . . . my life would be easier if they lived somewhere else . . .

Honor . . . prize . . . esteem highly . . . highly prize . . . your parents . . . who are not working nowadays . . . and who are eating your food . . . and living in your house . . .

When you are tempted to think they are not worth the cost . . . God says, reappraise them . . . they are to be priceless to you . . .

Then, he says, that if you do this, you will be blessed with God with a long and good life within God's promises . . .

He is telling them, if they obey His covenant, He will allow them to remain in the land . . . and He would shower them, as a people, with His blessings . . .

We make a mistake if we think that God owes us a long life if we treat our parents nicely . . . frankly, God owes us nothing . . .

Or that someone who died in their early 20's was somehow dishonoring to his or her parents . . . as if we are the final judge and jury in the life of someone else . . .

God's plan for someone may be for him or her to leave this earth at a young age . . . and it very well may be that that person treated his or her parents with great respect . . .

We must remember that there is a God . . . and we are not Him . . .

But as a general principle, this is what he says . . . You want my blessing on you . . . you want a good life . . . it begins by understanding just how important your parents are to you . . .

You are to esteem them . . . you are to appraise them as highly valuable . . . as prized possessions . . . And if you do that, you are making it much easier for me to bless you and shower you with My goodness . . .

God says that godliness and godly living . . . begins in your relationship first with Him . . . (commands 1-4) and then with your parents . . .

Those of you who have parents living ought to consider the following passage from Proverbs: *The eye that mocks a father and scorns to obey a mother will be picked out by the ravens of the valley and eaten by the vultures* – Pro 30:17

That is what it means . . .

Now, let's turn our attention to how this must apply to us . . .

B/c your purpose of coming here today was not, I'm sure, just to hear message . . . you wanted to hear what God has for your life, and how you are to now live . . .

So, if you are a child still living at home . . . the command from God upon your life is that you honor your mom and dad . . .

And that can be wrapped up in one word . . . obey . . .

Ephesians 6, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), "that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land."

This means you obey with a good attitude . . . and with action . . .

None of this rolling the eyes . . . the whatever . . . or the ignoring of what the parents say . . . it means the backtalk is not allowed . . .

It means listening to your parents in order to do what they say . . .

They've been alive a lot longer than you have . . . and they have a place of authority in your life from God . . . and you are to obey and honor them . . .

For teens, this means you are to honor your parents by obeying them . . .

Even when you don't want to . . . Even if you think what they are saying is wrong . . . or stupid . . . or beneath you . . . you are to obey . . .

And this comes up so let's deal with it . . . "But pastor, what if they tell me to do something illegal?"

Alright, I promise you this does happen . . . but it doesn't happen as frequently as you might suspect . . .

And biblically, unless your parents are instructing you to do

something that is sinful, immoral or illegal, you have to obey them . . . and obey them with a good attitude . . .

If dad or mom's command is a direct violation of the clearly-expressed command of God . . . then you don't have to obey . . . but even then you have to disobey in a godly fashion . . .

But if what your mom or dad is asking of you does not violate the clearly-expressed command of God . . . then you MUST obey . . .

My dear friends, your parents are never your equals and they will never be your equals on this earth . . . and you cannot think of them as equals . . . you cannot treat your mom or our dad as if you are both of the same value . . . they are to be given honor because of who they are and their role in your life as your mom and dad . . .

“What Mom and Dad say has authority in my life because I honor them . . . I will do what my parents ask me to do . . . and I will do it with a good attitude . . . b/c I understand that they are the parents . . . and I am the child . . .”

You are to honor your parents . . . and you might say, “Well, what if they don't deserve it?”

Get over it . . . I'll tell you right now . . . they don't deserve it . . .

And while I'm at it, you don't deserve their love and sacrifice and care, either . . . and they love you in spite of your flaws . . .

Can I get an amen parents?

But God always does deserve to be loved and obeyed . . . so even when they don't deserve to be honor . . . the command from God still must be honored . . .

Teens . . . you want to something great with your life? Want to be used of God? What a life bringing glory to God . . .

Then honor your parents now . . .

Listen, if you cannot honor your parents in the home . . . you will never honor God in the world . . .

For we adults . . .

Let me give you three areas where we need to honor our parents . . .

1. Honoring your parents looks like godliness . . .
 - a. The proverbs of Solomon. A wise son makes a glad father, but a foolish son is a sorrow to his mother – Pro 10:1
 - b. The command from God to honor your parents does not end when you say I Do . . .
 - c. They are still your parents . . .
 - d. And one of the ways you honor them is by being a godly adult . . .
 - e. I can think of nothing than I want more as a parent then for my children to grow up and love and serve God . .
 - f. And that love and service to God must be displayed in the home first . . .
 - g. What every godly dad and godly mom desire for their child, deep in their soul, is for that child to be godly and wise in this evil world . . .
 - h. It means walking with God today . . . and being right with Him . . .
 - i. In our heart of hearts, every godly parent here wants, at then end of our lives . . . if we look at our children and their lives . . . and see them walking

with God . . . and serving God . . . and being faithful to their wedding vows . . .

- j. We would say, no matter what their job . . .
- k. No matter their bank account . . .
- l. If we see our children loving and serving God . . .
- m. We will greatly rejoice . . .
- n. We will consider ourselves and our lives greatly honored . . .
- o. So the way to honor your mom and dad . . . is to be what they want you to be in the first place . . .
- p. Men and women of character . . . of faithfulness . . . of generosity . . . of service . . .
- q. Be godly . . . love and serve and worship God . . .

2. Secondly, honoring look like care . . .

- a. We are in a time in our nation's history were many middle-age families are realizing they still have children in the home . . . and now mom and dad are needing help . . . needing financial aid . . . may need to be brought into the home . . .
- b. And I'm glad we are there, frankly, because it gives us a wonderful opportunity to demonstrate what godliness looks like in our day . . .
- c. In the NT book of 1 Timothy, we are told about a situation that had occurred in the church . . .
- d. Where the Apostle Paul instructs us about the proper care of widows . . .
- e. Some widows, he says, are able to take care of themselves . . .
- f. But other widows were unable to make it . . . they had no family upon which to fall back on . . .
- g. Honor widows who are truly widows. 1Ti 5:3
- h. *Widows indeed* is how the King James translates it . . .
- i. The idea is, if the widow has no family upon which

to turn to . . . and she cannot provide for herself, then the local church must get involved . . .

- j. And he goes on and gives the qualifications for such widows . . .
- k. But then he follows that up with this statement . . .
- l. Speaking to believers . . .
- m. *But if any provide not for his own, and especially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.* – 1Ti 5:8
- n. We are in a situation as a nation where many of our parents are outliving their money . . .
- o. And need help . . .
- p. And for believers, we are to be a source of help to them . . .
- q. And anything else is to deny the faith you say saved you . . .
- r. He hath denied the faith . . .
- s. And I understand that the cost of living is going up . . . and they are on a fixed income . . . or relying upon SS payments . . .
- t. The situation here in America is that many people are realizing they still have children in the home . . . and a mom or dad who needs to be brought into the home . . . or helped financially
- u. And how that works out in your life, you will have to prayerfully decide as a family . . .
- v. I understand that doing **everything** it out of the question . . . even if you had enough money . . . which you don't . . .
- w. But doing nothing is also not an option . . .
- x. Because honor your parents does in fact look like helping to care for them . . .

3. Honoring looks like forgiveness . . .

- a. The fact of the matter is . . . all of us are sinners . . .

- b. Who were brought up by sinners . . .
- c. And we parents are bringing up more sinners . . .
- d. And no matter how much we try, if you put us in a house with other sinners . . .
- e. Sooner or later, we are going to sin against one another . . .
- f. I know, shock and dismay . . .
- g. The fact is, your parents were not perfect . . .
- h. And you are not perfect . . .
- i. And your children are not perfect . . .
- j. I submit to you that we sin against one another on a pretty regular basis . . .
- k. And it is completely honoring to both your God and your parents that you forgive them . . .
- l. *Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you – Eph 4:32*
- m. *Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. Col 3:13*
- n. Your parents were not perfect . . .
- o. They were sinners . . .
- p. And you may need to sit down with your dad . . . or with your mom . . . and let them know how much you appreciate them . . . and also let them you are willing to forgive them . . . freely . . . even as God has forgiven you . . .
- q. And I'll tell you right now . . . he doesn't deserve it . . .
- r. And she doesn't deserve it . . .
- s. But neither did you . . .
- t. And God forgave you . . .
- u. It is honoring to God to have you forgive your dad or your mom . . .
- v. The best dad in his best day in his best effort . . . is

- still going to mess up . . .
- w. The most wonderful mom . . . on her best day . . . is still going to mess up . . .
- x. And part of honoring them as your parents is you forgive them . . .
- y. For you, that means you get over the fact that they were less than perfect . . .
- z. For others, it means you need to sit down with them and having a heart to heart talk about what happened . . . and letting them know that you honor them because of their role in your life . . . and that you are ready and willing to forgive . . .

If you could take all of our possessions . . . and take them to God . . . and have Him appraise them . . . most of the things you own, he would say, it's nice . . . but it's not really that important . . .

But He would take your parents . . . and say . . . this is priceless . . . this is extremely valuable . . .

If you are not saved, it is because you are not honoring Jesus . . . He was not honored by the people in His day either . . . and He stands willing to forgive you of that sin . . . and in fact, all of your sin . . .

Jesus said the most precious thing you have is your soul . . .

And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, "For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul?"

Not because you deserve it . . . you don't . . . but because He loves you anyway . . .