

Let The Bible Speak Series
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"What Have They Seen In Thine House?"

2 Kings 20:15

Hezekiah was a great king. "He trusted in the Lord God of Israel, so that after him was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor who were before him."

We are told in Chapter 20:1 that Hezekiah became sick and was near death.

Isaiah came and told him to set his house in order for "you shall die and not live."

Upon receiving the news, he turns his head to the wall and prayed to God for an extension of his life. The Lord heard his prayer and granted him an additional 15 years of life. Upon hearing of his illness and recovery the King of Babylon sent letters and presents in hopes of creating an alliance with Hezekiah against Assyria.

It seems that the King is flattered by the attention given him by the Babylonian king.

Whereupon he showed them all the treasures of his house. The mistake made by the king was ignoring the fact that as king of a Holy nation he was to keep himself free from entangling alliances, and make God his boast and rely only upon Him.

His mistake ultimately led to the captivity. The question: What Have They Seen In Thy House? Is an appropriate one for all of us today. If someone were to look into your home, what would they see?

I. Have they seen a recognition of the scriptural status of each one in the family?

Colossians 3:18-21 "Wives submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

Husbands love your wives and do not be bitter toward them. Children, obey your parents in all things for this is well pleasing to the Lord. Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged."

A. God appointed man as the head of the family.

Eph. 5:23 "For the husband is the head of the wife, as also Christ is the head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body."

1Cor. 11:3 "But I want you to know that the head of everyman is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God."

1. As such he is commanded to make a living: 1Tim. 5:8 "But if anyone does not provide for his own and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever."

2. Love his wife. Col. 3:19 "Husbands love your wives and do not be bitter toward them." "bitter" i.e. "embitter, irritate, to make bitter."

This command is intended to put a damper on harshness of temper that has led to much misery in the home and often to the break up of the marriage.

Eph. 5:25 "Husbands love you wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her." The fact that the husband is over the wife does not give him the right to be mean-spirited or abusive, but causes him to carry out his role in a loving, sacrificial way.

The command here is not a romantic kind of love, but a sympathetic regard for her welfare.

3. Train the children. Eph. 6:4

A special emphasis seems to be placed on the father's role of spiritual leadership in this passage. To "provoke, not your children" is to not exasperate, or anger them with irritation because of injustice or needless severity. Unjust, improper, or unreasonable treatment is condemned. Nurture is to nourish, to rear up tenderly and carefully. Admonition is "putting in mind of right." It involves encouragement to good conduct. The strain and stress of man's responsibilities as the head of the family are tremendous and life-ebbing. A man's years are now four less than a woman's.

B. The Wife, in recognition of God's law, is to be submissive to her husband.

Col. 3:18 "Wives submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord." (opposite of what is thought today) This is God's order. God made woman as a "help meet for him." Gen. 2:20 The term implies that she was to be auxiliary, or second, and not principle in the household." The reason? Because "Adam was first formed, then Eve" 1Tim. 2:13. She is also to learn in silence for this reason, and because she was first in the transgression. Hence, here subjection is grounded in the creation itself, and not based merely on social custom. This is God's order from the beginning. "Fit" in the Lord means it is right in the sight of God. Her submissive role in relation to her husband does not make her inferior to man. However to disregard this, is blasphemy. Titus 2:4-5 "that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed." 1Tim. 5:14 "Therefore I desire that the younger widows marry, bear children, manage the house, give no opportunity to the adversary to speak reproachfully." She is to give herself to the cares of the family and those duties pertaining thereto. This is her domain, infinite wisdom ordained it so, and the whole world needs a deeper appreciation for it. (Just a housewife) A young bride that did not wish to keep house was shocked by an elderly woman who said, "maybe your husband will hire someone to keep house for you, if you will hire someone to make a living for him." (What do people see in your house?)

C. Children should have respect for parental authority.

Col. 3:20 "Children obey your parents in all things for this is well pleasing to the Lord." The obedience required of children is absolute obedience. The idea includes a readiness to hear and carry out the instructions given. Lit. "keep on obeying your parents." "in all things" i.e. in all respects. Moffatt: "at every point." Unruly children are an evidence of social disintegration and moral bankruptcy. Romans 1:20 "backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents," Eph. 6:1-2 "Children obey your parents in the Lord for this is right."

D. Parents have an obligation to train; their children.

Col. 3:21 "Fathers do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged."

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."

At a state fair, a spindling, hollow-shouldered, consumptive-looking, cigarette-puffing boy led a champion hog into the show grounds to win first place. The hog was everything you could want in a hog. He had enjoyed good care. The irony of it is that the boy and hog belonged to the same man. The man was a national success as a hog raiser, but a miserable failure as a boy raiser.

II. Have They Seen A Good Influence in Thine House?

We have biblical example of a mother's influence affecting the child and later the grand child in 2Tim. 1:5 "When I call to remembrance the faith that is in thee which first dwelt in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also." The home played a vital role in the life of young Timothy. His mother and grandmother influenced his life through their teachings.

The church is a kingdom of influence.

Mt. 13:33 "...the kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened." Just as the leaven influenced the rest of the dough, so the kingdom influences the world. Christians exert a powerful influence on others. A bald-headed merchant was standing at this shop door. A Scotchman stopped and inquired if he had any hair-restorer. "yes, sir" came the reply, step inside. "Here is a product I can recommend. It makes the hair grow in twenty-four hours. "Well, came the reply, you rub some on your head and I'll come around in 24 hours and see if it worked." (Does Christianity work in your home? What is the evidence?) Are there any signs that your influence is working by affecting others. Their behavior? Their life? A sixteen year old boy quit coming to church. His explanation was "My parents have attended church for 40 years, and it has not done much for them; so why should I continue to go?" Do people see the right kind of influence in your house? Is it good or bad? Would it lead them to Christ or the church?

III. Have They Seen A Family Alter, Where You Pray and Study the Bible?

Phil. 4:6 "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." Family alters are so very important. They tend to hold the family together. They offer the opportunity to read and study the bible together and allow the family time for fervent prayer. At one time they were a staple in many homes. Sadly today, few of them exist. We are too busy too rushed. We don't take time to even eat together much less worship together.

David prayed: "And give unto Solomon my son a perfect heart, to keep thy commandments, thy testimonies, and thy statutes, and to do all these things, and to build the palace, for the which I have made provisions." 1Chron. 29:19.

Too many children have never heard their parents pray, or read the Scriptures.

What kind of literature do they see in the home, some subscribe to every magazine known, yet have no religious literature lying around. The Bible is more of an ornament than anything else. Prov. 23:7, "As a man thinketh in his heart..." As he reads he thinks. Reading will help make us what we ought to be. Paul told Timothy to give attendance to reading. 1Tim. 4:13 Do you know what your children are reading? What is filling their minds?

The power of literature is lasting. "If I might control the literature of a household, I would guarantee the well being of the church and state." Sir Francis Bacon "No man can be called friendless when he has God and the companionship of good book" Mrs. Browning. He who spends for his body, but refuses to spend for his mind, places a greater value upon his body than he does his mind. What kind of literature do you have in your home? It is x or r rated? Would you be ashamed for Jesus to see it? Do you hide it from your friends? Would you be ashamed to show it to the preacher? Remember you are what you read.

IV. Have They Seen Hospitality?

Hospitality is a characteristic of a Christian home. Romans 12:13 "distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality." Lit. "Love of strangers." 1Peter 4:9 "Be hospitable to one another without grumbling." Heb. 13:1-2 "Let brotherly love continue. Do not forget to entertain strangers for by so doing, some have unwittingly entertained angels."

The example of the Shunammite and his wife is an inspiring example.

2Kings 4:8-10 "Now it happened one day that Elisha went to Shunem, where there was a notable woman, and she persuaded him to eat some food. So it was, as often as he passed by, he would turn in there to eat some food. And she said to her husband, 'look now I know that this is a holy man of God, who passes by us regularly. Please, let us make a small upper room on the wall; and let us put a bed for him there, and a table and a chair and a lamp stand; so it will be, wherever he comes to us, he can turn in there.'"

What a display of hospitality. One we all should try to emulate.

In today's world we have grown apart. It seems that we have little time for visiting or entertaining. We become so consumed with the affairs of life that we seldom open our home to anyone. We live largely to ourselves. What a shame. We rob ourselves of one of life's greatest blessings, the company of others of like precious faith.

V. Have They Seen Drinking and Drunkenness?

Prov. 23:29 "Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has contentions? Who has complaints? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes? Those who linger long at the wine, Those who go in search of mixed wine. Do not look on the wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup, When it swirls around smoothly; At the last it bites like a serpent, and stings like a viper." Psa. 107:27 "They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man." 1Cor. 6:10 "...drunkards will not inherit the kingdom of God. Alcohol has destroyed many homes, ruined an untold number of marriages. Some people worry about the threat of drugs on their children, yet seem oblivious to the dangers of alcohol. It is a blight on society and an enemy to our children.

VI. Have They Seen Evil Associations?

Psa. 1:1 "Blessed is the man who walketh not..."

Prov. 2:20 "Walk in the ways of good men and keep the paths of righteousness."

Prov. 13:20 "He that walketh with wise men, shall be wise."

1Cor. 15:33 "Evil companionships corrupt good manners..." Evil companions corrupt good morals.

Are you careful about who comes into your home? Is it a hang-out for characters of low esteem and questionable behavior? Do your friends influence you to go to places where you shouldn't be? Involved in things Christians have no business fooling with?

VII. What Have They Heard In Your House?

Ex. 20:7 "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who take His name in vain."

1 Peter 3:10-11 "For he would love life and see good days Let him refrain his tongue from evil and his lips that they speak no guile. Let him turn away from evil and do good; Let him seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears..."

Col. 4:6 "Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one." A man's speech reveals his heart Mt. 12:34 "...out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." What kind of speech comes out of your home? Is it hallowed by the a reverence for God and his word or is it vain, ungodly, and disrespectful? What would people see if they looked in your house? Would you, like Hezekiah be willing to show them what was there? Or would you be ashamed?