

## SERMON OUTLINE

**SERMON TITLE:** Has the Nuclear Family Bombed?

**SERMON REFERENCE:** Exodus 20:12

**LWF SERMON NUMBER:** #1854

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) Exodus 20:12 represents the first commandment with promise.
  - i) We are commanded to honor our parents that we may live long in the land that the Lord has given us.
- b) There are many in today's society who are trying to redefine the values we hold.
- c) Many are attacking the values of our Christian families and the nuclear family itself.
- d) Why did God give us families?
  - i) For living.
    - (1) The family unit is a little part of the Garden of Eden that we have carried with us.
    - (2) Children need families
  - ii) For learning
    - (1) The Ten Commandments were given primarily to the home.
    - (2) We are to teach the Ten Commandments in our homes.
  - iii) For lasting.
    - (1) Exodus 20:12
    - (2) When the home begins to decay, the nation begins to decay.
- e) It is the parent's responsibility to teach children to honor father and mother.
- f) The message today will help us learn how to live in such a way that our children can give us honor.
  - i) No parent or child is perfect.
  - ii) Since Adam and Eve, no parent has ever been perfect.
  - iii) As parents, we cannot guarantee how our children will turn out.
    - (1) Proverbs 22:6
      - (a) The book of Proverbs is a book of proverbs, not promises.
      - (b) A proverb is a general principle that when generally applied brings a general result.
    - (2) God gave all children a will.
      - (a) This is why we should not set goals for our children.
      - (b) We have desires for our children; we set goals for ourselves.
    - (3) We should not pretend to be perfect.
      - (a) Our children already know that we are not perfect.
      - (b) They don't want to know that we're perfect; they want to know that we are real.
- g) How do we become parents that children can honor?

2) BY LOVING OUR CHILDREN

- a) Love is not giving our children what they want but giving them what they need.
- b) How do we love our children?
  - i) By touching and hugging them.
    - (1) Luke 15:20

- (2) When parents are affectionate toward their children, and are properly affectionate toward each other, it can help protect their children from sexually immoral relationships.
  - (3) Children need to understand that in order to be huggable and lovable, that they do not have to be into sexual intimacy.
  - ii) By blessing them.
    - (1) By simply, lovingly telling our children that we bless them in the name of the Lord.
  - iii) By comforting them.
    - (1) When little children hurt, their pain is real.
  - iv) By listening to them.
    - (1) One of the finest forms of communication is saying nothing, but simply listening.
  - v) Steadfastly and consistently.
    - (1) Children go through many different stages.
    - (2) We need to love them and show them love consistently.
  - vi) We need to love them through our prayers.
    - (1) We must prayer for our children by name and pray for them often.
- 3) BY LIFTING OUR CHILDREN
- a) Wise encouragement is better than lavish praise.
    - i) Colossians 3:21
  - b) Praise is not wrong or bad, but children also need encouragement like plants need water.
    - i) Children need to be encouraged over and over again.
  - c) As parents, we need to learn the difference between praise and encouragement.
    - i) Praise says that you are good because you did something good.
      - (1) For instance, praising a child because they made good grades.
      - (2) Again, there is nothing wrong with praise.
      - (3) We do not need to only praise children without encouraging them.
    - ii) Encouragement values the child, not primarily for what the child achieved, but for who the child is who is achieving the task.
- 4) BY LIMITING OUR CHILDREN
- a) It takes firm restrictions to set children free.
  - b) As parents, it is our responsibility to liberate them by limiting them.
  - c) 1 Samuel 3:13
    - i) Eli did not set limits for his children.
  - d) In the Garden of Eden, God gave Adam and Eve everything they needed, but He also set some limits.
  - e) When we set reasonable limits for our children, our children will test these restrictions over and over again.
    - i) If those limits move after being tested, the child will have no security.

- f) Josh McDowell has stated that rules without relationship bring rebellion.
  - i) It is important for our children to know that we are setting limits because we love them.
  - g) If we do not place limitations or restrictions upon our children, then it implies to them rejection.
  - h) Setting rules is one of the toughest and most needful things we are to do for our children.
  - i) If we do not set limits and standards for our children, someone else will.
  - j) Psalm 11:3

5) BY LEADING OUR CHILDREN

- a) Proverbs 22:6
- b) To teach our children without training them is to fail in our task.
- c) We need to show our children how to live and love God, not just tell them.
- d) We need to compliment character more than talent.
  - i) Show them and train them how to be:
    - (1) Content
    - (2) Courageous
    - (3) Courteous
    - (4) Discerning
    - (5) Fair
    - (6) Friendly
    - (7) Generous
    - (8) Gentle
    - (9) Helpful
    - (10) Honest
    - (11) Humble
    - (12) Kind
    - (13) Obedient
    - (14) Orderly
    - (15) Patient
    - (16) Persistent
    - (17) Self-controlled
    - (18) Tactful
    - (19) Thankful
    - (20) Thrifty
    - (21) Wise

6) BY LAUGHING WITH OUR CHILDREN

- a) Serious situations call for a lot of laughter.
- b) Our homes should be filled with joy and happiness.
- c) We need to learn to laugh in our homes.
- d) The Bible says many wonderful things about a merry heart.
- e) God made us in His image, and He gave us the gift of laughter.

- f) Psalm 2:4
- g) Genesis 21:6
- h) Luke 6:21
- i) Our children need to see us laugh
- j) Our children need to see us laugh, not at our sins, but at our mistakes.
- k) We need to learn to laugh at ourselves.
- l) Let your children bring their friends over, and let your house be known as the happiest place.
- m) Our children should be able to see us laugh in times of trouble because it means that God is over it all.

## 7) CONCLUSION

- a) The first step to begin to be honorable to our children is by, first of all, honoring our Heavenly Father.
- b) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- c) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
  - i) Romans 3:23
  - ii) Romans 10:9-10
  - iii) Romans 10:13
  - iv) Acts 16:31
  - v) John 3:16