

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: To win, build and send Department of Defense leaders to live for Jesus Christ

Ten Commandments for the 21st Century

Feb 2013

LESSON # 6— HONOR YOUR FATHER & YOUR MOTHER

INTRODUCTION

How have you honored your parents?

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Note: The double form of the commandment may exist to make sure that the same honor was given to father and to mother. The Ten Commandments by William Barclay.

Read Exodus 20:12

1. What is the promise that accompanies the execution of this verse? Eph 6:2-3;
2. How do you honor your father and your mother even if you do not like them? Col 3:21
3. How can gratitude, obedience and support be means by which we can honor them?
4. What can be the result of *not* honoring our father and mother? Proverbs 20:20; 30:17
5. What are some of the blessings of honoring our parents?

Read Mark 7:9-13

Note: Jesus accused the scribes of overthrowing a law of primary importance (the law to honor parents by caring for them in their old age) in order to observe one of secondary importance (the law of performing vows). Such a thing often results from extreme legalism. Mark defined the word in a parenthetical statement for his Greek-speaking readers/hearers who were unfamiliar with both the Hebrew language and Jewish customs. His definition, however, does not bring out that the offering involved a vow to dedicate it irrevocably to God. As a result the offering was placed under a ban so that it could not be used for any other purpose, as is implied by v. 12. Under no circumstances would the scribes of Jesus' day permit a person to annul such a vow. By A.D. 220, however, when the Mishna was completed, provision was made for annulment.⁶¹ The exact circumstances of the vow are unclear. The vow may have been made in a fit of anger with the primary purpose of refusing to help the parents, or the primary purpose may have been to dedicate one's possessions to God's temple. Apparently the person was not required to surrender possession. One could continue to use and enjoy the property until death, at which time the remainder would presumably go to the temple.¹

6. How does Jesus communicate the difference between "Commandments" vs. traditions?
7. What was the penalty for speaking evil of one's parents?" Leviticus 20:9
8. What tradition was Jesus accusing the Pharisees of committing?
9. How do we cheat our parents out of their honor and then try to justify it?

APPLICATION

- If your parents are still alive, what are some practical ways that you can honor your father and your mother today? I.e. - write a tribute (described by Dennis Rainey in The Tribute)

Martin Luther hesitated to give the name father to God, because his own father had been so stern and severe with him. Nevertheless, he wrote that this commandment refers to "those who are the representatives of God. Therefore as God is to be served with honor and fear, His representatives are to be so too."

⁶¹ M. Ned. 9.1.

¹ Brooks, J. A. (1991). Vol. 23: Mark. The New American Commentary (116–117). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.