

***It is important to ensure fellowship with God before the study of the Word.***

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).

**Isaiah 55:11** So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.

**Matthew 10:34-39**

The Lord warns the disciples that He will be a stumbling block that will cause division.

<sup>34</sup> **“Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.**

- **Sword** – μάχαιρα – MICHAIRA - The machaira was used for close quarters combat.
- A sword is something that cuts; something that separates the flesh.

<sup>35</sup> **“For I came to SET A MAN AGAINST HIS FATHER, AND A DAUGHTER AGAINST HER MOTHER, AND A DAUGHTER-IN-LAW AGAINST HER MOTHER-IN-LAW; <sup>36</sup> and A MAN’S ENEMIES WILL BE THE MEMBERS OF HIS HOUSEHOLD.**

- Families will be separated – because of their attitude toward Christ and His Word.

**Attitude toward Christ and His Word divides!**

- There is division between those who accept Christ and those who reject Him.
- Familial bonds will be torn apart because of their faith in Christ.
- Division will occur with families of believers based on their attitude to the Word of God.

<sup>37</sup> **“He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me;**

Believers must be wholly devoted to Him – even in the face of opposition from family or friends.

**... and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.”**

- Loving the Lord implies obedience and submission to Him and His will.
- From the Jewish frame of reference in the ancient world, love was tantamount to submission and obedience.
- If you loved your parents, you submitted to their will and obeyed them.

**John 14:15** **“If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.”**

Corrected Translation: ***If you should love me*** [maybe you do, maybe you don't - but if you do] **you will keep** [observe, pay attention to] **My commandments.**

- The Lord's commandments are tantamount to fulfilling His will for your life.
- To fulfill His will for your life, one must submit to what He says and obey – carry it out.

- If you love the Lord, more than your children and your parents, you will do what He wants you to do.
- If you love the Lord – you will fulfill His will for your life!

*You will not allow anyone [family or children] to get in the way of doing what God wants you to do.*

**POD in Converse: The believer who does not get in the way of another believer fulfilling God's will loves the Lord.**

- If you love your parents more than the Lord, you're going to submit to what your parents plan for your life rather than the Lord's plan.

**Ephesians 6:1-3** Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. <sup>2</sup> HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER (which is the first commandment with a promise), <sup>3</sup> SO THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH.

- For you teenagers living under your parents' roof - - your parents' plan is the Lord's plan!
- If you love your children more than the Lord, they will distract you from fulfilling the Lord's will for your life.

**POD: Loving the Lord more than others results in fulfilling what He wants you to do as opposed to what others think you should do.**

Why do people do what someone else wants them to do?

- To please them!
- Because they care what others think about them.
- If you love the Lord more than your parents or your children, you will fulfill His will for your life.
- When a parent refuses to discipline their child, they love the child more than the Lord.

**Proverbs 19:18** Discipline your son while there is hope, and do not desire his death.

**Proverbs 23:13** Do not hold back discipline from the child, although you strike him with the **rod**, he will not die.

- **Rod** - שֵׁבֶט – **SHEBET** – “The offshoot of a branch”

**Hebrews 12:11** All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it,

**Discipline - -**

- Trains us to do God's will.
- Can be sorrowful.

... to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it [discipline] yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

*The passage does not say that discipline will yield the peaceful fruit of righteousness for all believers.*

*It will only yield fruit for those believers who allow themselves to be trained by it.*

... Do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord.

- Allow it to train you.
- Things do not just happen – God is always in control!

**Jonah 1:1-2** The word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai saying, <sup>2</sup> “Arise, go to Nineveh the great city and cry against it, for their wickedness has come up before Me.”

**Genesis 12:1** Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go forth from your country, and from your relatives and from your father's house, To the land which I will show you;

The Word of the Lord comes to you through the bearing witness ministry of God the Holy Spirit!

- The Lord makes it apparent where you should be . . .
- The Lord may move you to where there is no support network . . .
- If you love others more than the Lord, will you go where He wants you to go?

**We become so attached to people, places, and things – attached to the details of life!**

- Do you love the details of life more than your Savior?

**Matthew 10:39** “And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.”

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*All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard unless otherwise noted.*