

# Day Five

Psalm 145; Job 32-37; Exodus 20:12

As we enter into another day of considering one of the Ten Commandments and how it applies to us, the majesty of the wisdom coming forth from Mount Sinai should continue to sink into our hearts. In these splendid words from our Creator, we discern how He wants His people to live their lives. The Fifth Commandment turns our thoughts toward our parents, and their critical place in who we are. Somehow in God's infinite wisdom, He purposed our very being to be composed of two people used to bring about life—and so without the union of our parents, our existence would never be. Thoughts of Psalm 139 surround my thoughts as I reflect upon the wonderful work of God:

“For You formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother's womb. I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; wonderful are Your works, and my soul knows it very well”  
(Psalm 139:13-14, NASU).

We should all understand that no matter who the Lord used to bring us into being, our thoughts of mother and father should soar with thankfulness. No matter who God used to bring us into life, it was because of His Divine design and for His marvelous purposes that we were created. As born again Believers who have the Ruach HaKodesh (Holy Spirit) resident in our hearts, perhaps we can better comprehend why David was so apt to continuously declare his praise and adoration for the Almighty.

As you might again read through Psalm 145, perhaps reflecting on your own life, it will give you an inkling concerning the fabulous work of who you are as a human made by God, and how you should indeed

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honor the parents from whence you came—no matter what the circumstances of your life might have been since birth.

### The Fifth Commandment

**“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the LORD your God gives you”**  
(Exodus 20:12, NASU).

When you read the Fifth Commandment, you find that it is the only one of the Ten Commandments, which when properly obeyed, adds a blessing to a person’s life (cf. Ephesians 6:2). Here in His infinite wisdom, God had said that when His people honor their fathers and mothers that their days will be prolonged. The blessing of longer life gives each one of us an opportunity to be more productive in the work of His Kingdom. So without a doubt, properly honoring one’s parents should be something which is followed.

In Ancient Israel, if sons and daughters did not honor their parents—and instead cursed them—then the Torah is very specific about the capital punishment which was to be enacted: “He who curses his father or his mother shall surely be put to death” (Exodus 21:17, NASU). This intensifies how honoring one’s parents is something that should be foremost in the minds of those who follow the guidelines and principles of the Torah. One of the problems, which often infects a society that does not adhere to the Ten Commandments and God’s Law, is found in the modern-day disregard for the timeless precept to honor parents. Unfortunately, for many who have grown up even in cultures influenced by Judeo-Christian ethics and morality, the sad truth is that the enemy has persistently attempted to break down the family unit by fomenting dishonor, distrust, and rebellion in the hearts of younger generations.

For years, as many of us have grown up in America, we have watched the framers of cultural opinion in Hollywood use incessant waves of propaganda—disseminated through television and movie themes—to tear down required respect for fathers. For Baby Boomers who grew up with shows like *Father Knows Best*, *Andy Griffith*, and *Leave it to Beaver*, the saturation of deviant thinking did not really begin to show itself until the advent of shows like *All in the Family*. Via a variety of television programs, the American father was depicted as a

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total idiot or buffoon. The subliminal message which was being conveyed to the audiences taught watchers to disrespect the position of the father, and through time totally dishonor not only him, but the foolish wife who would be married to him. For an ever-increasing majority of the American population which has been further programmed by the television shows of the 1970s, 1980s, 1990s, and 2000s—the cumulative results are beginning to surface! Today, our society is producing exorbitant numbers of rebellious children, who sadly very much qualify to fulfill some of the things which Paul warned Timothy about:

“But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; avoid such men as these” (2 Timothy 3:1-5, NASU).

Without going into great detail about the devolution of Western society, I believe that many of the curses levied against disobedient people can probably be tied to aspects of dishonoring one’s parents. If you have any issues with your parents, and do not want to fall into any of these ungodly categories which often result from blatant sin, then please take the time at this season of repentance to get your problems with your parents resolved. *Do not let your problems continue to be unresolved any longer!*

We know that for many who have been raised in the post-World War II era, that some were raised in families which did not necessarily follow the Ten Commandments, or for that matter, did not even do much more than pay token attention to the Christian cultural mores which founded America. As a result, many were brought up by parents who did not have the spiritual benefit of putting God in the preeminent place in their households. This has sadly left many scars on the souls of children, who now as adults have perhaps not taken the time to resolve whatever issues might still exist in their hearts regarding their parents.

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If this happens to strike home, then I believe it is absolutely appropriate that you muster the forgiveness in your heart to resolve these situations with a father and/or mother. In so doing, you will reap untold benefits and blessings from obeying God's Word. Too often in ministry, we encounter people who are still troubled, because they are simply unable to come to terms with issues which took place during their developmental years. If you want to prolong your years and usefulness in God's Kingdom—and especially if you are seeking to obey the Torah—then it is your responsibility to take the initiative and resolve any problems that you have with your parents.

In a similar vein, if you have been a parent who has mistreated a child, then it is also incumbent upon you to take the time necessary to seek out your child and initiate the healing process. In so doing, you will be helping your son or daughter work through their issues. Your hurt son or daughter can know that you truly love them and care for them.

I sincerely hope that we are living in the era which the Prophet Malachi foresaw, as he envisioned a future time when the hearts of the fathers would be restored to their children and the hearts of the children would be restored to their fathers:

"Remember the law of Moses My servant, *even the* statutes and ordinances which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel. Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the LORD. He will restore the hearts of the fathers to *their* children and the hearts of the children to their fathers [He will turn the hearts of parents to their children and the hearts of children to their parents, NRSV], so that I will not come and smite the land with a curse" (Malachi 4:4-6, NASU).

This prophecy begins with the admonition to remember the Torah of Moses, as the spirit of Elijah will come to initiate the healing process of restoration among the sons and daughters of God's people. Perhaps as we each learn to honor our fathers and mothers once again, then we will be healed.

Remember that another generation was plagued with attitudes about their parents, attitudes which were unbecoming of those who claimed to be followers of the Holy One of Israel. Some of the

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Pharisees apparently were so caught up in their own traditions, that they dishonored their parents:

“Then some Pharisees and scribes came to Yeshua from Jerusalem and said, ‘Why do Your disciples break the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread.’ And He answered and said to them, ‘Why do you yourselves transgress the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition? For God said, “HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER” [Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 5:16], and, “HE WHO SPEAKS EVIL OF FATHER OR MOTHER IS TO BE PUT TO DEATH” [Exodus 21:17; Leviticus 20:9]. But you say, “Whoever says to *his* father or mother, ‘Whatever I have that would help you has been given to *God*,’ he is not to honor his father or his mother.” And *by this* you invalidated the word of God for the sake of your tradition. You hypocrites, rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you: “THIS PEOPLE HONORS ME WITH THEIR LIPS, BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR AWAY FROM ME. BUT IN VAIN DO THEY WORSHIP ME, TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE PRECEPTS OF MEN” [Isaiah 29:13, LXX]. After Yeshua called the crowd to Him, He said to them, ‘Hear and understand. *It is not* what enters into the mouth *that* defiles the man, but what proceeds out of the mouth, this defiles the man.’ Then the disciples came and said to Him, ‘Do You know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this statement?’” (Matthew 15:1-12, NASU).

In this passage, Yeshua interacted with some Pharisees who were more concerned with their traditions, so much so that they were not faithfully observing the Fifth Commandment. As Yeshua put it, they tried to honor God with their lips, but their hearts were far from Him. He observed which how is out of the mouth where all of the wicked things which emanate from the heart are brought forth (Matthew 15:18-20). Is it possible that during the course of your life, you have said some things to your parents or about your parents, which were a reflection of the “perverted tradition” which our ungodly culture indoctrinated into you? If so, is it possible that you might need to ask for forgiveness, in order to fall back into line with the Biblical command to honor your parents with not only your lips—but with a thankful heart for all that they did for you?

Certainly, this testimony to them will be something which will have a profound impact on their hearts. As I have personally learned, our Heavenly Father will be pleased with your sincere desire to honor and

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obey this command! Restoration and reconciliation with one's parents can be accomplished, and you can love them fully once again.