

TAKE BACK YOUR HOME – Part 2

Esther 1:22

22 For he sent letters into all the king's provinces, into every province according to the writing thereof, and to every people after their language, that EVERY MAN SHOULD BEAR RULE IN HIS OWN HOUSE,

Again, is the phrase “and every man shall bear rule in his own house” written for our sakes, or is it simply included for the sake of the story? In other words, is it God's will that every man *rule* his own home?

1 Timothy 3:4, 5

4 One that RULETH WELL HIS OWN HOUSE, having his children in subjection with all gravity; 5 (For if a man know not how to RULE HIS OWN HOUSE, how shall he take care of the church of God?)

Apparently, God *does* expect men to “rule” their own home. But, what does it take for a man to not only rule his home, but rule it *well*?

1 Kings 2:1, 2

1 Now the days of David drew nigh that he should die; and he charged Solomon his son, saying, 2 I go the way of all the earth: BE THOU STRONG therefore, and SHEW THYSELF A MAN;

According to David, to be a good ruler one must “show himself a *man*.” Therefore, *ruling well* requires a certain amount of *manliness*.

Isaiah 3:12

12 As for my people, CHILDREN are their oppressors, And WOMEN RULE OVER THEM. O my people, they which lead thee cause thee to err, And destroy the way of thy paths.

Now, when we say that ruling well requires some manliness, we're really saying that to rule well a man must...

BE STRONG

1 Kings 2:2

2 I go the way of all the earth: BE THOU STRONG therefore, and shew thyself a man;

Being a man who rules well is about being **strong**, or *very courageous*!

Joshua 1:7

7 Only be thou STRONG AND VERY COURAGEOUS, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: TURN NOT FROM IT TO THE RIGHT HAND OR TO THE LEFT, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest.

To be “courageous” means to have the fortitude (attitude) to stick with something and not turn away from it. Does this mean that a man who changes his mind is not being courageous? No. It’s okay for a man to change his minds, especially if he’s doing it out of compassion or because he’s received new information. However, being courageous is more about not being afraid to stick with a decision in spite of the costs (i.e. happiness, support from others, etc)!

1 Kings 3:7, 9

7 And now, O Lord my God, thou hast made thy servant king instead of David my father: and I AM BUT A LITTLE CHILD: I know not *how* to go out or come in. 9 Give therefore thy servant AN UNDERSTANDING HEART to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?

Notice, Solomon points out that to be a good ruler a man must ALSO...

BE WISE

1 Corinthians 14:20

20 Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but IN UNDERSTANDING BE MEN.

Paul admonishes the Corinthians to be *men* (i.e. have **understanding**). Paul had to bring correction to the Corinthians because they were behaving like children, particularly by the way they were operating in tongues. Not that they were childish because they spoke in tongues childish. Instead, they were childish because they were operating in tongues without understanding. They were simply speaking in tongues for the fun of it (to be amused), rather than for the purpose of *edification*.

Therefore, anytime we’re more interested in being entertained (doing things for fun) rather than fulfilling our true purpose, we are being childish. From time to time every man should ask himself, “Am I doing this just for the fun of it, or do I

have a real purpose (goal) in mind?” As men (leaders), we can’t afford to act out of impulse (just for the fun of it). We must spend time in thought and learn to be thoughtful in our decision making. Remember, LEADERS ARE THINKERS!

Lastly, to be a good ruler (leader) a man must...

BE PRAYERFUL

1 Timothy 2:8

8 I will therefore that MEN PRAY every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.

Here we’re reminded that the job of men (leaders) is to **pray!**

Acts 6:3, 4

3 Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. 4 But WE WILL GIVE OURSELVES CONTINUALLY TO PRAYER, and to the ministry of the word.

Apparently, the apostles recognized that their primary job as leaders in the Church is to *pray* and preach. Therefore, the act of praying is for those on the *front lines!*

Ephesians 6:11, 18

11 PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOUR OF GOD, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 18 PRAYING ALWAYS WITH ALL PRAYER and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

Here the Bible associates prayer with *warfare*. Therefore, if men are truly going to “take back their homes,” they are going to have to do it through *prayer!*

Genesis 14:14

14 And when Abram heard that his brother WAS TAKEN CAPTIVE, he ARMED his trained *servants*, born in his own house, three hundred and eighteen, and pursued *them* unto Dan.

When Abraham learned that his family had been taken captive, he assembled a small army to bring them back.

Genesis 14:16

16 And he brought back all the goods, and also BROUGHT AGAIN HIS BROTHER LOT, and his goods, AND THE WOMEN also, and the people.

Not only did Abraham bring back Lot (his family), but he also brought back the *women*! This suggests to us that men are not only responsible for their family, they are also responsible for *women* who are without husbands ([James 1:27](#)).

Genesis 14:21

21 And the king of Sodom said unto Abram, GIVE ME THE PERSONS, AND TAKE THE GOODS TO THYSELF.

Apparently, Abraham was offered the “goods” from this war in exchange for the *people*. If Abraham would have chosen riches over the people, then he would have been guilty of fighting for the wrong reasons (covetousness). Are you fighting for the right reasons?

1 Timothy 2:8

8 I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up HOLY HANDS,

Apparently, it’s possible to lift up our hands in prayer with unclean hands! Praying with unclean hands involves praying with impure *motives*. What makes our prayers (warfare) invalid or improper?

James 4:2, 3, 8

2 Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. 3 Ye ask, and receive not, because YE ASK AMISS, that ye may CONSUME IT UPON YOUR LUSTS. 8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. CLEANSE YOUR HANDS, ye sinners; and purify *your* hearts, ye double minded.

According to James, covetousness (selfishness) causes our hands to be unclean and our prayers to be amiss (invalid). Therefore, as men we shouldn’t be offering prayer for the fun of it or for selfish reasons. Instead, we should be doing it for the same reason Abraham went to war—to save his family and those who are without help!