



## Voices and Choices

### Part 3

June 16, 2024

The Gospel of Saint Matthew 7:24-29, <sup>24</sup>“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. <sup>25</sup> And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. <sup>26</sup> And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. <sup>27</sup> And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it. <sup>28</sup> And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were

astonished at his teaching, <sup>29</sup> for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.” May the Lord add His Blessing to the Reading and the Hearing of His Word today in Jesus Name, Amen!

A few Sundays ago, we began a new series entitled, “Voice and Choices” during which we discussed the impact of Voices and Choices in our marriages and our homes! Today, we are going to stay in that same vein and focus in on this critical teaching!

As I shared last Sunday, I share again today; here is the challenge in this series. If our Marriages aren’t healthy then our homes will not be healthy. If our homes aren’t healthy then our children will not be healthy. And if our children are healthy then their individual futures as well as the relational paradigm that you will have with them will not be healthy!

Simply put, if the unity of the faith flows from the church body itself then the unity of the home will flow from the unity of the marriage itself. Friends, if our Marriages aren’t healthy then our homes will not be healthy and will exist in disfunction and chaos! A healthy marriage builds a healthy home, and thus a healthy home builds healthy children! Therefore, point #1...

# 1) If We Refuse to Filter the Voices that Strive to Influence Our Homes, Our Children will be Collateral Damage!

a) The Book of Ephesians 6:1-4, “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. <sup>2</sup>“Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise), <sup>3</sup>“that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.” <sup>4</sup>Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”

b) Church family, how we raise our children not only determine their trajectory in life but it also says a lot about us as individuals. The Bible instructs our children to obey us however it also instructs us as parents to not provoke our children unto anger but rather bring them up in the instruction of the Lord!

c) They may need instruction but we have a holy responsibility! How we raise our children, treat our children, encourage and speak to our children will have a direct impact on their lives both now and in the future!

d) Our children are being targeted now by a predatorial society that is seeking to force them to accept things that are morally and Biblically wrong. And you are their only advocate!

- e) You must speak the Word and decree Truth to them or they will never know it! And if that makes you an enemy of society then so be it!
- f) I would much prefer to be hated by this society and be able to look myself in the mirror as a father and say I did my best to instruct them in the Lord!
- g) Rather than cower to a godless society that wants to violate the innocence of my children and threatens to call me a bigot and label my preaching as hate speech. Say what you will but I have built my house upon the Rock of Ages and not the ever fluctuating malcontent of a godless society!
- h) I am reminded of the Word of Joshua found in Joshua 24:14-15, **“<sup>14</sup>“Now therefore fear the Lord and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. <sup>15</sup> And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”**
- i) And I decree the same, as for Me and Mrs. Ashley, in our house, we will serve the Lord!

j) Remember Today That If We are Refuse to Filter the Voices that Desire to Influence Our Homes, then Our Children will be Collateral Damage!

2) If We Refuse to Filter the Voices that Strive to Influence Our Homes, Our Children will Lose Their Identity!

a) Ephesians 2:8-10, “<sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not a result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”

b) In the raising of our children, we must be diligent to teach them that intimacy may have birthed them but God Himself can form their lives in Christ for we are His workmanship! Christ defines us! And we must be careful of how we raise our children and who we allow to have a voice in our homes!

c) We must be careful of who and what we allow to influence our children's view of themselves because, as children, their self-view now will determine their trajectory in the future.

- d) And it begins with you governing your words! We are HIS workmanship and we have been created in Christ Jesus for good works! Good Works! Not bad ones!
- e) Everything in the world around us is out to redefine your children's identity and seeks to tell them that they are things that they are not.
- f) And if you are not telling them who and what they are then someone or something will. Your voice should be the only one other than the Holy Spirit that should have influence and control in your children's lives! **Your VOICE MATTERS!!!**
- g) Church family, if you are not willing to stand up for your children and protect them and safeguard them then who is going to do it?
- h) Remember today that if We Refuse to Filter the Voices that Strive to Influence Our Homes, Our Children will Lose Their Identity!

### **3) If We Refuse to Filter the Voices that Strive to Influence Our Homes, Our Children's Futures Could Be Destroyed!**

- a) Psalm 139:13-16, "For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. <sup>14</sup>I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. <sup>15</sup>My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. <sup>16</sup>Your

eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.”

- b) Our children need to be taught that they did not come from animals but rather from their parents whom need Christ as much as they do as children. This is the great conflict with allowing evolutionary teachings etc. to be taught to children because when you tell them they are animals, then you can't be upset when they act like animals.
- c) The Bible says that mankind was made in the image and likeness of God! The Psalmist recorded that the Lord formed out inward parts and knit us together in our mother's womb.
- d) We are fearfully and wonderfully made. Our frame was not hidden from God and we were made in secret; God's eyes saw our unformed substance and every one of our days are written in His book!
- e) And if we are not teaching our children these vital truths then their futures will be destroyed because they are ignorant to the truth!
- f) Remember today that if We Refuse to Filter the Voices that Strive to Influence Our Homes, Our Children's Futures Could Be Destroyed!