



Voices and Choices

Part 2

June 9, 2024

The Gospel of Saint Matthew 7:24-29, ²⁴“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ 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. ²⁶ 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. ²⁷ 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. ²⁸ And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, ²⁹ 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!

Last Sunday, we began a new series entitled, “Voice and Choices” during which we discussed the impact of Voices and Choices in our marriage! Today, we are going to stay close to the same vein and focus in on the home itself! If you missed last Sunday’s message, I would strongly encourage you to avail yourself to the teaching; I promise you that it will help you, challenge you, convict you, and motivate you!

Overall here is the challenge; 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!

As I stated a few moments ago, last Sunday was focused on Marriage and today is going to be focused in on the voices that we allow in our homes! Therefore, point #1...

1) If We are Reluctant to Safeguard against the Voices that Desire to Influence Our Homes, then We are Derelict in Our Duties!

a) Psalm 127:1-5, “Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.”

b) Church, when we refuse to build our homes based upon the teachings that the Scripture establishes then we cannot be upset when things do not go as we had hoped.

c) Remember the Words of Christ in verses 24 and 25, ²⁴ “Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ 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.”

d) It didn't fall because of what it was built out of; it didn't fall because of what it was built upon. Friends, we are all going to have different views regarding how our homes will run and operate by virtue of opinion!

- e) However, the question is not how its ran but rather what it is ran upon; for example: who manages the finances is of lesser importance than by what principle are they ran. Do you tithe and honor God in your resources? Again, it's not how its ran but what is its foundation?
- f) Friends, our houses will not stand when we try to build it any other way than the way the Lord Himself has defined. Again, I say to you, Unless the Lord builds the house, we labor in vain!
- g) Remember today then if we are reluctant to safeguard against the voices that desire to influence our homes then we are derelict in our duties and are failing our family!

2) If We are Reluctant to Safeguard against the Voices that Desire to Influence Our Homes, Our Homes will be Unhealthy!

- a) What does a healthy home, at its core, look like?
- b) The Book of Ephesians 5:22-28, ²²Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. ²⁴Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. ²⁵Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, ²⁶that he

might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,²⁷ so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.²⁸ In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.”

- c) With this passage of text in mind, we become unhealthy when we get our roles mixed up (reversed our roles) or we refuse to facilitate the function of our roles all together.
- d) We've got wives trying to be husbands and husbands trying to be wives; we've got families being called families when they are not families but simply a massive mess. We've got men trying to be women and women trying to be men; all of this is a state of confusion. It is not and never shall be God's plan for us as men and women; it is not His design nor His desire.
- e) And that confusion manifests in our homes when we demand our children submit to us as their parents but we, as parents, are not submitted to one another in our respective roles.
- f) Our homes become unhealthy when we are not operating in our roles and positions but rather demand something other than what we were destined to be and do.

g) Remember today then if we are reluctant to safeguard against the voices that desire to influence our homes, our homes will be unhealthy thus producing unhealthy relationships.

3) If We are Reluctant to Safeguard against the Voices that Desire to Influence Our Homes, then 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. ²“Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise), ³“that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.” ⁴Fathers, 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 instructive but 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. 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! 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. So if I'm going to be talked about and my preaching scorned, let me draw a clear line in the sand to give everyone something to talk about!

e) I believe in the God of the Bible

f) I believe that Jesus Christ is His Son

g) I believe the Bible is the Word of God and the final authority

h) I believe God created Marriage between one man and one woman

i) I believe that there are only two genders

j) I believe that abortion is murder and the baby in the womb is a child and not a blob of flesh

k) And everything I just said to you will be what my children will know!

l) Why? Because if we are reluctant to safeguard against the voices that desire to influence our homes then our children will become collateral damage and if the Church doesn't stand up for righteous, we will be sat down due to cowardice!