

The Ten Commandments - Part 30: Concluding Comments on Honoring Your Father and Your Mother (11/12/2022)

The following text is a message from Corner Fringe Ministries that was presented by Daniel Joseph. The original presentation can be viewed at <https://www.cornerfringe.com/media/t8v6px3/the-ten-commandments-part-30>

***Portions of this document have been edited from the video message to better present a comprehensive, written document. Special attention was given to preserving the original context, but this document is not verbatim. Scripture verses are in the red text with other quotes in blue. Therefore, it is recommended that this document is printed in color. The Hebrew words are generally accompanied by the transliterate, English word. In most cases, the Hebrew is to be read from right to left.**

This is our last week of looking at the fifth commandment to honor mom and dad. We have a lot to cover today, so I will delve right into this. Today, we will start out a little unique as I will open up with the Apocrypha and more specifically the Book of Sirach. For those who are not familiar with the Book of Sirach, it goes by numerous names: Ecclesiasticus, Ben Sira, The Wisdom of Ben Sira, and Jesus the Son of Sirach.

I want to talk about the history of this book before we get into it because any time we go outside of the 66 books of the Bible, I think it's important to lend some credibility to the resource we will be drawing from. In this particular case, there's an incredible amount of attestation to the Book of Sirach. This book has been historically embedded in the Christian faith.



The Dead Sea Scrolls are one of the greatest archeological finds of our lifetime. Within the Dead Sea Scrolls found in the caves of Qumran were biblical manuscripts. I've had the privilege of walking inside cave number one. Among these biblical manuscripts, there were other writings found that are not included in the Bible today, one of which was the Book of Sirach. What does that tell us? The Dead Sea Scrolls go back to the time of Yeshua and before. So, we know these documents in the caves of Qumran were being read amongst the faithful Jews who were waiting for Messiah.

We also know the Book of Sirach is included in the Septuagint, which is the Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible. This is important because this was the Christian Bible for centuries. This was the Bible the first Christian church had. This is where the Scriptures were being drawn from. One out of every two direct quotes in our New Testament comes explicitly from the Septuagint, not the Hebrew version. We know this because the wording in the Septuagint is like a fingerprint. It's as though it has its own

DNA. There is no debate on this. So, one out of every two times the New Testament writers quote a scripture, it is from the Septuagint. The early Christian church read, studied, and gleaned from the Book of Sirach.

Two of the most important, historical Bibles we possess today are Codex Vaticanus and Codex Sinaiticus. These two ancient Bibles from the fourth century include the Book of Sirach. So again, the Book of Sirach is embedded within the history of Christianity.

In fact, if there is any question to that, read the *Early Church Fathers*. I don't want to take the time to show you all the times the early church fathers quoted the Book of Sirach. They quoted it in the context of believing it and seeing it as divinely inspired. The early Latin church fathers and the early Greek church fathers drew from this book.

If that isn't enough, we can get a little more recent. The most prolific Protestant Bible ever to be known is the King James Bible. What was included in the 1611 first edition of the King James Bible? The Book of Sirach.

So, the entire history of Christianity has always read the Book of Sirach and drew from it. You know what's interesting? Only in recent times are we in a generation where many Christians have no idea what the Book of Sirach is, let alone what the books of the Bible are.

I debated about whether to read from the Book of Sirach, but there are pivotal things the writer articulates that give us a perspective, a dimension to understanding what it really means to honor your mother and father. If we are going to cover this commandment, we have to study this book, and historically speaking Christians did. So, we will glean from this powerful book.

Sirach 3:1 — ¹ Listen to me your father, O children; act accordingly, that you may be kept in safety.

If you read this carefully, he simply reiterated the fifth commandment. What is the command? **Honor your father and mother.** This is what he was saying when he said, “Listen to me your father.” The commandment to honor your father and mother continues with “**that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.**” Instead of saying that, he said, “**that you may be kept in safety.**” He opened by going right to the commandment. In a sense, he quoted the commandment.

Sirach 3:2 — ² For the Lord honors a father above his children, and he confirms a mother's right over her children.

In other words, the father and the mother have authority over the children, and that authority does not come from themselves. They didn't invoke this on their own accord. Mom and dad didn't vote and decide that they would be in charge. The authority comes directly from God. Is it important for all of us that have parents to recognize that the command to honor mom and dad and the authority they've been given over us comes from God? Absolutely. It changes the whole dimension of it. It changes the importance of it so that I understand that if I follow this command, I'm not just acknowledging my parent's authority, I am acknowledging the authority of the living God.

I can't help but think of what Yeshua said to his disciples in Luke 10:16 — ¹⁶ **He who hears you hears Me, he who rejects you rejects Me, and he who rejects Me rejects Him who sent Me.** Yeshua gave authority

to His apostles, and to this very day the apostolic authority stands. That's why we have a New Testament, right? We submit to the New Testament. The New Testament has authority, and we submit to that authority. We are, in a sense, declaring the apostolic authority. We recognize that authority. Ultimately, Yeshua says, therefore you recognize me. Listen to me: when we honor our mother and father, we are honoring Yeshua.

Sirach 3:3 — ³Those who honor their father atone for sins,

If the writer didn't have your attention in the first two verses, I bet he has it now. Think of the gravity of this statement. It shows how potent and powerful your observance of the fifth commandment really is; it is to the degree he said that it atones for sins.

Now, I want to make something very clear. Is the writer saying that he can atone for sins on his own accord apart from God and establish his own righteousness by His own works? Is this what He's conveying? I can tell you, emphatically, that is not what he's conveying at all.

If you have ever read the whole Book of Sirach, you know he talks about mercy and grace exactly how Yeshua talks about it. It's amazing. So, what is he referring to? I want to dig into this a little bit, so we can truly appreciate the magnitude of this statement.

Sirach 3:30 — ³⁰As water extinguishes a blazing fire, so almsgiving atones for sin. (Emphasis added).

Almsgiving atones for sins. So, he used the concept of atoning for sins in two different categories: “almsgiving”, showing mercy to the poor, which the Torah commands us to do, and “honor your father”, using phraseology from the fifth commandment. Now, here's what's interesting. The writer drew from the Torah and the Prophets regarding the notion of what happens when you obey mom and dad.

Look at the concept of almsgiving atoning for sins in Daniel 4:27 — Daniel went to King Nebuchadnezzar and told him — ²⁷Break off your sins by being righteous, and your iniquities by showing mercy to the poor. How do you break off your sin? By being righteous (meaning *teshuva*.) You are turning, repenting, and grabbing hold of the ways of God. By doing that, you're moving into righteousness, and sins go behind you.

Isaiah 55:7 says — ⁷Let the wicked forsake his way. And the unrighteous man his thoughts. Let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him. You break off your sins by grabbing hold of His word and His righteousness.

Psalms 119:9-10 — ⁹How can a young man cleanse this way? By taking heed according to Your word. ¹⁰With my whole heart I sought You; Oh, let me not wander from your commandments! That's how you cleanse your way. That's how you break off your sins.

Isaiah 1:16 — ¹⁶Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean. — How do you do that? — Put away the evil of your doings from before My eyes. Cease to do evil. (Emphasis added). Don't disrespect and rebel against mom and dad anymore. Turn and honor your mother and father. And what happens? You will be washing and making yourselves clean. This is exactly what the writer was getting at. This is the power of it.

Sirach 3:4 — ⁴ and those who respect their mother are like those who lay up treasure.

As I think about these words, I think of Matthew 6:19-20 — ¹⁹ Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth . . . ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven. This was what the writer conveyed regarding honoring your mother and father. You're preparing for your future.

To give you a little bit of insight of what this would look like in a biblical context, let's look at the phenomenal story in Genesis 27. There was controversy between Jacob and Esau. Isaac told his firstborn son, Esau, to go and hunt game for him, so he could eat of it and his soul could bless him. Isaac's wife, Rebecca, overheard the conversation. (It's interesting that the Targum says that she heard through the Holy Spirit.) When Rebecca heard this conversation, she moved immediately and started strategizing. She told Jacob to bring her two kids of the goats, and she would make savory food such as his father loved. Then Rebecca told Jacob that he would bring it to his father and receive the blessing.

This is how Jacob responded: Genesis 27:11-12 — ¹¹ And Jacob said to Rebekah, his mother, "Look, Esau my brother is a hairy man, and I am a smooth skinned man. ¹² Perhaps my father will feel me, and I shall seem to be a deceiver to him; and I shall bring a curse on myself and not a blessing." Jacob did not think this was a good plan. He wasn't on board with his mom. This did not sound good to him at all. He didn't want to be a part of her plan.

Genesis 27:13 — ¹³ But his mother said to him, "Let your curse be on me, my son; **only obey my voice, and go, get them from me.**" (Emphasis added). Rebecca pulled out her judgment and authority over her son. She told Jacob to listen to her, even though he had questioned what she was doing.

Young kids, young teens, and even young adults, I want you to think about something. There will be times in your life when your mom and dad will ask you to do something that sounds completely idiotic. There will be times that you'll question their competency. What they say may not make sense to you. There will be times they will tell you to do something that frustrates you and may even anger you. Pay close attention to this story because Jacob was not on board with his mom's plan, but his mom said, **"Obey my voice."**

How did Jacob respond? He did what she told him to do. He obeyed his mother's voice. What was the product of that? You can't calculate the blessing because generation to generation saw the blessing of what he did. When he listened to his mother's voice, this was a pivotal moment for all Israel. The temple being built in Jerusalem, *Yerushalayim*, goes back to the very moment that Jacob obeyed his mother. Do you think in the moment Jacob obeyed his mother or understood the implications? Did he see the magnitude of what would happen on May 14, 1948, when Israel became a nation again after thousands of years, and generations of Jews were being preserved and blessed? Do you think he saw all of that in that moment? No, he simply listened to the Lord. He simply obeyed mom, and the blessing followed. This is how we need to do things. We need to think like Jacob thought. We need to act as Jacob acted.

Sirach 3:4-5a — ⁴ and those who respect their mother are like those who lay up treasure. Jacob laid up treasure. — ^{5a} Those who honor their father will have joy in their own children,

This is not something we typically calculate when we are young. We don't think about: if I obey mom and dad and humble myself under their authority, I will be blessed in my generation with my children,

and I will draw from the wells of joy with my own kids. The implications of your obedience now to Mom and Dad will follow you.

We always talk about the generational curses, but you need to understand there are great generational blessings. Your offspring and their offspring will be affected because you humbled yourself under your parent's authority. This is what the Lord is trying to get across. This is the brilliance of this Spirit inspired wisdom that this writer articulated. He puts us in a frame of mind of thinking about the future. It is not about giving in to your emotions today but thinking about your future.

Sirach 3:5b — ^{5b} **and when they pray they will be heard.** (Emphasis added).

This is the most important thing in your life. Your connection to God is everything. Without having a relationship with Yeshua where you get on your knees and connect with Him, and He hears you from His temple, you have nothing. You have no hope; you have no forgiveness; you have no strength; you have no wisdom; and you are destitute. Yet the writer brings out that if you humble yourself before mom and dad, your prayers will not be hindered; they will be heard. If you want to open up a communication line with God, listen to mom and dad.

Sirach 3:6-7 — ⁶ **Those who respect their father will have long life,** — which is what the fifth commandment says: live long in the land — **and those who honor their mother, obey the Lord.** — It's not simply obeying mom and dad; it's obedience to the Lord. — ⁷ **they will serve their parents as their masters.** (Emphasis added).

Isn't that interesting? The writer likened the relationship between a child and his parents to that of a slave and a master. A slave doesn't think about disrespecting his master. He doesn't demean his master. He doesn't talk back to his master. What he does is obey. A slave understands the authoritative structure that the master is in charge. The master gives the orders, and the slave carries them out.

It's amazing how the writer juxtapositioned the concept of obeying mom and dad specifically with that of a slave and the master. And I say that because the Apostle Paul did it. In Colossians 3, Paul wrote about the structure of obedience where wives submit to their husband's authority, children obey their parents, and bond servants obey their masters. Talk about putting things into perspective.

Sirach 3:8 — ⁸ **Honor your father by word and deed, that his blessing may come upon you.**

Think about that. So, here he circled back and said that if you honor mom and dad, blessing will be released. In those moments, when you are not sure your parents are playing with a full deck, you don't agree with mom and dad, you are angry, or you are frustrated, think of the blessing. It doesn't matter if it makes sense to you. Grab hold of the blessing because a father's blessing is powerful.

If you want evidence of this, look at what Jacob did to his own sons. Go back to the end of Genesis where God spoke a special blessing over his sons. Look at the blessing he spoke over Ephraim and Manasseh. Joseph was so blessed; he got a double portion in Israel. Look at the power of blessing. You want your father's blessing.

Sirach 3:9 — ⁹ **For a father's blessing strengthens the houses of the children, but a mother's curse uproots their foundations.**

When I think about this, do you know who comes to mind? Sarah, Abraham's wife, who gave her maidservant to Abraham as a wife. Why? So that Hagar could be a surrogate for Sarah's child. Sarah wanted a child, so Hagar bore Ishmael. Then the Lord blessed Sarah with her own son, Isaac. In all reality, Sarah had two children. Then Ishmael began to scoff at Isaac. What did Sarah do? She told Abraham, **“Cast out this bondwoman and her son; for the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, namely with Isaac.”** (Genesis 21:10). Sarah cursed Ishmael. Ishmael was under her curse. Abraham was not on board. The Lord intervened and told Abraham to listen to the words of his wife. The power that Sarah wielded (that the Lord wielded through her) to cast off Ishmael was because of his behavior.

Look at the story about Rebecca in Genesis 27. Esau was Rebecca's firstborn son. There's a little interesting tidbit that we should know as a backdrop regarding Esau. Esau's wives were a grief of mind to his parents because he took them as wives from the land of Canaan. Esau's behavior was a grief to Rebecca. The actions of Rebecca were a curse to Esau; he was not to be in the inheritance, and he was cast off.

In other words, kids, you need to understand that you do not want to come under the curse of your mother. Can we be clear on that? This is not the road you want to traverse. You want to be in the blessing of the Lord.

Sirach 3:10-11 — ¹⁰ **Do not glorify yourself by dishonoring your father,** — or puff yourself up in arrogance and pride by dishonoring your father. — **for your father's dishonor is no glory to you.** ¹¹ **The glory of one's father is one's own glory, and it is a disgrace for children not to respect their mother.** Disgraceful. It's an abomination in the sight of the Lord.

Sirach 3:12-13 — ¹² **My child, help your father in his old age, and do not grieve him as long as he lives; ¹³ even if his mind fails, be patient with him; because you have all your faculties do not despise him.** (Emphasis added).

This is fascinating because this was written in the second century B.C., and he's alluding to what we now call Alzheimer's or dementia. How many of you have a parent or grandparent, such as I had, struggle with Alzheimer's or dementia? Dealing with it is very difficult, and it's hard to see them in that situation, but it's also hard to deal with them.

Talk about brilliant wisdom! The writer gave us a beautiful perspective in saying, “Stand down, be patient. This is where you show the fruits of the Spirit. Be long suffering with your parent and consider that you have your faculties. You better be thankful to the Lord because you have this now. You should be repaying your parents.”

This is exactly what Paul talked about in his epistle to Timothy. 1 Timothy 5:3-4 — ³ **Honor widows who are really widows.** ⁴ **But if any widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show piety at home and to repay their parents;** — to honor mom and dad — **for this is good and acceptable before God.** (Emphasis added).

We see in these passages in Sirach and Timothy that our obligation to honor mom and dad doesn't stop when we leave home. Our obligation to respect our parents and care for them doesn't end because we

married and started our own family. As long as our parents are living, there is an authority structure established.

Sirach 3:14 — ¹⁴ For kindness to a father will not be forgotten, and will be credited to you against your sins;

It'll be credited. You'll be weighed in the balance. The writer brings out that how you treat mom and dad will be weighed in the balance. And here again, I can take you to Scripture. Ezekiel 33 says that when a wicked man turns from his wicked ways and does what is lawful and right, then all his sins will be forgotten. They will not be remembered. This is the concept of your sins being cast as far as the east is from the west. (Psalm 103:12). Why? Because you did what the Lord said. You turned your heart. You melted your heart towards the Lord.

Sirach 3:15 — ¹⁵ in the day of your distress it will be remembered in your favor;

Why is this important? The writer took us back to the concept of your prayers being heard. I think of what David said in Psalm 18:6 — ⁶ In my distress, I called upon the LORD . . . He heard my voice from His temple. The Lord heard him and answered him. You want that relationship door open, and it has a lot to do with how you treat mom and dad.

Sirach 3:15 continued — like frost in fair weather, your sins will melt away. (Emphasis added).

If you melt the heart of the Lord, your sins will melt away. How do we melt the heart of the Lord? The Bible is very clear: *teshuva*. You turn and cling on to those things that He loves, things that honor Him, and things that declare His glory.

We all have those moments when the Holy Spirit gives you a perspective and strikes the terror and the fear of the living God in you. And you say, "Oh my goodness, what am I thinking? What am I doing?" When you do not do what the Lord asks and do not follow His commandments, i.e., honoring your mother and father, do you know what you're declaring? You declare Yeshua is not worthy. Think about your behaviors. Every time you go off the rails, sin, and reject Him and His words, you declare He is not worthy of your obedience and your worship. I can't process that; it's so terrifying. That's what you declare when you give in to the flesh. I don't want to be someone that declares Yeshua not worthy. It's absolute blasphemy.

Sirach 3:16 — ¹⁶ Whoever forsakes a father is like a blasphemer, — And what is the penalty for blaspheming? Leviticus 24 says it is death. — And whoever angers a mother is cursed by the Lord.

The writer talked earlier about how you can fall under the curse of a mother. It's backed by the living God. That's what's scary. What Sarah did was backed by the living God. What Rebecca did was backed by the living God. That should terrify you.

Proverbs 20:20 — ²⁰ Whoever curses his father or his mother, his lamp will be put out in deep darkness. You will be destroyed. And it's not just a destruction in this age; we are talking about for all eternity. The Torah says as much as well in Exodus 21.

Proverbs 30:17 — ¹⁷ **The eye that mocks his father, and scorns obedience to his mother, the ravens of the valley will pick it out, and the young eagles will eat it.** If you have read the Book of Revelation, you know what this is talking about. In Revelation 19, the angel cried out for all the birds of heaven to gather for the great supper of God. They were called to pick on the flesh of the wicked. The writer was intentional in the wording of what he conveyed here. It goes beyond your blessing or cursing in this life; we are talking about the age to come. You can't have a greater weight of emphasis placed upon honoring mom and dad.

Let me land the plane with something the writer said. We will jump ahead in Sirach to chapter seven. This is one of the most profound things you will ever digest:

Sirach 7:36 — ³⁶ **In all you do, remember the end of your life, and then you will never sin.**

Unbelievable and highly scriptural! The psalmist cried out in Psalm 39:4 — ⁴ **LORD, make me to know my end, and what is the measure of my days, that I may know how frail I am.** Over and over the Scriptures warn the same thing as Sirach 7:36.

You know what I realized long ago? When you come off the rails and start slipping and stumbling, you're not thinking about your end, your death, or judgment. If you do not have judgment set before you every single day, you absolutely run the risk of coming off the rails. Talk about biblically profound. You have to remember, **"Lord, make me to know my end,"** so you can gain wisdom and make good decisions in this life.

Let me build on this by reading in Lamentations, which is all about lamenting the destruction that the judgment of God brought in:

Lamentations 1:8-9a — ⁸ **Jerusalem has sinned gravely, therefore she has become vile. All who honor her despise her because they have seen her nakedness; Yes, she sighs and turns away.** ^{9a} **Her uncleanness is in her skirts; She did not consider her destiny;** (Emphasis added). With all due respect, the term, "her destiny," is not a good translation of the Hebrew word, *'a·hă·rî·tāh*. A better translation would be "her end." "She did not consider her end," which is what Sirach reminds us and what we read about in the Psalms multiple times. It needs to be at the forefront of our mind.

Ecclesiastes 7:2 — ² **Better to go to the house of mourning than to go to the house of feasting, for that is the end of all men.** Acknowledge the reality of death and judgment.

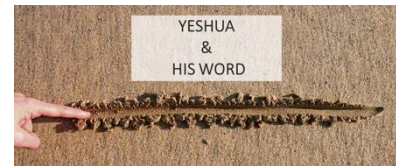
Lamentations 1:9b — The reason Jerusalem, *Yerushalayim*, fell was because she did not consider her *'a·hă·rî·tāh*, her end — ^{9b} **therefore her collapse was awesome; she had no comforter.** (Emphasis added). He didn't say "awesome" in a good way. This was a terrifying awesome. This was horrific because there was no comforter. Listen to me. When you fall into the judgment of God, who will help you since the Lord God Himself is judging you? When you come to the end, and He says you're going to the Lake of Fire, who can intercede on your behalf to undo what the Lord God of Israel will do? You will have no comforter, no hope, and no help if you choose to reject Yeshua in this life. If you think so little of your relationship with Him that you commit harlotry with the world, your end will be as Israel's.

Yeshua prophesied in His days when the second temple would be destroyed in Luke 19:42-44 — ⁴² **If you had known . . . the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes.** ⁴³ **For**

days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you, and close you in on every side,⁴⁴ and level you, and your children — You will be killed. — . . . because you didn't know the time of your visitation. You are not in relationship with Me. You did not seek Me or follow Me. This was why the second temple was destroyed. It was for the same reason that the first temple was destroyed.

Now, I want to move on to the last part of today's message. Ironically enough, we will take this conversation in the exact opposite direction from where we have been going this entire time. Because up until now, we've been saying to hold the line at all cost. No matter what, you hold the line and honor mom and dad. It doesn't matter if you agree with mom and dad or if you like what they say, hold the line because it's a matter of life and death.

However, could there be a context in which you would not be required to obey Mom and Dad? The answer to that question is a very careful yes. There are certain situations when someone is not required to submit to their parent's authority. You might say, "Daniel, what is that context?" That context is very narrow and biblically defined. Look at the graph. The line in the sand is Yeshua and His Word.



In other words, if mom or dad say, "I want you to denounce Jesus as the Messiah. I want you to reject Him. Do not bring Him here in this house. I will not have any of that talk. You will not do any of this," you would not concede to mom and dad's authority in this situation.

I have a friend whose mother had accepted Jesus. She was a Muslim. When she shared how she accepted Jesus in her dream, woke up, and declared Him, her husband tried to kill her. And that's not an exaggeration. So, she had to take her son and flee.

These kinds of situations happen in this world. There are households that will not tolerate the holy, sacred, and faithful name of Jesus, Yeshua. Kids, in those moments, you do not bend the knee to mom and dad; you hold the line with Yeshua.

If Mom and Dad said, "There's a new pagan temple down the road. You're coming with me, and we will worship this false god. You will engage in this. This is the god our family is going to worship," you do not yield. You step back and say, "I cannot compromise my faith in Yeshua. He is my Savior. Through Him, my sins are forgiven." You must not obey that command.

If your parents join with other family members to do witchcraft by having a séance to call up a dead uncle and say that you need to be part of this, you say, "I cannot." You cannot honor mom and dad, according to the heart of the Lord, by compromising your honor to God. If you're being asked to compromise your honor to the Lord, which is the first and greatest commandment, you have a problem. This is a real disconnect.

I'm thankful Yeshua brought up this issue in Matthew 10:34 — ³⁴ **Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword.** This is a bit ironic considering He is the Prince of Peace, *śar- šālōwm*. The prophets said that He would bring a covenant of peace. When the angels appeared to the shepherds to declare the birth of the Messiah, they said, "**Glory to God in the highest,**

and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!” (Luke 2:14). Yet, the Prince of Peace said that He came to incite war. How strange is that? What does this war look like?

Matthew 10:35-36 — ³⁵ For I have come to set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; ³⁶ and a man's enemies will be those of his own household. The most painful kind of war is with the people closest to you, the ones that mean the most to you. This Prince of Peace has come to declare war in the home.

Some Messianic Jews have testified about what happened when they told their Jewish parents, “I found the Messiah. I found Jesus.” And what happened? Some ugly things took place in the home. *One for Israel* covers these stories. Some of the headlines read as follows:



Rivkah is a beautiful, elderly woman that just passed this year. She was beaten by her father because she professed Jesus as the Jewish Messiah.



This is Kurt Schneider, the Jewish Jesus guy whose parents locked him up because he declared Yeshua as the Messiah.

This was the parent’s response. These are cases where they couldn't let go of Yeshua, yet they loved their mom and dad. It’s painful to them, but they cannot yield to their mother and father telling them to get rid of that garbage.

If you want a real perspective, listen to this video clip:

I just fell on my knees in front of my bed as I was reading these verses, and I just prayed a simple prayer. I said, “Dear God, please enter my heart and please forgive me for the sins of my life.” I said, “Lord, I'm new at this. I don't know exactly how to do this.” But I said, “I’ve longed for that personal relationship, and I realize that Yeshua HaMashiach is my burning bush experience.” I said, “Dad, after a careful examination of the Hebrew scriptures, I've come to the conclusion that the promised Jewish Messiah has already been here.” He said, “Son, you are a traitor to your people. You are no longer my son. What you have done in my eyes is worse than Adolf Hitler.”

End of video

This is a real story. Are you feeling the weight and the gravity as this son shared the promised Jewish Messiah? His own father likened him to the worst person a Jewish person can think of, Adolf Hitler. This is how they view it.

There are so many testimonies, hundreds upon hundreds, probably thousands, of Messianic Jews experiencing what Yeshua prophesied: that war would come into the home and cause separation. When many of the Jewish parents find out their child believes Yeshua is the Messiah, they want them to talk to the rabbi. They want the rabbi to tell them, “Jesus is not the Jewish Messiah because Jesus is the reason, we've been killed all day long. Look at the Crusades; look at what the Roman church did in the name of Jesus; and look at what Hitler did in the name of Jesus.” To them it's an apostasy.

In these situations, the people clung to Yeshua over the honor they wanted to give their mom and dad. They can't sacrifice this.

I will give you some examples in Scripture. First, we will look at Deuteronomy 33. The Lord told Moses to go up to Mount Pisgah, and you will die there. Before Moses ascended, he blessed the 12 tribes of Israel. What he said to the tribe of Levi is fascinating — Deuteronomy 33:8-9 — ⁸ **And of Levi he said, “Let your Thummim and Your Urim be with Your holy one, whom you have tested at Massah, and with whom You contended at the waters of Meribah, ⁹ Who says of his father and mother, ‘I have not seen them’; nor did he acknowledge his brothers, or know his own children; — Why? — for they have observed Your word and kept Your covenant.** (Emphasis added). This is alluding to the fact that when there was a time of testing, these children of Levi held the line regardless of where mom and dad went or where their children went.

You can lay this over in Matthew 10:37 — ³⁷ **He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves his son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.**

Another example is in Exodus 32:26. Moses went up the mountain and delayed coming down. So, what did the people do? They built a golden calf and started worshiping it. Moses came down from the mountain and — ²⁶ **Moses stood at the entrance of the camp, and said, “Whoever is on the LORD's side-- come to me!”** And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together to him. ²⁷ And he said to them, “Thus says the LORD God of Israel: **‘Let every man put his sword on his side, and go in and out from entrance to entrance throughout the camp, and let every man kill his brother, every man his companion, and every man his neighbor.** (Emphasis added). Moses was a foreshadow of the Prophet like unto Moses, the Messiah. He came down from the mountain, from heaven, *šāmāyim*, with the holy word of God. And what did he do? He declared, **“Whoever is on the LORD's side-- come to me!”** He incited war within Israel, right within the families, just like the Prophet like unto Moses did. And what was the dividing line? **“Whoever is on the Lord's side....”**

Check this out: 1 Kings 15:1-2 — ¹ **In the eighteenth year of King Jeroboam, the son of Nebat, Abijam became king over Judah. ² He reigned three years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Maachah the granddaughter of Abishalom.** Who is Abijam, *'ābīyām*? Abijam was the son of Rehoboam. Rehoboam was the son of Solomon. So, we're right at the front end of this temple here. There was Solomon, Rehoboam, Abijam, and Abijam's mother was Maachah. This will be important as we continue.

1 Kings 15:3 — ³ **And he walked in all the sins of his father, — Rehoboam — which he had done before him; his heart was not loyal to the LORD his God, as was the heart of his father David.** Instead of following the Lord, Abijam followed his dad.

1 Kings 15:11-12 — ¹¹ **Asa — the son of Abijam — did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, as did his father David. ¹² And he banished the perverted persons from the land, and removed all the idols that his**

fathers — his father Abijam and his grandfather Rehoboam — **had made**. Instead of honoring his father's and grandfather's legacy of perversion and idolatry in Judah, Asa destroyed their legacy. He honored the living God.

1 Kings 15:13 — ¹³ **Also, he removed Maachah his grandmother from being queen mother**, — This was the most dishonorable thing he could possibly do to her. This is why he did it — **because she had made an obscene image of Asherah. And Asa cut down her obscene image and burned it by the Brook Kidron.** (Emphasis added). Asa was not, in the hyperliteral sense, moving to honor his parents, his legacy, or his grandma. His grandmother had a great seat of honor, and he removed her because of what she was doing, because of sin. Do you see how this separated them?

Let me give you one more example. This is probably my favorite example, and it really hits home. David said to Jonathan, "Hey, your dad's trying to kill me." Jonathan replied, "No way. If my dad wanted to kill you, he would have told me about it." David wanted to do a little test. He told Jonathan, "I'm not going to the New Moon celebration. When Saul sees the seat open, if he says, 'It is well,' then all is well. But if he gets angry, then his heart is bent on killing me and destroying me." Jonathan agreed to go through with this. So, we pick it up in verse 28.

1 Samuel 20:28-30a — ²⁸ **So Jonathan answered Saul, "David earnestly asked permission of me to go to Bethlehem. ²⁹ "And he said, 'Please let me go, for our family has a sacrifice in the city, and my brother has commanded me to be there. And now, if I have found favor in your eyes, please let me get away and see my brothers.' Therefore, he has not come to the king's table. — Jonathan is explaining to his father the story David gave him for not being there. — ^{30a} Then Saul's anger was aroused against Jonathan, and he said to him, "You son of a perverse, rebellious woman!** (Emphasis added).

Saul was not demeaning his wife, the mother of Jonathan. This is a Hebrew idiom. Saul was conveying to Jonathan, "You are to me, Jonathan, right now, as though you were born out of wedlock. You were born of harlotry. You're a vile human being right now. You're disgracing your mother and I."

1 Samuel 20:30b-31 — ^{30b} **Do I not know that you have chosen the son of Jesse to your own shame and to the shame of your mother's nakedness?** — Do you not understand what you're doing Jonathan? This is not honoring me and your mother. This is awful. — ³¹ **For as long as the son of Jesse lives on the earth, you shall not be established, nor your kingdom. Now therefore, send and bring him to me, for he shall surely die.** (Emphasis added).

Saul gave him an order, "You will do this. You will bring David before me, and I will kill him." Saul wanted Jonathan to be an accessory to murder of someone the Lord loved and cherished. Saul wanted him to murder innocent blood.

I ask you, is this a time when you say, "I will not be a part of it"? Jonathan would not be a part of it. He hid David and told him, "Go on your way." He did not concede to his father's authority in this situation. So, is there a dividing line? Yes, but it's very narrow and very specific. It can only be defined within the Word itself. It's not defined by your emotions and your feelings of frustration and anger. It's defined by whether you are compromising your faith in Yeshua.

I want to play the whole testimony of that little clip I showed you. At the end, I will say something that I think is really important and will round this entire discussion out.

Video:

You believe in Jesus. Are you out of your mind? You're not Jewish anymore. You are a traitor to your people.

When I was about ten or 11 years old, living in Chicago, my father's parents, I was very close to them. They looked like two characters from the movie *Fiddler on the Roof*, and I would hang out at their house a lot, especially, when my grandma was making a good bowl of kreplach soup. I said to my grandpa, "Grandpa, I see that you have received letters from your cousins in Romania. Would you someday like to go back and hang out with your cousins?" And he said, "No." I said, Grandpa, "Why?" He said, "Pogrom. The farmers who claim to be Christians in a city called Barlad, Romania, came looking for Jewish people to do them harm, and my grandpa and his sister and mother had to hide in the wine cellar."

It was the seventies. It was the John Travolta era. I was invited to go on the spring trip for the University of Illinois baseball team. It was very early on that I was called in to pitch and relief. After our game, my roommate asked me if I would go with him to hear Billy Graham speak that night. I'll take a rain check. Jewish kids from Chicago don't do this kind of thing.

My senior year, my friend again told me a famous lady was going to come speak. I said, "I'll tell you what. You tell me what this person has to say. I'll take a rain check." He said, "A lady named Corrie ten Boom and her family were hiding Jewish people in the walls of their home. They actually got caught by the Nazis and her whole family died, not only because of their Christian faith, but because of their love for Israel and the Jewish people. Something inside of me said, "Whatever the real deal is, this must be it."

And so, when I was getting ready to pitch in my last game against the University of Michigan State, my friend Neal, after going for a run in the morning, comes into our apartment and blows my mind. Neal was Jewish. He said, "Siegs, I need to tell you something. After I read the Hebrew Scriptures and a careful examination of what it said, I've come to the conclusion: the Messiah has already come." I said, "Neal, are you out of your mind?" I said, "You believe in Jesus?" And I said, "Neal, you're not Jewish anymore." He said, "No, I'm a completed Jew, Jeff." He said, "Jeff, if you read it for yourself, I believe you'll come to the same conclusions."

What a dilemma! If God really had a Son, I'm going to have to see in my book, not their book. I held that Tanakh up to heaven, and I prayed a prayer to God. I said, "God, can I have a burning Bush experience like Moses?"

One of the things that happened was I came to the book of Jeremiah, 31:31-34 — ³¹ Behold the days come, says the Lord, when I will enact the New Covenant with the house of Israel in the house of Judah. And I'm thinking, "Oh my gosh, this New Covenant, this new agreement is for Jewish people. There's something to what my friend Neal said. New Covenant, New Testament." My mind was blown.

I just fell on my knees in front of my bed as I was reading these verses, and I just prayed a simple prayer. I said, "Dear God, please enter my heart and please forgive me for the sins of my life." I said, "Lord, I'm new at this. I don't know exactly how to do this." But I said, "I've longed for that personal relationship, and I realize that Yeshua ha'Meshiach is my burning bush experience."

I said, "Dad, after a careful examination of the Hebrew scriptures, I've come to the conclusion that the promised Jewish Messiah has already been here." He said, "Son, you are a traitor to your people. You are no longer my son. What you have done in my eyes is worse than Adolf Hitler."

Now this went on for 26 years until a day came when my younger brother decided to go to church, and he gave his life to Yeshua. He said, "Could you do me a favor? Could you tell Dad the decision I made?" Now in a 26-year time-frame, my dad and I began to have a better relationship. And when I called my dad, I said, "Dad, I need to tell you something. After a careful examination of the Hebrew Scriptures, my younger brother has also made the same decision that I made many years ago."

My dad then began to cry. I received the shock of my life. It was only the second time in my life I ever heard him cry. The first time was when he hung the phone up on me, when he told me I wasn't his son anymore. And he began not only to cry, but he began to speak in the Hebrew language, "Heneine, God. Heneine, here I am, here I am. What would you have me to do?" I said, "Dad, do you want to give your life to Yeshua?" He said, "Yes, I do."

For the last two and a half years of his life, we were like best friends. And then the day came when my dad just went to heaven. On that day, when I announced to my father that I gave my life to Yeshua, and he said, "You're not my son anymore," my life was turned upside down. But you see, God had a plan. And on that day, it may have seemed bleak, but the Lord saw the future.

End of Video

There is an important moral that I want to wrap this up with concerning situations like this one that unfortunately don't merit submitting to mom and dad. Jeff would not compromise his faith, even though his father responded horribly. He held the line. But here's the thing, and this is so important: did you notice even when he held the line, did he mistreat his father? Did he take a tone with him? He loved his dad, even though it was a fractured relationship for 26 years. This son did not give up on his father.

That was honor. That was such an immense honor that eventually, 26 years later, Jeff led his dad to faith in Yeshua. What a beautiful ending to a story! Despite the hell Jeff went through, it was worth holding the line. If Jeff and his brother had not held the line, it would have directly impacted their father. That is an amazing thought to me.

With that said, we will close in prayer.