

## The Ten Commandments - Part 28: Honor Your Father and Your Mother - Part 2 (10/29/2022)

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/2twwtww/the-ten-commandments-part-28>

**\*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.**

Shabbat Shalom, everyone.

Currently, we are looking at the fifth commandment. This is a command to honor your father and mother. This is a unique commandment amongst the ten as the Lord has provided a little persuasive incentive for us to fully engage this commandment. This is what Paul called a promise. The promise is: if we honor our mother and father, then we will live long on the earth. I call that incredible incentive. I call that motivation.

We will continue to dig into this commandment because there is a whole world to discover regarding what it means to honor mom and dad. As we go to the word on this particular subject and peel back layer after layer, we will be given more and more perspective. With more perspective our young children, teens, young adults, and older adults, who have parents still living today, will have greater understanding, clarity, motivation, and strength to engage with this commandment and walk it out.

I will begin with the ultimate template, Yeshua. Who better to draw from regarding His teachings and His example that He set for us than Yeshua. There is no one greater. So, today, we will look at Yeshua, His actions, and His teachings.

We will begin in Luke chapter 2. Yeshua's family had gone up to Jerusalem during the Feast of Passover. Remember, it's a pilgrimage feast. There are three pilgrimage feasts: Shavuot, Passover, and, of course, Sukkot. They had gone up for Passover, and after the festival was over, they were going home to Nazareth. Now, keep in mind, Nazareth is a three-day journey. It's about 80 miles, and it will take them three days to get home. They were one-third of the way home when they realized they were missing one of their kids.

I know this has happened to some people, and it's scary. You need to put yourself in this situation because there is a danger when we read Scripture and don't put ourselves in the positions of the people; we lose so much understanding. Can you imagine parents being one-third of the way home on a three-day journey and realizing, "Where's our firstborn son?" They returned to Jerusalem, *Yerushalayim*, to find their kid.

Luke 2:46 — <sup>46</sup> Now so it was that after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions.

Think about this for a second. Three days! They were one-third of the way home; that's a day. It took them a day to get back; that's another day! Then they spent part of a day looking for him; that's the third day. What state of mind do you think these parents were in? They were past consolable.

Luke 2:47-48 — <sup>47</sup> And all who heard him were astonished at His understanding and answers. <sup>48</sup> So when they saw Him, they were amazed; and His mother said to Him, **“Son, why have you done this to us? Look, your father and I have sought You anxiously.”** (Emphasis added).

I understand where Mary's coming from. I understand the frustration and terror because, I can tell you, Joseph and Mary haven't slept in days. With the concern for their son, there's no way they slept.

Luke 2:49-51 — <sup>49</sup> And He said to them, **“Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?”** <sup>50</sup> But they did not understand the statement which He spoke to them. —Here's where we get to the point— <sup>51</sup>Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, —listen to this— **and was subject to them, but His mother kept all these things in her heart.** (Emphasis added).

“Subject” is *hupotassó* in the Greek. *Hupo* means “under.” Yeshua brought Himself under the authority of His parents. Now, think about this. Yeshua is called King of kings, Lord of lords, The Great I Am, the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the Word of the Lord, and Savior of the world. At the name of Yeshua, every knee will bow in heaven and on earth, and yet He found it necessary to submit to his earthly parents. Since Yeshua set an example as the son of the Living God, the King of kings, and the Lord of lords of submitting to the authority of his earthly parents, how much more should we submit? Talk about incentive and motivation! Talk about clarity, perspective, and a reason for us to grab hold of His example!

I wish I had received the message I'm giving today when I was a kid, so I could have thought rationally, logically, and with spiritual clarity about saying, “I don't have to listen to mom and dad.” You have to ask yourself, “Who do you think you are?” because even the Son of the Living God, the King of kings, and Lord of lords thought no such thing. That's an incredible perspective. Kids, next time you find it hard to listen to mom and dad, remember Yeshua. Remember what He did is the greatest example we have.

Let's look at Yeshua's teachings in the book of John. John 8:28-29 — <sup>28</sup> Yeshua said to them, **“When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and that I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things.** <sup>29</sup> **“And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, —now listen— for I always do those things that please Him.** (Emphasis added).

Yeshua is the ultimate example for all of us. We can't just look at how He interacted with His earthly parents; we also need to look at how He interacted with His Father in heaven, so we can glean from that and practically implement that to our earthly parents.

Let's start with Yeshua's statement, **“I always do the things that please Him.”** Yeshua, as a Son, always honored His Father. He always chose to please Him, which means His life was not about pleasing Himself. Yeshua's purpose in life was not to gratify His own desires or to accomplish His own agenda. What mattered most to Him was pleasing His Father. This statement shows He displayed complete selflessness, integrity, and honor.

We need to take this character of our Messiah and apply it to how we treat our parents and interact with them. We need to have the mindset that, as a son or daughter, the number one thing we are

concerned about is honoring our parents. We want to make sure we bring joy to them, please them, and obey them because, in doing so, we are obeying and pleasing our Father in heaven.

John 12:49 — <sup>49</sup> **I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak.** (Emphasis added).

Yeshua made this very clear. The Father gave Yeshua instructions. There are certain things the Father said to Him. There were things the Father commanded Him and things the Father wanted Him to convey. How does Yeshua respond to the instruction? Yeshua responded by doing the things that His Father had said. When the Father told Him to convey a message, Yeshua did it. He was completely in the motive: this was all about obedience to the Father.

Knowing Yeshua was perfect in this capacity, what's the impact of His actions? How do you calculate the impact? In the New Testament, we read that the Father's voice was first heard when John the Baptist baptized Yeshua. All of a sudden, the Holy Spirit descended upon Yeshua, and the Father spoke with a voice out of heaven, **"This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."** (Matthew 3:17). The Father declared what he thought of his Son before men. When Peter, James, and John went up on the Mount of Transfiguration, and Yeshua was transfigured before them, the Father spoke the exact same thing again, **"This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."** (Matthew 17:5). The impact of Yeshua's obedience to the Father brought incredible rejoicing to the Father. That is huge, but not just that: His obedience brought salvation to the world. His obedience made an incredible impact that you can't even measure! It's no different, kids, when you choose to honor mom and dad; things happen in the spiritual realm and are manifested in the physical realm.

Proverbs 23:24 — <sup>24</sup> **The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice,** —not a little bit. He doesn't just find it kind of interesting. No, He will greatly rejoice. — **and he who begets a wise child will delight in him.**

This is who you want to be. You want your mother and father rejoicing over you. I love it when I see parents so proud of their children for doing amazing things, for walking with the Lord, and for treating other people with respect and kindness, including their own parents. It's an amazing thing to see parents do that.

I'll keep this brief, but just recently my grandmother passed away, and I attended her funeral. My mom was talking to a bunch of people, and I walked over to them. My mom started going off, "This is my son and blah-blah-blah, and he's this-and-that. He's always been there for me. He encourages me and comforts me." She kept going on and on. I left because I didn't want to be a part of that, but the thing is, I've brought my mother great comfort and joy in times when she was hurting. That is the gospel. That is the faith. That's how we need to be, so our parents respond this way.

Proverbs 23:25 — <sup>25</sup> **Let your father and your mother be glad, and let her who bore you rejoice.**

Put that right on top of "Honor your mother and father" that "your father and mother may be glad." There's an impact. Kids, do you understand? I'm talking to you youngest children, young teens, old teens, and young adults. Do you understand the power you have in your house? You have the power to create an incredible environment of rejoicing and to bring peace and *shalom* into your house. You wield that power.

You have a decision: you can wield it or you can yield it. Instead of bringing peace, *shalom*, strength, and honor into your house, which you can do as children, you can bring chaos, pain, and sorrow. You can tear your house apart and make your parents grieve. I've seen it. I saw one child tear their family apart and make their entire family mourn. And what was leading the charge? Rebellion. It's almost mystifying to me to see the power children, sons and daughters, wield in their own homes. Be very careful how you wield that power. It is very scary. It's awful to see the work of the devil go through a house and to see that kind of suffering.

Proverbs 10:1 — <sup>1</sup> **The proverbs of Solomon: A wise son makes a glad father, but a foolish son is the grief of his mother.** (Emphasis added). Last week, we read in Proverbs 17 that a foolish son is a grief of his father. He is a grief to his mother and father.

In Matthew 26:36-38, we will see that Yeshua went to a great extent to honor His Father. This entire conversation about honoring mom and dad is put into context right here — <sup>36</sup> **Then Yeshua came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to the disciples, "Sit here while I go and pray over there."** <sup>37</sup> **And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, — James and John — and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed.** Yeshua was moved. He was in agony. <sup>38</sup> **Then He said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, — how sorrowful? — even to death. Stay here and watch with Me.** (Emphasis added).

In other words, Yeshua was way past overwhelmed. He felt something He had never felt before in his life. He felt the full weight of the sin of the world bearing down upon Him and the horrifying persecution and torment that the Father called Him to endure. He knew pain, suffering, mocking, and scourging were just around the corner. And you know what? This was getting to Him. What we see here is one of the most intense and unique moments ever recorded in Scripture. It is not hyperbole.

Matthew 26:39 — To help you appreciate how intense this moment was, listen to what Yeshua said — <sup>39</sup> **He went a little farther and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me;** (emphasis added).

This is not a misprint. This is not a bad translation. In fact, Yeshua didn't pray this once or twice; Yeshua prayed this prayer three times. Yeshua cried out and asked His Father if there was any other way. He desired another way. Now, you can understand why the author of Hebrews wrote, **"For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.** (Hebrews 4:17). Because the Word became flesh, all those feelings and emotions you have struggled with in life (pain, sorrow, feelings of betrayal, fear, etc.), Yeshua felt in full measure.

Matthew 26:39 continued — You want to talk about honor. This is not the end of His prayer. He ended the prayer with — **nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will."** (Emphasis added).

Think about that. That's how He ended it. **"If it's possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not my will, but your will."** To truly obey His Father, Yeshua had to override His will and war against His flesh. He had to war against the lies HaSatan certainly whispered into his ears. He had to war against fear.

Kids, for you to obey mom and dad, you will have to go to war. You will have to fight your flesh. You will have to fight the lies. You will have to fight the frustration and anger. You will need to get on your

knees and pray as Yeshua prayed: **“not my will, but your will be done.”** For you to submit to mom and dad is for you to submit to the holy will of our Father in heaven. That is an awesome reality.

Philippians 2:8 — Paul said — **<sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself**

For you to truly fulfill the commandment to honor your mother and father or any other commandment, for that matter, you will need to humble yourself. You will have to understand what humility is. You need to embrace humility because we're told in Proverbs, **“And before honor is humility.”** (Proverbs 15:33, Proverbs 18:12). You will never get to honor without grabbing hold of humility whereas pride comes before a fall.

This is how the sheep and the goats are separated. When you come to the fork in the road, you can choose the rebellious route, which ends in destruction and brings pain, suffering, and agony into your home, or you can humble yourself, which leads to honor. Through humility, you will honor your mother and father; in turn, your parents will honor you. They will be pleased with you. That is a cool thing to think about.

Philippians 2:8 continued — After Paul said — **He humbled Himself** — he said — **and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.** (Emphasis added).

Yeshua was so committed to the cause of obeying, submitting to His Father's will, He was willing to lose it all, including his own life. That is the ultimate example of the diligence and commitment we need to have in honoring mom and dad. You might say, “Well, Daniel, that was Yeshua, and He was dying for the sins of the world.” Hold on a second, we have other examples.

What about Isaac, a man of flesh just like you and me? He wasn't called the Son of God. Yes, he's a prophetic foreshadow, but think about the situation in Genesis 22. Abraham was instructed by his Father in heaven to take his son, Isaac, and sacrifice him as a burnt offering, *`ôlâh*, on Mount Moriah, or what we call today the Temple Mount. Abraham took the fire, the wood, and his knife and went with his son, Isaac. Abraham told his two servants, **“Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship.”** (Genesis 22:5). Something recorded in Genesis 22:6 is very important. Abraham laid the wood on Isaac. That's interesting because the wood was laid on Yeshua as he bore His cross to His own crucifixion. This is literally what Isaac did.

Keep in mind, Isaac was a young man. He was not four, five, ten, or twelve. He was bearing the wood, so we know he was strong. This is important to recognize because there are different commentaries and conversations regarding Isaac's age. In the text of Genesis 22, he is called *na'ar* in the Hebrew. It's interesting that Ishmael is called *na'ar*. If you do the math, in the passage where Ishmael is called *na'ar*, he is 17 years old. In the book of Genesis, in the passage where Joseph is called *na'ar*, we are told he is 17 years old. Isaac is *na'ar* and estimated to be at least 17 years old, maybe a couple of years older. He's a strong young man.

Isaac asked his dad, **“Where is the lamb for the burnt offering?”** And Abraham said, **“My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering.”** (Genesis 22:7-8). You continue in the discourse, and next thing you know Abraham bound Isaac. It doesn't say that Abraham took a big club, conked Isaac on the head, and sucker punched him, so he was out cold and never saw it coming. That's not what happened. Abraham bound Isaac and put him on the altar. There was no way Isaac was bound by

Abraham, who was at least 117 years old, maybe 120 years old. When Isaac was in the prime of his life and his strength, there was no way Abraham could do that unless Isaac was willing.

Isaac was willing to champion the cause of honoring his father Abraham, his earthly father, and trust in God's system. He had to trust in the Lord. Think about that. For him to do what he did, he had to trust in the Lord. If I can trust in the Lord, I will be able to honor my mother and father, and I'll be able to champion that cause. That's an incredible story.

Here's another example: Judges 11:1-2 — <sup>1</sup> **Now** — *yīptāh* or — **Jephthah the Gileadite was a mighty man of valor**, — This is a *gibbōr hayil*. It might sound familiar because the woman in Proverbs 31 is called an *'ēšet- hayil*. She is a woman of valor. The first thing we are told about Jephthah is that he was a mighty man of valor. So, we know an aspect about his character, but then it adds a stark contrast. — **but he was the son of a harlot, and Gilead begat Jephthah.** (Emphasis added).

Judges 11:2 — You will see how that son of a harlot comes into play here — <sup>2</sup> **Gilead's wife bore sons; and when his wife's sons grew up, they drove Jephthah out, and said to him, "You shall have no inheritance in our father's house, for you are the son of another woman."**

Since Jephthah was the son of a harlot, the Gileadites pushed him out. Why would they do that? Perhaps they looked at Deuteronomy 23:2 — <sup>2</sup> **One of illegitimate birth** — *mamzêr* in Hebrew — **shall not enter the assembly of the LORD** — and decided since Jephthah was the son of a woman of an illegitimate birth, they would drive him out. Whether they were attempting to fulfill the Torah or not, the event happened.

Judges 11:3 — <sup>3</sup> **Then Jephthah fled from his brothers and dwelt in the land of Tob; and worthless men banded together with Jephthah and went out raiding with him.**

As time goes on, the Ammonites rose up against Israel and wanted to go to war. They were upset and wanted their land back, which God so rightfully took from them and gave to Israel. An interesting turn of events happened. Jephthah's brothers wanted him to come back home to lead them in battle as their commander. As irony would have it, Jephthah agreed to do this. At which point, Jephthah opened up communication with the Ammonites hoping to settle this peaceably. It never happened. The Ammonites wouldn't have it, so there would be war.

Dropping to Judges 11:30-31 — <sup>30</sup> **Jephthah made a vow** — listen to this — **to the LORD**, — That is the tetragrammaton YHWH: *Yud, Hey, Vav, Hey*. This is significant to the entire story. Jephthah didn't make a vow to a pagan god; he made a vow explicitly to the God of Israel. — **and said, "If you will indeed deliver the people of Ammon into my hands,<sup>31</sup> then it will be that whatever comes out of the doors of my house to meet me, when I return in peace from the people of Ammon, shall surely be the LORD's, and I will offer it up as a burnt offering."** (Emphasis added).

You have no idea how much controversy and debate this story has created. A lot of commentators see Jephthah's vow (some even refer to it as Jephthah's infamous vow) as an extremely foolish move. Some commentators go to the extent of saying that Jephthah was mixing the holy with the profane because Jephthah knew a person would come out of the doors of his house to meet him. In other words, Jephthah wasn't thinking about a cow, goat or sheep to offer up as a burnt offering, *'ôlâh*; he was thinking of a person. So, some commentators think Jephthah was polluted by all the nations living in the land that believed in human sacrifice. So, there are a lot corrupt thoughts regarding this story.

What was Jephthah thinking? What was his intent? We know Jephthah prayed this vow to the one true God. In this vow, he made the terms: **“whatever comes out of the doors of my house to meet me, . . . I will offer it up as a burnt offering.”** Here's a thought that is very important. Could it be that in honoring the Lord, Jephthah allowed the Lord to select what He wanted and how He wanted to be honored; then Jephthah gave it to Him? Think about that because that's the reality of the text. You will appreciate this more as we continue.

Judges 11:32 — <sup>32</sup> **So Jephthah advanced toward the people of Ammon to fight against them, and the LORD delivered them into his hands.** (Emphasis added).

This was not a different God. It wasn't Baal. It wasn't Shamash. It wasn't any other god; it was *Yud, Hey, Vav, Hey*. He was the God of Israel, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. What does this tell you? God heard Jephthah's prayer. What does Scripture say? All who call upon the name of the Lord will be saved. Jephthah called upon the name of the Lord, and the Lord received his prayer. We know this because the Lord delivered him. So, the Lord answered Jephthah's prayer, and Jephthah was victorious.

Judges 11:34 — <sup>34</sup> **When Jephthah came to his house at Mizpah, there was his daughter, coming out to meet him with timbrels and dancing; and she was his only child. Besides her he had neither son nor daughter.**

Obviously, the writer articulated this to emphasize Jephthah's connection to and love for his only child. Parents, I don't think it's difficult for you to understand how much we love our children and how precious they are.

Judges 11:35 — <sup>35</sup> **And it came to pass, when he saw her, that he tore his clothes, and said, “Alas, my daughter! You have brought me very low! You are among those who trouble me! For I have given my word to the LORD, and I cannot go back on it.**

It is clear Jephthah was not thinking about his daughter when he made his vow. It never entered his mind that she would be the one selected that he would have to offer up. What was Jephthah thinking? We can speculate. There are people that develop bonds with their flock. Maybe Jephthah thought his flock would come running. It's possible. Maybe he thought about a servant. It is more probable that he was thinking about a servant than his daughter because the text is very clear that his daughter was not in his mind. He was beside himself.

This is where we get to the point of the story. It is mind-blowing. How did Jephthah's daughter respond when Jephthah told her the terms he made with the Lord through this vow? Did his daughter rage in anger, berate her father, and say, “You idiot! What were you thinking? How could you possibly do this to me. This is absolutely awful. You didn't even think about me. You don't even care about me.” There were so many negative ways that Jephthah's daughter could have responded, but did she do that? Listen to this, kids. This was the response from a daughter who honors her father:

Judges 11:36 — <sup>36</sup> **So she said to him, “My father, if you have given your word to the LORD, do to me according to what has gone out of your mouth, because the LORD has avenged you of your enemies, the people of Ammon.”**

This is one of the greatest examples we have in Scripture of someone walking out the command to honor their mother and father with integrity and to honor their Father in heaven. I look at the response

of this young girl, and I know everything I need to know about her because this woman had the fear of the living God. Her concern was to fulfill the word that Jephthah, her father, gave to the Lord. She was concerned about what the Lord thought. She loved her father and wanted this to go well, even at her own expense. This was a completely selfless act.

Judges 11:37 — <sup>37</sup> **Then she said to her father, “Let this thing be done for me: Let me alone for two months, that I may go and wander on the mountains and bewail my virginity, my friends and I.”**

Daughters that disrespect their father would have said, “Let me leave for two months,” and then not come home to fulfill this. They would have turned their back on their father and said, “I don't care what the Lord does to him. I will not be a part of this. You're not going to ruin my life because of what you said to the Lord.” She didn't do that.

Judges 11:38-39 — <sup>38</sup> **He said, “Go.” And he sent her away for two months; and she went with her friends, and bewailed her virginity on the mountains. <sup>39</sup>And it was so at the end of two months that she returned to her father, — just as she said she would — **and he carried out his vow with her which he had vowed. She knew no man. And it became a custom in Israel . . .** (Emphasis added).**

Let me briefly deal with the controversy for a moment because this is something I've had to talk about. Although it doesn't have much to do with our topic, I can't continue without addressing it. The controversy is: did Jephthah sacrifice his daughter by laying her upon an altar, slitting her throat, and burning her body as a burnt offering, *ʿôlâh*? I will answer that right up front: No. This passage is hotly debated, but I want you to consider some things.

Child sacrifice is mentioned in Torah and is an absolute abomination to God. God told the children of Israel in Leviticus 18, Leviticus 20, and Deuteronomy 18 not to do this. At the end of Deuteronomy 12, God warned them not to take on the practices of the nations and do that to Me. And that's what they did. They offered up their children. They sacrificed their children, not just infants, but grown children, too. God hates that. You immediately have a problem about what happened here because this was against the character and nature of God. Consider that even when God commanded Abraham to sacrifice his son, He did not allow him to go through with it. Do you really think the angel who held back the knife of Abraham to prevent the sacrificing of Isaac would not hold it back regarding this young girl? If that's how you're looking at this; that's problematic.

The other problematic thing is understanding the sacrifices that were acceptable before the Lord. Slide the child sacrifice thing totally out of the picture for a moment. Leviticus 22 specifically talks about the vow offerings, a sacrifice when you make a vow. Do you know what it says there? It explicitly says that it has to be perfect, without blemish, or God would not accept it. I've read enough of the Bible to know **“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”** (Romans 3:23). There is only One who is without blemish and that's why He died for us. He was a sinless spotless lamb. So, do you really think God would have accepted this sacrifice? Absolutely not. It wouldn't have been a perfect sacrifice.

Also, notice what Jephthah's daughter was bewailing in the story when Jephthah told her his vow. We don't know how old she was, but we can estimate she was in her teens. After hearing their father sentenced them to death (to be sliced with a knife and sacrificed on an altar as a burnt offering), most teens would lament their death, not their virginity. They would be worried about losing their life.



The last thing to notice is how it ends: “and he carried out his vow with her which he had vowed. She knew no man.” It doesn't say that he put her on the altar and killed her. It says, “She knew no man.”

We could continue talking about this, but Hannah made a similar vow. In her vow she said, “Lord, if you give me a male child, then I will give him to you.” (1 Samuel 1:1). What happened to this male child? Once he was weaned, Hannah totally dedicated the child to the Lord. She didn't have him. So, you see a similar thing going on here.

To understand the point of the story, regarding honoring mom and dad, look at the response of this girl who championed the cause as Isaac championed the cause. She was willing to lose everything for the sake of honoring her father just as Isaac was willing to in honoring his father. That is an awesome perspective. Talk about humbling! When you analyze this command in the Scriptures and what it means to honor mom and dad, it puts you in a completely different world.

With that said, we are going to close.