

*Mount Calvary, West View*

**ISAIAH 29: 11-19, EPHESIANS 5: 22-33, MARK 7: 1-13**

**HYMNS: LORD JESUS CHRIST, WITH US ABIDE LSB #585,**

**LORD, HELP US EVER TO RETAIN LSB #865,**

**THE GIFT CHRIST FREELY GIVES LSB #602,**

**SOUL, ADORN YOURSELF WITH GLADNESS LSB #636**

Theme: The Honorable Thing to Do

**+ Grace be to you and peace from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. AMEN +**

Our Text is from Saint Mark's Gospel, the 7<sup>th</sup> Chapter:

*And He said to them, "You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to establish your tradition! For Moses said, 'Honor your father and your mother'; and, 'Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.' But you say, 'If a man tells his father or his mother, Whatever you would have gained from me is Corban' (that is, given to God)—then you no longer permit him to do anything for his father or mother, thus making void the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And many such things you do."*

Honor Your Father and Your Mother. A simple command from God that establishes the necessary hierarchy in the family unit. It is the only answer to the age-old statement that many of us if not every of us angered offspring declares to the powers that be, "I didn't ask to be born!" Really, who truly does? Who could possibly want to be born into this sin-soaked world and deal with all that we have to deal with? I have here a list found on the internet<sup>1</sup>, citing 667 sins that we have to deal with on a daily basis. Is this a comprehensive list? I am sure next week we can add a few more; that is how depraved this world has become, so no, no one in their right mind wants to be born into this world.

Yet, there is the guide for the Christian to understand how one does live in this world, having been born into it, and that is our wonderful Ten Commandments, which state, among other things, honor your father and mother, that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. Having not asked

to be born, who wants to stay longer, but the command is still there. We need to honor the authorities of every kind, or you will not last long on this earth. Better yet, if you do obey the ruling authorities, you will enjoy your life more and your time on this earth will be more bearable. That is more like it! A reason for living! Taking care of your family, especially mom and dad are crucial to a happy life, and quite rewarding.

Ah, but there is a catch. As those wonderful bumper stickers explain, "I can only satisfy one person at a time, and today is not your day. Tomorrow is not looking good either." This is what the Jews were saying to their moms and dads when they were making a choice to take care of loved ones at the nursing home or donating to the temple for their basement repairs. There is only so much money to go around, and I can't take care of mom and dad and provide for the church donation needs so, sorry mom, sorry dad, God is the winner here. Cannot upset the BIG GUY.

The sad thing is, Korban is just a human tradition to set aside the special offering, and not allow anyone else to use it. God's law was to honor Father and Mother. The taking care of another human being far outweighs an untouchable CD in the local bank. Yet, the Jews failed to impress this upon the people, which is why Jesus explained, "You no longer permit him to do anything for his father or mother, thus making void the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down." You violate God's law, so you can enforce your own, is what Jesus is saying. He is also saying so much more is the problem when He goes on with the accusation, "And many such things you do."

This still goes on today. Every sin is justified by the rules I make for myself. Does not matter if God has a rule or not, sinful man justifies his existence by setting rules that make him come out on top. I want to satisfy my craving for companionship. God has a rule that there is no sex before marriage. That is number 6 on the big board, but that does not matter, says sinful man, "I do what I want." When there is a marriage, God asked the woman to be submissive, as to the Lord. Sinful Women say, "Oh no. No man tells me what to do!" God also tells the husband to love the wife like Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her. Sinful Man says, "I would if she did her part!" What a world we live in. Like I said,

who wants to be born into this mess?

I know somebody. Jesus was born into this mess, and we are so much the better that He has. Jesus willfully gave up His seat at the right hand of God to be born of a virgin, lived a life with all its hardships and problems, and preached a Word that the world refused to hear nor understand. Yet He did it all, even enduring shame and death upon a cross, willfully, just so that you can be released from this world by faith alone, and through the forgiveness graciously given, enter into eternal life with Him after this world is ended.

But it's not an exclusive future offer He presents to you, but a current reality as well. With the forgiveness you have in Christ Jesus, you really can come to the knowledge of the wisdom of God in understanding why He makes the rules as He does, and by grace follow them. With forgiveness in one another, you wives can submit to your husbands, you husbands can love your wives unconditionally, and you single people can resist temptation because you love yourself, cherish the gift God has given you, and understand life is not lived for self but for others; even if you haven't met that special other yet.

Once the New Man comes forth, it truly does live for service to God and man. Even though Ephesians 5 centers around marriage, and the commitment a man and woman have in holy matrimony as a reflection of Christ's love for His Church Universal, it is the same in our relationships with one another in all things. If I withhold love, care and concern for another human being regardless of the reason, I am not giving them honor as God asked me to do. Honor Father and mother is closely linked to commandment 8, "Do not bear false witness against thy neighbor." We should honor every creature of God, for they are all our brothers and sisters in creation. As such they are family, and we should not seek to hurt nor harm them, (Wait, that's number 6,) we should not seek to betray nor slander, but speak well of them, treat them with respect, even if they have not earned it, and put the best construction on everything. If we all did this, what a wonderful world we would have.

So, it begins within the family unit, with husband and wife loving one another even as Christ has loved the Church. Let each one of us love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her

husband. From here, it flows to the kids seeing the example, and honoring their parents even when they become the so-called burden and flows to our neighbors to help them in any way we can. After all, because Christ has loved us and given Himself for us and given us everlasting life through faith in Him, it is only the honorable thing to do. In our Triune God's Name, we pray. **AMEN.**

+ AND NOW MAY THE PEACE OF GOD WHICH SURPASSES ALL UNDERSTANDING  
KEEP YOUR HEARTS AND MINDS IN UNION WITH CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD. AMEN+

**There are only two days on my calendar...today and the day of judgment**

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<sup>i</sup> [www.wogim.org/sinlist.htm](http://www.wogim.org/sinlist.htm)