

21-Feb-2011

5.2: More Vile Than This

Dear E_____,

Greater care in analysis and study by you is required before you can compare my relationship with my daughter to any other parent/child or husband/wife relationship. When she left home at age 18, I did not pursue after her, and I dissuaded all family members who would listen to refrain from offering to her any help, and beyond that, I cursed, instead of blessed, her marriage. Because I took such a strong stance against her, she sought to do injury to me. Six years later, my prayers for her were justifiable because I was commanded to so do by the Lord's testimony. The Lord said, "***bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you***" —Matt 5: 44. Regarding your wife, you too, assuming that she meets these qualifications, can pray for her. Let that be her consolation.

Regarding your children, why would you conclude from the E-mail that you need to consider abandoning or forsaking your young children so that it would become a question? The message has always taught that family members who reject the truth are to, themselves, be rejected by the disciples who emerge from that same family. Such obviously cannot apply to young babies and children. Of course, when a husband and wife separate, if that is indeed the resolution to your problem, complexities arise for the young children. Yet, fathers can still be devoted to their children. In fact, under the umbrella of the Kingdom empowerment soon to be thrust upon all, the time when the *mustard seed* will be commanded to leave Zion and rule with the rod, you, being a part of that work, will have authority to unquestionably take full custody of your young children. This will result from

THE DAY OF PURGING~~~~~. I am impressed that I have not been given the full story pertaining to your marriage; it seems that some details are missing which preclude me from fully answering your question. This tactic is your prerogative as I am not the Pope. I do not need to receive confessions or full knowledge of all the intimate details of your family life; you merely need to wisely apply all the counsel already given. Still, my previous impression was that your wife sent you away. And, even before I received that information, my advice to all was that when such things happen, when wives who oppose this light dismiss their husbands, they must not pursue after them. Perhaps I didn't fully understand your circumstances then with your spouse, or perhaps I am missing information to give me a complete picture. If such is the case, I cannot be expected give to you a full judgment.

What should you do now, is your question. This is a concern that I likewise cannot answer without the full story. If my presumption is correct and your wife split away from you or "forsook you" back when you first wrestled with this issue, then such was the answer already given to address your dilemma. This being the case and if you returned to her seeking reconciliation, then your question should be different: You should ask, how many times can one expect the Father to prune them from the same situation? "***I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.***" —John 15: 1, 2. Does He not do so to allow one to bear more fruit? And, if one seeks reattachment, are they not working at variance with His cause? Our work is not lip service only; our faith must yield a reaction. "***As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me***" —John 6: 57. "***Ye shall therefore keep my statutes, and my judgments: which if a man do, he shall live in them...***" —Lev 18: 5 (found also in *Ezek 20*, cited in the *Rod*). If your wife is an enemy to your work causing you to violate well entrenched principles of righteousness, such as Sabbath-keeping, such as

5.2: More Vile Than This

anger at your days of lengthy communion with the brethren in study, etc., then she needs to be told—in no uncertain terms—that she seeks to wedge herself between you and your Lord, that she needs to embrace the truth if she desires to save her marriage, and that you are committed to serve the Lord with or without her. This is what the Lord meant when He promised blessings to the disciples who forsake wife and children. When the children are old enough, then a similar message can be delivered to them. On the other hand, if your wife does the things that are required of her, if she helps you meet your duties to grow God’s Kingdom, then you have no problem. The two of you can walk as one; you can become one flesh, a unity which no man can put asunder will prevail upon you.

You mentioned my daughter and her rebellion as a lesson for you, and such is not only your right, but it is also your duty. This was the very reason why her rebellion was published. But all should know that such was the greatest trauma of my life. To preserve my wife’s sanity and to comfort her took much prayer. When at work, I would interrupt my work, go to an isolated, bathroom stall, and cry out to the Lord for help—not to win my daughter back, but—to calm the storm that assaulted my wife and me. Vinnette is still in need of such calm because we both put all our efforts in raising our children. Knowing this, I must quickly add that our entire experience in that trauma is now paying dividends like a successful wall-street investment. Our experience gives encouragement to others and helps them to have similar strength of commitment, and to boot, our faithfulness will give to us total victory. I say this lest any should consider that they bear their cross alone. But I must also say that Vinnette and I have for a long time concluded that if our daughter, was to be preserved, it will only come—not by our favoritism, but— by our fully resting her plight in the Lord’s care. We must know, by faith, that He manages our happiness, and His purging will ultimately be our joy. This principle I “lived” in my life as illustrated by her medical, near-death experience: When she was in her coma, I still tabled her health and did the Lord’s bidding. Then, brother Jose and I had a previously scheduled study in Florida some 1200 miles away. Leaving Vinnette behind and not knowing if our daughter would live or die, I risked full ridicule by dutifully keeping my engagement. In our flight back after the Friday and Sabbath study, as we took our last connection, the call came to me in the airport saying that she came out of her coma. For this, I perfected my resolve to always put the Lord’s work first. After she came to, it was merely days before she was completely restored making her total hospital experience a little longer than a week. Again I say, the experts were shocked. These things all should know so that they realize they do not stand alone. All of the brethren have faced similar challenges in faith, and the point is made more comprehensible when you consider appropriate and

RETROACTIVE COUNSEL TO ADAM~~~~~. To further assist you in your dilemma, I must ask you to imagine that you are speaking to Adam just before he sampled the forbidden fruit. Imagine that he asked you for counsel as follows: “What should I do, Brother Saint; stay with Eve and eat or stand by Christ and comply with His commandments and watch the joy, the flower, of my life forever pass from me?” What would be your answer to him? As you ponder, remember that the Lord condemns hypocrisy—See Matt 6: 5; 23: 23. Had Adam made the correct choice, that which the MSA recommends, had he forsaken his wife, then he, though he did not then realize it, would have won on every count. To believe this, it would require nothing more than faith. He would have retained life, but surprisingly, he would have also retained Eve and perhaps, like as the Lord rewarded David, he also would have been given at least a second wife, one through whom to produce his seed. The lesson in David can resonate here:

“...So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obedom into the city of David with gladness. And David danced before the Lord with all his might: and David was girded with a linen ephod. So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the Lord with shouting and with the sound of the trumpet. And as the ark of the Lord came into the city of David, Michal Saul’s daughter looked through a window, and saw king David leaping and dancing before the Lord; and she despised him in her heart. Then David returned to bless his household. And Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David, and said, How glorious was the king of Israel to day, who uncovered himself to day in the eyes of the handmaids of his servants, as one of the vain fellows shamelessly uncovereth himself! And David said unto Michal,

The Mustard Seed Advent, 21-Feb-2011

It was before the Lord, which chose me before thy father, and before all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the Lord, over Israel: therefore will I play before the Lord. And I will yet be more vile than thus, and will be base in mine own sight: and of the maid-servants which thou hast spoken of, of them shall I be had in honour. Therefore Michal the daughter of Saul had no child unto the day of her death.”—2Sam 6: 12, 14-16, 20-23.

David was overjoyed when the Ark, the box which contained His law, was returned. All do not have to share his great joy; some can reservedly sit back and dispassionately observe the day when the Lord recovers His law, but such unenthusiastic, sideline spectators cannot expect to become the Lord's leaders. **“Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments,...shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”**—Matt 5: 19. How does your home respond when you too seek to bless it with a renewed emphasis on the law? Hopefully, you will get a more positive reaction than David got from Michal (Mə cal'). Because David's first wife, Saul's daughter, a sideline, window-seat observer, spurned him for his faithfulness, her womb was cursed and his seed was engendered through others. The severity of this punishment was not handed down from David; it came from the Lord. So we see that because we desire to show grace and love, it does not mean that the Lord honors our opinions or shares our favor. Women who reject His Kingdom will be refused of the Lord, and to show that we honor His judgments, we too must likewise forsake them.

Why was Michal so punished? Think!— her sin was like that of Eve: She warred against the faithfulness of her king and husband. It was not because she despised the Lord but because she loathed David's honor of Him. This she did even though David showed to her much grace. After he married her in his youth, her father, Saul, vindictively gave her to another man (see 1Sam 25: 44). Yet, even after David took her back, she still, from that lowly perch, exaltingly spurned his devotion to Christ. She thought that he, by exposing himself in his public enthusiasm, was undignified before the young, on-looking and single women, the maids. David's answer was, “you and the young girls haven't seen anything yet!” “Those maids whom you desire to be preserved in delicacy shall I have also, and to them **“I will yet be more vile than thus, and will be base in mine own sight...of them shall I be had in honour.”** David's passion was to be unleashed upon pure women who respected him and his service to Christ. To such women, he would humble himself or reduce himself to eye level baseness, things considered vile, to express his passion. And, those Kingdom-bound “maids” delighting in his enthusiasm will joyously extol upon him his due respect, his honor.

Reverting back to Adam, had he shown the same enthusiastic faith, a similar blessing would have been his. By rebuking Eve and exalting the Lord's commands, he would have taken a similar stand for Christ as did David against Michal. We can at least resolve that, had he remained loyal, he would have taught to all an even more brilliant lesson than we have already learned from his mindless laps, his fall, and as stated above, he could have been given the Lord's reward and also retained Eve at his side. Then Eve, instead of wandering and teaching her daughters to disrespect their husband's faithfulness to Christ, she would have learned to more highly cherish every opportunity of intimacy at Adam's side seeking and finding joy in every base and passionate interlude with him. This she would have learned by observing and hearing of Adam's engagements with his other “maids” whom the Lord would have also given him. Resultantly, instead of spending her time frolicking with the animals and coveting the Lord's wisdom seeking His knowledge, she and all the daughters of God would have learned what it means to give your whole heart to Christ. Sadly, it did not happen that way; the *mustard seed's* counsel to Adam, the same given to you, did not prevail. Since Adam made the wrong choice, he was cursed for eating the forbidden fruit. The record does not show that Eve was cursed for the same reason. After first cursing the serpent, then Eve, we are, without the possibility of contradiction, was told the following: **“And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, OF WHICH I COMMANDED THEE, SAYING, THOU (not Eve) shalt not eat of it: cursed is the**

5.2: More Vile Than This

ground for thy sake...” —Gen 3: 17. After all, Adam was commanded not to eat of the fruit before Eve was even created.

All disciples today must rebuke the influences of disparity against the Lord in their homes; like David, they must seek to bless their homes. They cannot show favoritism because of social connections. They must be willing to celebrate, indeed dance for the Lord’s goodness, the ark which contains His law, no matter how vile they are perceived by the onlookers. This they will learn to do today when they fully understand that there is no goodness apart from the Law; it was given for our good. *“And now, Israel, what doth the Lord thy God require of thee,...To keep the commandments of the Lord, and his statutes, which I command thee this day for thy good”* —Deut 10: 12, 13. Before they can ever hope to lead Israel in righteousness, they must first determine to resist the wayward influences of the Eves and the Michals of their lives, even if this means leaving them. This topic has been much discussed. The resolution of the matter is simple: Obey Christ and seek to please Him. Leave your happiness in His care, and do as He commands. When you do so, anticipate that you too will win on all counts just as did David.

Sincerely,

Derek