

Honor Your Father and Mother



Bro. Ricky Cunningham
Exodus 20:12

I want to ask you a question just right off the bat though. Has anyone ever told you to tell somebody something for them, and you did it? You know, my life has kind of changed a little bit. Our kids moved out and Celisa and I had a lot of direct communication there for a little while. Then Crider came. Then Finley came. Then Garnett came. And now, we have Evie Kate. A lot of times, we find ourselves talking to each other through them. Do you know what I mean? For example, Crider will come to me and say, "Papaw, Memish said..." And when Crider tells me something to do that Memish told me to do, I do it not because Crider told me, but because Memish told me. See, Crider was the one telling me, but it wasn't really Crider telling me. It was Memish telling me through Crider. Everybody understands that, right? Sometimes I'll give Crider a message to give to Finley or Garnett, and I will hear Crider telling the boys what I said. The boys do what Papaw said even though Papaw wasn't telling them directly. Crider was telling them, but Crider's message wasn't Crider's message, it was Papaw's message.

This morning as I stand before you, I know we know this, but I just want to make sure you realize this afresh this morning. I have the responsibility this morning of speaking on God's behalf to you. Thank you for the privilege of studying God's word and standing before you this morning

believing I have a word from God. But, please remember if you respond or don't respond you aren't responding or not responding to me. I'm just the messenger. I don't know what kind of reaction you're going to have to this verse. Some people struggle with this verse; others don't. But, guys, this is what God says.

Scripture:

Exodus 20:12 Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

When I began this sermon at the first of the week, I thought...*Man, I can't speak 20 minutes on this passage.* By the time early this morning rolled around, we probably need about four weeks to truly unpack the truth in this fifth commandment. It's so simple yet so elegant and so profound...Honor your father and your mother. I've asked myself four questions about this commandment and I really believe they capture the significance of the commandment. And, if you don't mind, I just want to follow them in our teaching. We are going to ask what, we are going to ask why, we are going to ask who, and, then we are going to ask how when the Bible says honor your father and your mother.

1. What?

What is God saying to the nation of Israel when he specifically says in the fifth commandment, "honor your father and your mother?" See, if we were the children of Israel, when we heard God say "honor," we would know from our upbringing from just our life conversations that this word "to honor" literally means to make heavy or to make something weigh more. So, if you honor someone you give them their proper worth. You make their value, significance, and influence in your life heavy.

I don't know why, but my mother, my wife also, from time-to-time steps up on scales to weigh. And, I have this picture in my mind of honoring my mother and my father because I remember as a kid Momma pulling out the bathroom scale, stepping onto the scale, and one morning she was

surprised at how much more she weighed today than she did yesterday. You could just hear her! Now, I don't know if she knew and just acted like she didn't know, but on that particular morning I slipped up behind her while she was on the scale and I put my foot on the back of the scale and added my foot to her weight. She was shocked! I literally honored my mother. I made my mother weigh more! I made my mother heavy!

That's the word picture here. It's the picture of Celisa and I going to the farm. We have a bulk bin where they fill it up with feed and then we have these empty sacks that hardly weigh anything- they are light- when you are packing them around you don't even know they're there. Then, we put them under that bulk bin, we pull a lever, and then that sack begins to fill up. Now, being the man, I fill my sack up full and it's heavy. When Celisa puts her sack under there, she doesn't make her sack as heavy. See, each one of us has a choice of how much weight we are going to put in the sack. We choose how much weight we are going to add to the sack. And, you have a choice of how much value, how much significance you place on your parents- your mother and your father. That's what this word means. When you think about your parents, does it have any influence on you at all? Is it really light weight? Do you go weeks without thinking of them? Or, is there that heaviness? They add weight to you as you add weight to them. Who are we honoring? Our father and our mother, not them as a married couple, not them as our parents, but them as our individual parents. I honor my dad and the relationship I have with him and I honor my mom and the relationship I have with her. And to each one, I honor...to each one, I add weight.

Now, you know that my whole life, ever since I was a kid that I've heard that I look like my dad. And, because everyone seems to talk about my dad and that he is a handsome guy, I've never shied away from that. I thought...*well, if he's handsome and they say I look like him then I must be handsome. So, I'm going to believe I'm handsome because of what I've heard you say about my dad and what you've said about me, that I look like my dad.* But what you may not know is my mother has heard that her whole life and there has been many times where my mom would pull me to

the side and say, "Now, Ricky, I know everybody tells you, you look like your dad, but I want you to know that you act like me." Yeah, that's what my mom has been saying to me.

I think you know this about me, but I honor my father and I honor my mother because I fully believe to a certain degree, to a great degree, that I am who I am as a dad and as a husband and as a pastor because of my mom and my dad. I just want you to know this, God could have never brought me to this church and let me be the pastor of this church had I not from my dad learned the work ethic that I learned from him. I couldn't have done it. But, neither could I have done it had I not had my momma's personality. Do you understand how I say that? Therefore, it is no problem; it is with ease that I can honor my mother and my father. I put weight on them; I value them heavily. That's what it means to honor your father and your mother.

2. Why?

The passage specifically says there is a consequence if I honor my father and my mother. Do you know what will happen? I get more days on the planet. The actual days that God gives me in the land are longer days. Now, I want you to know that I personally believe this has an individual aspect to it, but I think it primarily has a national aspect to it. So, what God is doing here is teaching us of value in this commandment. It is the first commandment with promise because he understands there is a significant consequence to a nation's life when a nation who takes the land honors their father and their mother. Their life will be radically different and that's lived out on a national level, but it's also lived out on an individual level. Does that make sense? So, why do we honor our mother and father? Because they are worthy of honor? No. See, some of you don't honor your parents because you don't think they're worthy of honor. You don't honor your parents because they are worthy of honor. You honor your parents because God says to honor your parents. So, if you're not honoring your parents you are sinning against God. And there isn't only a

consequence to you and your family, but there is also a consequence to our nation.

You do know this, right? The first four commandments we've dealt with deal with our relationship with God, but now we begin to deal with the final six commandments and they do not deal with our relationship with God. They deal with our relationship with other people. And, the foundational commandment that deals with us dealing with other people is how we first deal with our parents- our father and our mother. See, the first commandments deal with our vertical relationship with God. The last half of the commandment deals with our horizontal relationship with humanity. And here is what happens, when you are right with God and living in relationship with him, the natural fruit of your life is you're person that honors your parents. Why? Because the fundamental, foundational relationship that you first had was a relationship with your parents.

Now, everybody here knows Brother Ricky believes that once you get married, that relationship is primary and all others are secondary, amen? But that's not the first relationship you had. The first relationship you had was a child/parent relationship, and if I can say this, that's the relationship that has affected you more than any other relationship outside of Jesus. Some of you are and have been the husband or wife you are or have been because of your parents, good or bad. If you're sitting here and you're a parent, you don't have to worry about the school having more influence than you. The school will never have more influence than you. The church will never have more influence than you. Culture will never have more influence than you. You have the most influence in the life of your child. So, if you're one of those that blame the school system, forget it! If you blame the church, forget it! If you blame culture, forget it!

So, what's God telling us here? He's telling us about the foundational relationship of society. And do you know what it is? It's the parent/child relationship. See, here's what God is telling the children of Israel in this commandment, you and I learn how to live under authority by learning how to live under the authority of our parents, and having the proper

attitude in that relationship is paramount to the relationship. Does that make sense? God is getting ready to take his people, he's freed them from Egypt, they're going into the land, and they think they're free. Yes, they're free, but they're free only as long as they're living under the authority of their parents if they're still at home. Wow! But, what he wants them to know is that relationship that they had with their parents is going to affect every other relationship they have in the land. So, we have to get that right! How do we get that right? We get that right by honoring our father and our mother. As a matter of fact, he says there is a consequence. He says if you don't honor your father and mother, guess what? I'm not going to let you live; you're going to die. You do know this, right? After the 10 commandments, in Exodus chapter 21 it says that if any man or woman ever curses his father and mother, guess what? You die. Have any of you ever cursed your parents? You better be glad you're not living back then or you wouldn't be living right now. I've heard people talk about how they got mad, lost their temper, and pushed their mom or dad or hit their mom or dad. You died if you did that! In Deuteronomy chapter 21, the Bible talks about a boy who wouldn't listen to his mom and dad. Mom and Dad tried to discipline him and he wouldn't listen. They took him to the elders and do you know what the elders of the land did? They stoned the boy to death. Boy, that solved a lot of problems. You didn't have the oldest son being a negative influence on his brothers. If that son was a bad influence you took him out. If you had a cousin that cousin didn't negatively influence the whole family because if that cousin dishonored mom and dad then that cousin lost his life! That's how serious this is.

Why is it serious? Because the fabric of a family, the fabric of a church, the fabric of a nation, and the fabric of the world is built on this principle of what we learn in that first relationship and that's how to be under authority. Yet, be free under authority. Here was a people who were going to be free for the first time not living under the authority of Pharaoh. So, they had this thought of going into the land and just living free. God is saying yes, but to be free you have to be under authority. Therefore, you honor authority. Where do you learn to honor authority? You learn to honor authority in the home. If you don't learn to honor authority in the

home then you will never honor authority. Our country would be different if we would have stoned Ferris Bueller. Amen? Or, if we would have taken Beavis and Buttthead out back and stoned those boys. Amen?

Why is this the first commandment with promise? Why is it the commandment that the other commandments are built on? It's because when we lose that honor in the child/parent relationship we lose the family, we lose the church, and we lose the nation. One day historians will look back on our history differently than they are looking on it now. I am not a prophet, but I believe this to be the truth, in 100 years if they look back on our country the most pivotal decade will be the decade of the 1960s. And, some of you, your generation helped cause it. For the first time in this nation, we believed it was ok to fully and finally rebel against parental authority and do what we wanted to do. It was celebrated on university campuses, it was celebrated in the squares of the country, and a culture revolution started in the name of being free and doing what you wanted to do. Yet, nobody was wise enough to step forward and tell a generation of people that you aren't free, you're enslaving yourself to your sinful lusts and there will be a consequence. And, it tore at the very fabric of the country. Now, if you want to see a show on T.V. that honors mom and dad you have to go back and pull a show from 30 years ago. Am I not right?

It's all rooted in this principle of honoring your father and your mother. Why? Because God knows I'm not free driving down the road unless I'm under authority. I probably shouldn't tell this, but I've got to tell it because it's the truth. When I'm driving down the road and its 55 MPH, I don't worry when I meet those certain guys in the church with the cars. I'M FREE! But, when I'm just a little bit over the 55 and I see one of them sitting on the side of the road I come to a screeching halt! I don't know about you, but when you are not living under the authority of the speed laws, aren't you always looking for one of those guys? Inside, don't you feel like you shouldn't be doing what you're doing? Then, you get passed by one of them and it justifies... *well, if they can do it, I can do it*. No! We aren't free. True freedom doesn't come from doing what you want to do. True freedom comes from doing what you OUGHT to be doing.

So, God starts us out in the home learning to be under the authority of our parents so that ultimately we will be under the authority of him. So, ultimately when we go to school, work, and live life we understand what freedom is and freedom is bringing us up under the authority of God! The nation that honors the generation before it is the nation that lives a better life. And, that individual family that honors the generation before them, their mother, their dad, and their grandparents before them, lives a better life because it is sewn into the fabric of the very DNA of a person who believes the very word of God.

3. Who?

Have you ever noticed this? This commandment wasn't written to the children of the children of Israel. It was written to the children of Israel- God's covenant people in the Old Testament. I think sometimes we make this mistake of believing this commandment is to be taught in First Fruits Farm and in Vacation Bible School, but once you leave your parents' home, somehow this commandment is no longer relevant in our life. That's not true. This commandment was written to the children of Israel. Two times in the New Testament this commandment is quoted, once by Jesus and once by Paul. Now, I just happen to believe if Jesus quoted it and Paul quoted it, it's still binding, amen? So, guess who this commandment is written to? All children. All children of God who are children. If you are a child would you raise your hand? Raise your hand if you're a child. That's all of us! If you're here, you're a child. One thing we share in common- we all have a momma and we all have a daddy. So, guess who this command is to? It's to everyone here whether you are 2 or 102 does not matter. God says to each one of us, through Brother Ricky, honor your father and your mother.

4. How?

How do I honor my father and my mother? First, I want to give you a general principle. See, I know some of you guys have been struggling since

we started because you're saying...*Brother Ricky, this is easy for you to say because you had a momma and daddy like you had, but I didn't have a momma and daddy like you.* I understand that, but if I had been you and had a mom and dad like you had, or if you had been me and had a mom and dad like I had, we are still under the same command and that is to honor our momma and our daddy. There are no exceptions. But because our circumstances are different, how do each one of us do it in our individuality? And then, how do we do it as a nation? I want to give you a principle on how we do it. I want to give you five groups of people that are here this morning and I'm going to try to give each one of us some practical advice on how to honor our momma and our daddy. But, I want to give you this principle first of all that you've got to buy into and if you don't buy into this then we are going to disagree. But if you do buy into this then we are going to ok.

Principle #1: Without them I wouldn't be here.

Without them, I wouldn't be here. Let me tell you why I've got to say that because not all of us believe that. Somehow some of us have the belief that we could still be here yet have a different set of parents and how radically different that life would have been if we would have been here with a different set of parents. It's not possible. The only possibility for you being here is to have the momma and the daddy you have. So without them you wouldn't be here.

Principle #2: Without them I wouldn't be who I am.

You say Brother Ricky, that's the problem...I am who I am because of them. I know, but this is our starting point. Without them, I wouldn't be who I am. Your parents had a positive influence on you and your parents had a negative influence on you. For some of us, the positive influence was really big and the negative influence was really small. For some of us, the positive influence was really small and the negative influence was really big. But here's the truth: without them you wouldn't be here and without

them you wouldn't be who you are. Now, let me give you two subpoints under this point that change everything for you as a child.

1. You should learn from their mistakes

2. You should build on their strengths

If I believe I am who I am and I wouldn't be here without my parents then I've also got to buy into this. While, yes, they taught me how to live under authority when I didn't want to live under authority, now that I am grown I can honor them now looking back because I can learn and have learned from the mistakes they made. But, at the same time I learned from their mistakes they made, I have also gained and began to build on the strengths they had.

Now, what does this look like? First, let's talk about growing children. If you're a growing child, here is what Ephesians 6:1 says, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right." Then, in verse 2 he says, "Honor your father and your mother," and then he quotes the promise. So, the apostle Paul in the New Testament, when he is talking about the church being filled with the Spirit, talks about the husband who is controlled by the Spirit loves his wife like Christ loved the Church. Then he talks about the wife who is controlled by the Spirit follows the leadership of her husband. Then Paul zeros in on the children because he understands this is a significant relationship where we learn about authority. He says for the children to obey your parents in the Lord for this is right. Children, here is what God told me to tell you this morning, obey your parents! Even if you're still living under their roof, even if you're 21, I don't care. Are we clear?

Now, everybody listen to me. This word, "obey" is a compound word and it means to be under in order to hear. And, here's the picture, if you're a child living under your parents' home, would you just touch both of ears? Now, count them. You have one on this side and one on that side. So, how many ears do you have? Two! How many mouths do you have? One! You

have two ears to hear with and one mouth to talk with, right? Now, when your parents tell you something you open both of those ears and you close your mouth. You're not listening when you're talking back to your parents or grandparents.

Kids, listen to this! The Bible doesn't say your parents are always right. There are going to be occasional times when your parents may not be right, but you're never right to disobey them. Never. Here is what the Bible says is right, based on the principle of honoring your father and your mother, you should obey your parents. So, how does a child living at home honor his mother and his dad? By obeying them. Which means when Mom and Dad come into the room and tell you something that is a command like quit playing and come to the dinner table, do you know what you immediately do? Mouth closed, ears open, quit playing, and go to the dinner table immediately. When you open your mouth to say something you are now in disobedience. If Mom and Dad thought you needed five more minutes to finish the game and then come to supper, Mom and Dad would say take five more minutes, finish the game, and then come to supper, but that's not what Mom and Dad said. Mom and Dad said come to supper now. You come now. In our household, we call this "minding." We don't use the word, "obey"; we saying "minding" because here's what minding means, minding means you heard, it went into your brain, somewhere there's a mind in there, and when that mind grabs hold of this, the mind sends out signals to the hands, feet, and rest of the body. Then, all of a sudden, the body lets us know what's going on in the mind. So, if the body is still doing what we said not to do then we know that the mind isn't listening and isn't paying attention. So, in our household, we say things like this, "Crider, you're not minding Papaw." And we know something is going on in the head because the head is not sending the message to the hands and feet to stop playing the toy and come to the table. Obeying. Disobeying...if I'm under the authority of my parents and I still live at home I've got to mind.

Now, I want you guys to notice this, Paul didn't say obey your father and your mother. We're supposed to honor our father and our mother, but we

obey our parents. That's cool! Do you know why there is a difference? It's because we honor our father and mother in their individuality, but we obey them in their togetherness. I honor them in their singleness, but I obey them in their togetherness. Now, I want to give you a pet peeve of mine. Children, listen up. If you're still living at home, don't you ever do this. Don't you ever play your parents against each other. You usually know if one parent wouldn't let you do something...so instead of asking them, you go to the parent that you think would let you do it and you get their permission to do it. Then, after you have permission to do it from that parent you now go to the other parent. And they tell you that you can't do it, and you say, "But Daddy said I could!" Children, look at me. God put your mom and dad together and when you play them against each other, you're tearing down what God is putting together. Don't do that! Because if you do it with Momma and Daddy then you'll do it at school among friends and down the road, it will affect you the rest of your life. So God is wanting you at home to learn that the things that he puts together he wants you to respect them. Because you have to believe this, ultimately what Mom and Dad want for you is best.

Now, the second time this passage is quoted it is quoted by Jesus and it's kind of strange. This is what I call not a growing child, but a grown child. See, there is a time when we are young and we need our parents because we are too young to make right decisions for ourselves. Does everybody agree? But if you get blessed to live long enough there is going to come a time as a parent where you live to be so old that you're going to need your kids. Ephesians 6 talks about when you're too young, but Matthew 15 talks about when they're too old, and here's the context, the Pharisees come to Jesus, and say...*hey, why is your disciples breaking the traditions of the elders?* Jesus looked at them and said...*tell me first why you're breaking the command of God by your traditions.* Whoa! (If I had been around Jesus, I wouldn't have spoken very much, would you? I would have wanted to be one of those unnamed disciples!) Now, before they could even answer, he said...*Honor your father and mother, and whoever dishonors his father and mother is to be cursed. And yet, you take your money that you ought to use to help your parents while they're old and call it corban,*

meaning you designate it to me, and now you go to your parents and say, 'sorry, I can't help you, Mom and Dad, because the money that I have that is extra I'm giving to the church and I'm giving it to God.' Does everybody understand what is going on here?

See, Jewish society prizes the family unit because the family unit was the foundation of society. So, they knew there was a time when we kids needed our parents, but Jewish society also knew there was a time when our parents would be so old they would need us. Do you know what God expects a child to do who is grown? Honor his father and mother and if they ever get to that age where they can't do for themselves, God expects you and I to be there for them. And we can't hide behind things like, "Oh yeah, I donated children's wing." "Oh, by the way, I'm supporting a missionary." No! Please don't take this in a critical way, I'm sure the establishment of Social Security was a good thing in this country, but God never put it on the back of the government to take care of our parents. God put that on my shoulders as a child. If I get blessed long enough for my parents to live long enough, one of the ways I honor them is by helping them in their old age.

I've seen that lived out by many of you. A couple of weeks ago, my cousin's mother, which is my Aunt Gertie, had a stroke. DeAnna came home from Florida because she was on vacation. Gertie went through rehab and she is now at home. Ben and Sissy, every hour they're not working, they are trying to be with her. That's honoring your mother. I watched my sister in the last months of my mom's life not just clean her house, but clean my mom's house too. And while still working and still being a Gigi, I still see her help my dad in ways my dad cannot help himself. He needs my sister and my sister honors my dad. I've seen some of you heartbroken having to help your parents get into a retirement center and you go every day, four days a week. Your wife doesn't say anything, your husband doesn't say anything because you so honor your father and your mother that you're there for them. Joey and Tammy brought his dad home for five years. Why? Because they honor their parents. Some of you the closest place you could get is two hours away

and you can't go every day but you still go weekly because you know there was a time when you were so young that you needed them, but now they are old and they need you. This is why it shatters us in the church to think about those doctors who want to euthanize the elderly! We see those statistics that talk about how an elderly person who lives those last five years of their lives are actually draining our resources as a nation and someone has said their life isn't worth living. NO! But honestly, after what happened in the 1960s and then we decided to give a woman a choice about what is going on in her body, is it any wonder that we now decide it just may not be convenient to let our parents live past a certain age? You don't think this is happening, but states have already passed the laws. Why? Because we are no longer a society that honors that foundational relationship, that first relationship in our life and that's the relationship we have with our parents. And it determines the kind of life we live as a society and it especially determines the kind of life we will live as a family.

But some of you aren't in either one of those positions. You're in the position where you've left your mom and dad, you've cleaved to your husband or wife, and you ask, "How do I now still honor my mom and dad?" How do I leave them and still honor them? Here's how you do that, it's really simple. When you put value on them you will recognize as a couple that there are times when you need to call Dad and just say something like, "Hey, Dad, I'm getting ready to do this, I've never been here before, but I know you have. Would you tell me what you'd do if you were in my shoes?" You just honored your dad. I can't tell you how it thrills me as a dad when Kory calls and he's in a situation that he knows I've been in before, but he hasn't and he just wants to know what I think. All I do is tell him what I think. I don't expect him to do what I say do because he's not under my authority anymore, but he just honored me. I can't tell you how many times they call Memish and they just want to know what she would do or think. They just honored her. Don't let that be a threat to you if you're an in-law because, here's what I'm telling you, if you have a wife or a husband who so honors their parents that way, you will live a better life because of it. Now, parents, we don't tell them what to do. And

if they messed up like we messed up that's ok! We never say a word!
Amen? But, this foundation stays solid.

Now, I know it's inevitable. Some of you are sitting here saying, "Brother Ricky, I just didn't have the parents that you had." I know. So, what do you do if you have those parents, who honestly, the world says aren't deserving of honor? First of all remember this—without them, you wouldn't be here and you wouldn't be who you are. And if you will build on their strengths and learn from their mistakes, you will be who God wants you to be. But what do you do right now? Here's what you do right now- forgive them. Some of you still haven't forgiven your parents. Forgive them. Pray for them. Sincerely pray for them. Pray for God to work his work of salvation in your mom and dad's life. You can't really pray for them until you forgive them. If you think you're praying for them, but you haven't forgiven them, if you're really praying then you'll forgive them. So, once you're praying for them and once you've forgiven them, now be gracious to your parents. Treat your parents graciously. Don't treat them the way they treated you. Don't treat them the way they deserve to be treated. You treat them the way you know God wants you to treat them and that's you being gracious. You treat them the way they don't deserve to be treated. Then, are you ready? You can do those three things, but you have to do this fourth one. You now release them from any expectations that you have of them. Here's what keeps some of us in turmoil, we are forgiving, we are praying, we are being gracious, and we expect them to change. They may not change. You keep running to them expecting a different result and it breaks your heart, and you go through this cycle every time. Expectations kill relationships. So, if you'll approach your parents being totally forgiven, being totally prayed for, you being totally gracious, and you remove the expectations, wow, you just honored your mom and your dad. That's how you honor them. You forgive them and you pray for them. Then, you just honored your parents and you will have kids that will now honor you because they see how you honored your parents when your parents didn't deserve it. And now, all of a sudden, your kids know there is something different about you, you're really a Christian and it changes your

family dynamic forever. Your kids will now honor you when you couldn't honor your parents.

Now, in closing, I'm still a child but I don't have a momma. I'm still to honor my mom and my dad, so what do I do? I will never forget my mom. I will always remember her and I will always speak well of her. Why? Because I've gained from her strengths and without her, I wouldn't be here. Without her, I wouldn't be who I am. So, I've gained from her strengths. My mother made mistakes and I've learned from her mistakes and because I've learned from my momma's mistakes I can remember her and speak well of her so that my children will always remember Mammie. And Crider, Finley, Garnett, and Evie Kate who have never met her will one day know Mammie because Evie Kate's Papaw will honor his mother and honor his father. This is what's missing in our nation and it's what God tells us is the foundational relationship of the family and society. Because where did we learn authority? We learned authority in the home and that's why mom and dad can release their children to leave them and go cleave to someone else because we know they'll be free to live under the authority God has in their life.

So can we ask ourselves; do we really value the fifth commandment? If I'm a growing child, I'm going to obey my parents. If I'm a grown child, I'm going to care for my parents. If I'm in the middle, I'm going to honor them by seeking their advise and counsel. Or, maybe I'm going to forgive my mom and dad. I'm going to quit blaming them and I'm going to start praying for them. Where are you at? If you want an example, have you ever noticed the relationship Jesus had with his father? His father asked him to do something that was really, really tough and that was to bear the punishment of the whole world. He knew he'd be separated from his father and he did it to please his father. Let's honor our father and our mother.