



Honoring Our Fathers & Mothers

Honoring our Fathers and Mothers, is a practice that Jesus took very seriously. Even amid the agony and while suffering on the cross of Calvary, Jesus was obedient to the Word of God (Ex.20:12) and considered the well-being of his mother, Mary. Jesus said to her, "Woman behold your Son!" Then He said to John, as He hung on the tree, "Behold your mother!" And from that hour, John took Mary into his own home. This precious consideration of His mother's welfare brings a tear to every mother's eye. (John 19:26-27)

Moms always want to be close to the hearts of their children; to be honored by them, loved and cared for, in the sunset season of life. In times of need and instability, or amidst a health crisis, we want our kids to pull through for us and care for our needs. This is a Biblical practice/law that the religious Pharisees' of Jesus' day were not keeping.

Jesus rebukes these pretenders in Mark 7, calling them hypocrites and stating the prophet Isaiah's words (Is.29:13) "*These people honor Me with their lips. But their heart is far from me. They worship me in vain (their worship is meaningless and worthless, a pretense.) Teaching the precepts of men as doctrines (giving their tradition equal weight with the Scriptures)*". Wow, that is heavy!

Moses had given the command in the Torah, "*Honor Your Father and Mother* (with respect and gratitude) and the scribes and Pharisees had found a man-made way around this command. (Ex.20:12) Selfishly, they wanted to keep their finances to themselves and not be burdened with helping their aging parents. 'Corban', is what they would proclaim to their Moms and Dads. In essence, "Folks, whatever I have that would

help you is 'Corban'...meaning it has already been given as a gift to God. I can't help you." Can you imagine how cruel and hurtful these words must have been? The Bible had given specific instructions about these matters yet the religious leaders found a loop-hole.

Jesus was not happy with such so-called religious men, who twisted the scriptures to their benefit. He's not happy with those of us who choose to pass on such God-given responsibilities, thus nullifying the authority of the Word of God so that they were not bound to care for aging parents. Now that was a matter that displeased Jesus and He told them
so.

What we say, how we act, our private conversations...all are seen and heard by our Heavenly Father. The Bible is very clear on this subject. It's our scriptural responsibility to show our parents honor, and to be in obedience in this area; so we may find ourselves enjoying a good long life ourselves (Deut.5:16).

If your parents have passed, ask yourself if you treated them with the honor we are instructed to show. Ask God for forgiveness if there was a lapse on your part, in keeping this command. His mercies are new every morning.

Father, may I be sensitive to the needs of my aging parents. Help me to show them in practical ways just how significant they are in my life. Hold me accountable to your Word and show me how to be a blessing to those who need care, assistance, unconditional love, and support. In Jesus' name, I pray.

P.S.

How we treat our parents is the example we set for our own children. How would you like to be treated in your old age?