

**HEALTHY FAMILIES ARE NO ACCIDENT****MATTHEW 7:1-14****INTRODUCTION**

**A HEALTHY FAMILY IS NOT ACCIDENT, AND IT IS USUALLY A HAPPY FAMILY.**

**HAPPINESS IS NOT WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT THIS MORNING.**

**HAPPINESS CAN BE TOO MUCH A GOAL FOR US. HAPPINESS IS NOT SOMETHING WE FIND AT THE END OF THE RAINBOW.**

**IT IS WHAT HAPPENS TO US ALONG THE WAY TO BUILDING A MEANINGFUL, PURPOSEFUL LIFE.**

**FAMILIES, LIKE PEOPLE, GET SICK SOMETIMES. WE'RE NOT ALWAYS HEALTHY. BUT WHEN WE GET SICK, WE WANT TO GET WELL.**

**SOMETIMES IT IS HARD FOR US TO ADMIT THAT OUR FAMILIES ARE SICK.**

**SICK FAMILIES CAN GET WELL, BUT IT DOESN'T HAPPEN AUTOMATICALLY.**

**IT HAPPENS ONLY WHEN PEOPLE ARE DETERMINED TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT IN OUR TEXT FROM THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT; WE HAVE SOME EXCITING TRUTHS THAT CAN BE APPLIED TO FAMILY LIFE.**

**I. HEALTHY FAMILIES ARE THE RESULT OF DELIBERATE CHOICES – VERSES 13–14.**

**[13] "ENTER YE IN AT THE STRAIT GATE; FOR WIDE IS THE GATE, AND BROAD IS THE WAY, THAT LEADETH TO DESTRUCTION, AND MANY THERE BE WHICH GO IN THEREAT:" [14] "BECAUSE STRAIT IS THE GATE, AND NARROW IS THE WAY, WHICH LEADETH UNTO LIFE, AND FEW THERE BE THAT FIND IT."**

**JESUS SAID IT CLEARLY: “GOD’S WAY IS NOT EASY TO FIND, NOR IS IT EASY TO WALK IN IT ONCE WE FIND IT.”**

**THERE ARE EASIER WAY TO LIVE THAN TO LIVE GOD’S WAY.**

**THE TRAFFIC THAT MOVES IN THE DIRECTION OF THE WORLD FOLLOWS CROWDED WAY.**

**PEOPLE WHO HAVE NEVER QUIT JUSTIFYING THEIR CHOICES BY SAY, “OH, EVERYBODY’S DOING IT,” ARE WALKING ON THAT WELL-TRAVELED THOROUGHFARE.**

**BUT JESUS’ WORD IS CLEAR. “IF YOU WANT TO FIND LIFE, THEN YOU WILL OFTEN BE ON A LONELY ROAD.”**

**THAT’S ONE REASON CHURCHES ARE SO IMPORTANT TO CHRISTIAN FAMILIES.**

**IF WE HAD TO LIVE OUT LIVES ISOLATED FROM ONE ANOTHER, WE REALLY WOULD FEEL ISOLATED IN THIS WORLD.**

**WE GATHER TOGETHER IN THE CHURCH NOT BECAUSE WE UNDERSTAND THE GROUND RULES AND WE KNOW WHEN WE’RE IN FOUL TERRITORY – BECAUSE THE WORLD DOESN’T EVEN KNOW THERE IS AN OUT-OF-BOUNDS.**

**THEY LIVE BOUNCING OFF ONE WALL TO THE OTHER, NEVER QUITE UNDERSTANDING WHY THEIR LIVES KEEP GETTING SHAKEN OUT OF JOINT.**

**WE KNOW THAT OUR CHURCH HAS MANY HEALTHY FAMILIES, BUT WE ALSO KNOW THAT THERE ARE MANY OF US WHO ARE REALLY HURTING.**

**AS A CHURCH WE ARE HERE TO HELP ONE ANOTHER, NOT ONLY WHEN WE’RE WELL, BUT ALSO WHEN WE’RE SICK.**

**BUT THE CHURCH MUST BE MORE THAN HOSPITAL.**

**CHRISTIANS ARE SUPPOSED TO EVENTUALLY GET WELL.**

**BUT, IN ORDER TO BE WELL YOU MUST MAKE DELIBERATE CHOICES TO THAT END. IT ISN'T EASY.**

**AS A MATTER OF FACT, IT IS COSTLY. SOMETIMES YOU HAVE TO GO AGAINST THE CURRENT TO ESCAPE THE EASY FLOW THE WORLD OFFERS YOU.**

**STEP OUT AND FEEL THE BREEZE THAT COMES WHEN YOU'RE ALL ALONE, TRYING TO BE A FAMILY THAT'S WILLING TO BE USED OF GOD TO BE DIFFERENT AND HEALTHY.**

**II. HEALTHY FAMILIES ARE BUILT ON THOUGHTFUL BEHAVIOR TOWARDS ONE ANOTHER – VERSE 12**

**[12] “THEREFORE ALL THINGS WHATSOEVER YE WOULD THAT MEN SHOULD DO TO YOU, DO YE EVEN SO TO THEM: FOR THIS IS THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS.”**

**THIS IS THE GOLDEN RULE FOR FAMILIES. IT IS PERHAPS THE MOST IMPORTANT WORD.**

**A FREE TRANSLATION MIGHT BE, “SO WHATEVER YOU WISH THAT YOUR WIFE WOULD DO FOR YOU, DO THAT FOR HER.**

**WHATEVER YOU WISH YOUR HUSBAND WOULD DO FOR YOU, DO THAT FOR HIM.**

**WHATEVER YOU WISH THAT YOUR CHILDREN WOULD DO FOR YOU, DO THAT FOR THEM.**

**AND WHATEVER YOU WISH THAT YOUR PARENTS WOULD DO FOR YOU, DO THAT FOR THEM.”**

**THE SADDEST THING ABOUT CHILD-PARENT RELATIONSHIPS IS THAT THE THINGS WE MISS MOST IN OUR PARENTS ARE OFTEN THE VERY THINGS THAT ARE THE HARDEST FOR US TO GIVE TO OUR CHILDREN.**

**PARENTS! TOUCH YOU CHILDREN, HOLD THE, BE PROUD OF THE, BELIEVE IN THE, EVEN IF YOUR PARENTS WEREN'T ABLE TO DO THAT FOR YOU.**

**IT IS NOT HOW YOU'RE DONE UNTO DO, BUT HOW YOU WISH YOU'D BEEN DONE UNTO.**

**WE ALL HAVE SCARS. SOME ARE MORE VISIBLE THAN OTHERS, BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO INFLICT THE SAME ONES THAT WERE INFLICTED ON YOU IF YOU WILL STOP AND CRY OUT TO GOD, "OH GOD, FORGIVE WHOEVER HUT ME AND LET ME DOWN, BUT DON'T LET ME DO THE SAME. REMIND ME THAT I AM LOVED, THAT YOU LOVE ME."**

**"REMIND ME THAT I AM IMPORTANT. I BELONG TO YOU.**

**AND NOW, OUT OF WHO I AM BEFORE YOU, LET ME GIVE MYSELF TO THE MAN OR WOMAN OR CHILDREN WHO ARE SPECIAL AND IMPORTANT TO ME.**

**YOU HAVE GIVEN THEM TO ME. I WILL TREASURE THEM AS YOU HAVE TREASURED ME."**

### **III. HEALTHY FAMILIES ARE HONEST WITH ONE ANOTHER** **- VERSES 1-5**

**[1] "JUDGE NOT, THAT YE BE NOT JUDGED. [2] FOR WITH WHAT JUDGMENT YE JUDGE, YE SHALL BE JUDGED: AND WITH WHAT MEASURE YE METE, IT SHALL BE MEASURED TO YOU AGAIN." [3] "AND WHY BEHOLDEST THOU THE MOTE THAT IS IN THEY BROTHER'S EYE, BUT CONSIDEREST NOT THE BEAM THAT IS IN THINE OWN EYE?" [4] "OR HOW WILT THOU SAY TO THY BROTHER, LET ME PULL OUT THE MOTE OUT OF THINE EYE; AND, BEHOLD, A BEAN IS IN THINE OWN EYE?" [5] "THOU HYPOCRITE, FIRST CAST OUT THE BEAM OUT OF THINE OWN EYE; AND THEN SHALT THOU SEE CLEARLY TO CAST OUT THE MOTE OUT OF THEY BROTHER'S EYE."**

**WHEN A HUSBAND AND WIFE REFUSE TO JUDGE ONE ANOTHER, THEY ARE ON THEIR WAY TO A HEALTHY**

**FAMILY. PARENTS ARE TO RESPECT ONE ANOTHER AND THEIR CHILDREN.**

**CRITICISM AND JUDGMENTALISM ARE NOT TO BE KNOWN IN A CHRISTIAN FAMILY.**

**PARENTS WHO PUT THEIR CHILDREN INTO COMPETITIVE MODES, JUDGING ONE CHILD OVER THE OTHER, CREATE HEARTACHES THAT ARE HARD TO CURE.**

**LONG AFTER THE PARENTS ARE DEAD THAT KIND OF MISHANDLING OF LIFE WILL CONTINUE TO EXACT A PRICE.**

**THIS VERSE MEANS THAT WE ARE NOT TO SET OURSELVES UP AS THOUGH WE'RE PERFECT AND THE OTHERS IN THE FAMILY ARE SOMEHOW UNWORTHY.**

**YOU CAN'T HIDE LOGS IN YOUR EYE.**

**YOU NEVER WILL BE HEALTHY UNTIL YOU ADMIT: "YES! THERE'S A LOG IN MY EYE; LET'S GET IT OUT SO WE CAN WORK ON THE SPECK IN YOURS."**

**PARENTS WHO UNDERSTAND THIS DO BETTER WITH CHILDREN.**

**AND CHILDREN WHO UNDERSTAND THIS DON'T HAVE TO JUDGE THEIR PARENTS AS HARSHLY AS THEY MIGHT OTHERWISE.**

**IV. HEALTHY FAMILIES ARE MORE INTERESTED IN GIVING THAN GETTING – VERSE 2**

**[2] "FOR WITH WHAT JUDGMENT YE JUDGE, YE SHALL BE JUDGED; AND WITH WHAT MEASURE YE METE, IT SHALL BE MEASURED TO YOU AGAIN."**

**WE USUALLY INTERPRET THIS VERSE IN TERMS OF MONEY, BUT IT ALSO HAS TO DO WITH LIVING AND CARING AND BEING A FAMILY.**

**WE SAY “YOU CANT BEAT GOD GIVING.” NOR CAN YOU OUT-GIVE A WIFE OR CHILDREN OR PARENTS WHO ARE REALLY GIFTED BY YOU – WITH NO STRINGS ATTACHED.**

**YOU GIVE YOUR HEART AND YOU ALLOW THAT GIFT TO BE LOVED; SOON IT BEGINS TO BRING BACK THE SAME THAT YOU SENT IT OUT TO DO.**

**V. HEALTHY FAMILIES ARE PROTECTED BY FAITHFULNESS - VERSE 6**

**[6] “GIVE NOT THAT WHICH IS HOLY UNTO THE DOGS, NEITHER CAST YE YOUR PEARLS BEFORE SWINE, LEST THEY TRAMPLE THEM UNDER THEIR FEE, AND TURN AGAIN AND REND YOU.”**

**THIS VERSE GENERALLY BEEN USED TO DESCRIBE HOW CHRISTIAN WITNESSING OUT BE DONE, BUT PERHAPS IT HAS EVEN MORE TO DO WITH MARRIAGE.**

**A HUSBAND AND WIFE ARE NOT TO TAKE THE PRECIOUS GIFT OF THEIR SEXUALITY AND CAST IT OUT BEFORE “DOGS” OR “HOGS.”**

**BEWARE, BECAUSE IF YOU DO, THEY WILL TURN AND TRAMPLE YOU UNDER FOOT AS THEY ATTACK YOU.**

**HEALTHY FAMILIES ARE PROTECTED BY FIDELITY AND TRUSTWORTHINESS.**

**YOU CANNOT GET SO MODERN OR SO SOPHISTICATED THAT YOU ARE PERMITTED TO IGNORE THAT ADMONITION.**

**TREASURE YOUR SEXUALITY. USED WITHIN MARRIAGE IT IS INDEED HOLY AND AS PRECIOUS AS PEARLS.**

**BUT NOTHING CAN TEAR A FAMILY SO APART AS GIVING THAT WHICH BELONGS ONLY TO ONE ANOTHER TO ANY OTHER.**

**VI. HEALTHY FAMILIES ARE ENRICHED BY PRAYER – VERSES 7-11**

[7] “ASK, AND IT SHALL BE GIVEN YOU; SEEK, AND YE SHALL FIND; KNOCK, AND IT SHALL BE OPENED UNTO YOU.” [8] “FOR EVERY ONE THAT ASKETH RECEIVETH; AND HE THAT SEEKETH FINDETH; AND TO HIM THAT KNOCKETH IT SHALL BE OPENED.” [9] “OR WHAT MAN IS THERE OF YOU, WHOM IF HIS SON ASK BREAD, WILL HE GIVE HIM A STONE?” [10] “OR IF HE ASK A FISH, WILL HE GIVE HIM A SERPENT?” [11] “IF YE THEN, BEING EVIL, KNOW HOW TO GIVE GOOD GIFTS UNTO YOUR CHILDREN, HOW MUCH MORE SHALL YOUR FATHER WHICH IS IN HEAVEN GIVE GOOD THINGS TO THEM THAT ASK HIM?”

**IF YOUR FAMILY ISN'T HEALTHY, DON'T ABANDON IT ANYMORE THAT WOULD ABANDON A CHILD WHO HAD GONE TO THE HOSPITAL SICK.**

**JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE SICK DOESN'T MEAN YOUR DEAD.**

**JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE ILL DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN'T GET WELL.**

**PRAYER CHANGES US AND MAKES US READY FOR WHAT GOD IS READY TO DO IN OUR LIVES.**

**IF YOUR HEALTHY, DON'T BE PROUD – BE GRATEFUL;**

**MAKE YOUR PRAYER ONE OF THANKSGIVING AND SENSITIVITY TO IMPROVE YOUR DECISION MAKING, YOUR HONESTY WITH ANOTHER, YOUR WILLINGNESS TO GIVE, AND YOUR FIDELITY.**

**BE THANKFUL FOR WHAT GOD IS DOING IN YOUR FAMILY TO HELP YOU REMAIN STRONG AGAINST THE EVIL WHICH IS ALL AROUND YOU AND THREATENS YOUR MOST PRECIOUS POSSESSIONS.**

### **CONCLUSION**

**HEALTHY FAMILIES ARE NO ACCIDENT. IT TAKES EVERYBODY GIVING HIS BEST.**

**EACH MEMBER OF THE FAMILY HAS A PART IN  
DETERMINING HOW HEALTHY YOUR FAMILY WILL BE.**

**BUT THE MOST IMPORTANT PERSON WHO CAN HELP YOU  
TO HAVE A HEALTHY FAMILY IS JESUS.**

**DON'T LEAVE JESUS OUT. FOR WITHOUT HIM YOUR FAMILY  
WILL NOT ONLY GET SICK, BUT WILL STAY SICK.**

**JESUS IS THE KEY TO A SUCCESSFUL AND HEALTHY  
FAMILY OF HAPPINESS. THAT'S WHY HE CAME INTO THE  
WORLD. "I AM COME THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE  
LIFE...MORE ABUNDANTLY.**

**IS THERE ANYBODY HERE WHO KNOWS HIM?**