

Honoring Authority Gives Structure to Life

ha-êmeq — Last night in our gathering we were talking about our Master Yahshua, and Yônêq was explaining how He came before Pilate, who seemed to be torn up because he realized he was in the presence of a King. Our Father had given his wife an incredible dream about the Man that was before her husband that day. “Don’t do anything to Him!” Whether she had ever heard anything about Him before that day or not, she was completely convinced by a dream that our Father had given her that a righteous King was going to come before her husband that day.

Pilate went ahead and kept telling the people that the Man was innocent. “Why do you want to kill Him?” And then he was forced to just wash his hands of the whole confusing matter. But then Pilate wrote that sign, “The King of the Jews,” telling them to put it on the cross. The chief priests said, “Don’t say ‘The King of the Jews,’ but that He *said* He was the King of the Jews!” But Pilate said, “I have written what I have written.” He made it so clear. They were crucifying their King.

In hearing about this, I just *fell in love with our Master Yahshua again!* That’s what this life is about. It is a love affair of the heart. When you realize everything about Him, you love Yahshua!

In the night I remembered that song, “Offer up a sacrifice of praise,” and I just kept thinking, “Sacrifice of praise... What is that anyway? Praise?” I know I can say, “I am so thankful that Yahshua did this, and I am thankful He did that...” But really, praise is one step *past* thanksgiving.

You can be thankful for how our Father gave Heman a wife, and then you can stop there. Or you can go one step further to think about how our Father considered the whole situation, how He considered Heman, how He gave him the name *Faithful*, and how he was faithful all those years. He was a thankful man, not one of those grumbler-complainers who say, “I am going to leave if I don’t get what I want right now.” So our Father considered this, and He considered this woman Ziv and her circumstances, and at this time He gave her to Heman.

So when you think about our Father, and all that He considered, then you say, “What a great God we have! What a wonderful Father! What a wise Father!” Think about all the things you could say about Him. One step after just being thankful for *what* He did, think about how and why He did it, and what that indicates about His character. I am always thankful, but I don’t always shift over to actually praise our Father, “You are so wonderful! You are so mighty! Who is like You?”

Consider how our Master answered Pilate when he asked, “Are you a King?” and Yahshua replied, “Is it you who is saying that, or did someone else tell you this?” Just the way He answered questions — what an amazing character He had! How wise He was to answer a question like that. And He did that so many times! What a great Savior we have! How wise! What an amazing example He is. And I am so thankful for our Master Yahshua, and for our Father, and I want to say that they are really great!

Eph 5:23-33 — The husband represents Messiah; the wife represents the edah.

“As the church is with Messiah...” What does the church do for Messiah? Just thank Him? Or praise Him? Praise Him! So therefore, what should a wife do to her husband? Praise him, right? Do you praise your husband? The husband is to *love* his wife, that’s for sure. That’s the first thing. But a wife is to praise her husband. That’s what makes him a husband.

Honoring authority gives structure to your life. If we don’t honor authority, we’ll fall apart, just as the world is falling apart. The United States is falling apart. Certainly, if the foundations are destroyed, what will *anyone* do? What will the righteous do if the foundations are destroyed?

When Yahweh our Father placed Adam in the garden to tend it, having given him dominion over the earth, He also gave him responsibility to be head over his wife, Eve. This was our Father’s *first* delegated authority. What He established then is the way it is *supposed* to be throughout the age. I am not going to say how it *was*, but how it *is*, and is supposed to be throughout the age.

Our Father established authority first in the family. He gave the man authority over his wife, and He gave the parents authority over their children, and He gave governmental authority to the nations in Gen 9:1-7 to be able to execute murderers. It takes *government*. It takes righteous judgment.

Later on, He gave authority to His holy people, Israel — first of all to Abraham, then Isaac, Jacob, and their offspring. Their offspring was Israel, a twelve-tribed nation. And now, since they failed miserably as you can read in the Scriptures, our Master

Himself said in Mt 21:43, “I’m going to take the authority away from you, the Kingdom away from you, and give it to a nation that *will* produce the fruit of it!” That is, of course, the Body of Messiah, the Church. Yahshua is the *Head* of the Body, the Church (Col 1:18; Eph 1:22-23). He is the Head of the Body, which *is* the Church, according to what the word *church* really means.

In all these places — the family, the nations, Old Israel, and in the church — the success of this delegated authority is determined by the way in which the responsibility of authority is handled. Everything depends on *how it is handled!* The authority that God gives man — in husbands, fathers, governors, or kings — everything depends on the way in which that authority is exercised.

The authority of a husband or a parent is God-given, certainly, but knowing how to use it is *not!* The Word of God commands us to discipline our children, *but* it doesn’t tell us exactly how to do it. That is something you have to seek for, something you have to understand, you have to sit down and consider, you have to pray about it and weep. In the nations they have the natural law in their conscience to help them know how to do it without destroying, without taking punitive action on their children, which destroys.

Discipline in Pr 13:24 is God-given authority delegated to the parents, but how to carry it out is not spelled out. You have authority, but you have to know how to carry it out. First, men must learn how to control their own spirits and their souls — their emotions, their intellect, and their will. There is a fine line between authoritarian discipline, which is good, and legalistic control. We have had a lot of legalistic control in the communities, but such men didn’t last long as leaders.

Authority expressed in love builds character and lays a good spiritual foundation and structure, while punitive treatment does not build character, but the contrary. When this kind of punishment is expected to turn out righteous children, someone is in for a big surprise. There have been a lot of big surprises.

So concerning submission in marriage, *the higher command was given to the husband to love his wife*. That is the higher command. That is said first, right? So that is the higher command — for the husband to love his wife, as Messiah loves the church who will in turn *respect Him*. The wife, in return, will *respect* her husband. The wife is told to respect her husband and give him praise, but the husband has to love his wife.

Our Father created man first, then woman, to be his helper, to meet his need as a helper suitable for him (Gen 2:18). A man who is indeed a man is made a greater man by his wife.

Now understand the difference between discipline and punishment. Discipline is for the good of the person. It changes his life. Afterward, he *loves* the person who disciplined him! But punishment? No! It destroys. Punishment is like the final judgment when you die — that is the end. But discipline creates something in a child, or in a person. It changes his life to the better. That is why, if you love your child, you will discipline him. It doesn't say, "If you love your child, you will *punish* him." Understand that.

God gave the seed of life only once. Who did He give it to? Who did the spirit of man begin with? Adam. And it has been continuous ever since then. Life has been continuous ever since then, coming *from* Adam but *through* woman. Not *from* her, but *through* her. The seed that produces children to perpetuate the human race is resident in the man only. We understand that. Life comes *from* the man *through* the woman. According to geneticists, the male seed which initiates life contains the *blood-developing properties* for the new body being formed. Lev 17:14 says the life of every creature is in its blood, and the blood comes from man in his seed. It doesn't come from the woman.

Man is the key to the perpetuation and guidance of the family he generates, and of the whole human race. Our Father holds man responsible, as is most clear from Gen 18:19. The commandment to the father to turn his heart to his child starts out with Gen 18:19 and ends with Mal 4:5-6. That is the only way a child can turn his heart toward

the father. That is a command, but it is not spelled out how to do it. You have to pray for it with all your heart and all your soul. It is just not given. Authority is given. The direction is given. But the one in authority has to be led by the Spirit.

Our Father said, “I have chosen Abraham. I have chosen him that he would direct and command his children and his household after him to keep the way of Yahweh by doing what is right and just — righteousness and justice — so that Yahweh may be able to give the key to the covenant of promise with Abraham.”

Throughout the Old Testament this is made very clear, as in Mal 4:5-6, which are the last words in the Old Testament. What if man doesn’t do this? What if *we* don’t do it? What if Israel didn’t do it? He would smite the land with a curse, right? Did He smite the land with a curse? Yes. Do they have an enemy-free land today? No! So, as the last word declares, an absent-minded and uncaring father contributes to major social problems and disorders in the world today.

Our Father has not changed His mind about the place of man in the family and in society, and the enemy hasn’t stopped his warfare against him. So if the wife takes her God-given role as helper to her husband, together they can stand against the tactics of the evil one, who is destroying everywhere. They can rise above the plans Satan has for them. His plan for them is for evil. Our Father’s plan is for good. Satan’s attacks are obvious. We have a song we used to sing in the Areopagus, “*War, sin, killin’ and a robbin’, you know that the world is one big problem.*”

What does war do? What has it done? It has taken the fathers away from their families, sometimes for years at a time, and nothing was ever the same again. When the husbands got back, if they ever did get back, it was never the same. War takes the husband away from the wife, the father away from the children, the leaders away from society. So then, here comes what? Out of the dust comes the feminist agenda, and affirmative action, and the welfare system, and the evil of pornography, robbing

mankind of its *character!* While men need to be accountable, blaming them will not help, but recognizing and supporting them *will help!*

A wife is under her husband to support him, not to be a drag or a weight, pulling him down. He is to be the *protector*, and she the *protectorate*. She is not supposed to be trampled on. Husbands give protection, and wives give support. The husband protects the wife, and she gives support to her husband. That's an amazing and wonderful team, if we could only do it. There's no telling what could happen if we worked for our Father in that way. The husband and wife support each other in their own role and through their gifts, and they protect each other from temptation (1 Cor 7:1-5). That's one of the ways where husband and wife are totally equal in their ability to protect each other from outside influences, because of their love for one another, by *love-giving* (Eph 4:26; 1 Pet 4:8).

When a husband, for some reason or in some area, cannot serve as a leader, our Father is able to work through the wife and to bless her if she is *careful* not to usurp her husband's God-given authority. What did He tell Eve? "Your desire shall be for him, and he will rule over you." Then a little bit later in Gen 4:7 He says to Cain, "Satan's desire is for you, and you have to *rule* over him." But he didn't do it. Sometimes a wife's desire in regard to her husband works in a negative way. There is both a positive and a negative desire to rule over.

So the woman must be careful not to usurp the man's God-given authority. If a man's physical and/or emotional condition makes him unable to lead in a certain way, and his wife steps into the role of leadership, it can make him feel less of a man if she is not careful. If the wife must of necessity lead due to certain circumstances and matters in the home, she must be careful to keep an attitude toward him that respects and preserves his dignity and manhood and leadership position. Of course, we need the woman in that situation, but she is always under control, in submission.

How much I need my wife! She does so many things I can't possibly do. And I realize my need for her, so therefore I give her the responsibility and the authority to do it. She's not usurping my authority. I am not threatened whatsoever! I give her authority to do certain things.

A woman's basic emotional need is to be loved, and a husband's basic need is to be respected (Eph 5:33). This rule applies even when she needs to take charge of certain things. If the husband and the wife are like Messiah and the edah, then the husband needs praise from the wife. So wife, praise him! Praise your husband!

You can see in Eph 5:21 that we are to submit to one another. In a certain way, she is greater than man, in her *intuition*. We have to *listen*. We don't want her to take over with her intuition, because we are the rulers, but a good ruler is never threatened. A man who has true authority from our Father is never threatened — *never threatened!* Authority is from our Father. It is our Father's job to uphold it. But if someone has just human authority, of course he is going to be threatened.

If a wife must take the leadership role, her husband may be intimidated by her self-assurance and apparent superior ability. But she must honor him nevertheless. Praise him, support him.

We have to recognize everyone and submit to the greater grace. A leader may have five talents and his adjutant has five talents. Or they may have ten and ten. But the grace one has is not the same as the other has, so the one who has ten talents still needs to listen to the other, whether he has five or ten talents. We have to *listen* to one another. *If we don't, we are through!* We are wiped out. It will never work unless we submit to one another in that way, to recognize each one's expertise and understanding.

So honoring authority furnishes structure to life. Authority makes it possible for any society to proceed with order and grow in peace. When growth stops, there is death at work. God has given authority to man, and works through him, as was His plan at the beginning with the first man, Adam.

What did Sarah call Abraham? *Lord*. So, did she ever make any kind of decision? Yes, it is recorded twice that she did that, but she still called him *Lord*. Obviously, Abraham agreed with her, and she wasn't usurping him.