

RESTORATION MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

Jesus In Your Home video series

The Home

Section 3: Segment 5

Topic 2. Applying God's Word: Train Yourself To Resist Presumption and False Expectation

1. Trapped by the Past

This one's for men:

"I wish I was able to love my wife more. My problem is that I never saw love and affection between my own parents. My Dad was an alcoholic and my mother was very controlling. I know what the Bible says about loving my wife but I can't do it because of my past."

Now for women:

"I wish I could respect my husband more. I never saw my own mother respect my Dad. He was an alcoholic and she was very controlling. I know what the Bible says about respecting my husband but I can't do it because of my past."

- In your own words, what messages are this husband and wife really giving to their spouse?

- What are they saying about the power of God to heal?

- Look up 2 Corinthians 3:17,18 and 1 Corinthians 2:3-5. What other verses can you find that would reveal the nature of their presumption and their need to repent? What counsel would you add to help strengthen their marriage relationship?

2. Self-indulgent Widow

“My widowed mother has just attempted suicide. She told us kids that she did it because she doesn’t think we love her. It’s really sad because Mom has put on over sixty pounds since my Dad died 3 years ago. She has to take all kinds of medications now for ailments due to her self-indulgence. It seems as though she’s spending most of her time partying with her friends.”

When a woman loses her husband, she enters into a whole new realm of freedom and boundaries that are described in God’s Word. Her widowhood often demands new relational responsibilities on the part of her children. Use your concordance, and study the verses which apply to widows and the responsibilities of her children toward her.

- Now that she’s not under her husband’s authority, under whose authority and protection does this widow come? How might that authority and protection be enacted on a regular basis?

- How could you help this widow identify activities and relationships that would be pleasing to God?

3. Getting into Debt

“My wife and I believe that God wants us to start a business. We want to develop a line of sweatshirts and tee shirts with Christian messages on them. The bank told us we could borrow \$25,000 to start our business.”

- Is getting into debt God’s way of providing for His children? See Luke 12:16-21. How does this man’s presumption about the future apply to borrowing money?

- Some sins attack the very character of God. Our worry about His ability to provide for us attacks His Name, Jehovah Jireh — God our Provider. Pause for a moment

and read Matthew 6:25-34. What do worry and being in debt have in common?

- If you're currently in debt, do you sense a need to be free from it? What creative means is God prompting in your heart to change your ways of money management?

4. Worship by the Unrepentant

"My friend leads worship at his congregation. He told me that people don't need to repent of their sins before they enter worship. He says that as a person worships, God will cleanse them from their sins."

- Does God accept our worship or prayers when we're aware of unconfessed sin? Yes or no? Gather together the biblical basis for your answer.

- Does our Lord's love for us override His standards of holiness? See 1 Peter 3:10-12; 1 John 1:9; James 5:16.

- How do YOU prepare for prayer or worship? Develop a biblical basis for your own preparation.

5. Rejecting Parental Authority

"We've really prayed about it and believe that God wants Brittany and me to get mar-

ried before school begins this fall. We both only have one year left of college, and it'll be easier on both of us if we're married. It's just that her Dad isn't a believer, and he told us to wait until we graduate. Should we obey God or respect her Dad's wishes?"

- Would God guide a child to dishonor his or her parents? See Ephesians 6:1-3.

- Does it matter whether her father is a believer or not?

- Will the girl respect her husband's authority if she doesn't respect her father's?

- Is this young man's question about "obeying God" valid in the way he's using it to contrast with the counsel of the girl's father?

6. Interfering with God's Chastisement

"My brother-in-law's business wasn't doing well so his wife, who's my sister, got involved. Before long she was making all the decisions and the business started turning around. The sad part is that after the business got better, he ran off with his secretary."

- Read Deuteronomy chapter 28. Does God still chastise His people today?

- What might God have been trying to do in the businessman's life *before* his wife stepped in to help?

- How would you know when you or someone else were being chastised by the Lord?

- If you were the wife's friend, what would you have counseled her from the very beginning? What would you have counseled her husband?

7. Facing the Future

"As I look at the lives of other Christians, it seems that my wife and I are never as blessed as they are. We put a lot of time into planning our future, and still nothing comes out as we expected. On top of that, all of these failed plans have only caused my wife to worry more."

- Is it failed plans or worrying that's the real problem here?

- How does Proverbs 21:5 apply to planning for the future?

- Look up Matthew 6:25-27. What's the biblical difference between *planning* for the future and *worrying* about the future?

- Is there anything that you or a family member is worried or anxious about at this time? Yes or no? If yes, what is it?

8. Employer Authority

“My boss wants me to start putting in overtime on Sundays. It’s alright for him, he’s divorced and doesn’t have a family to be concerned with. He’s such a jerk! How will I be able to observe my Sabbath with my family?”

- Read Daniel, chapter 1. The captives were asked to violate God’s Word. How did they handle their situation?

- Does the gist of Romans 13:1-5 apply to this situation? Why or why not?

- See Ecclesiastes 10:20. Could the Lord be bringing this situation upon this family head to deal with his or her sinful disrespect of rightful authority?

- What approach should this person use to make an appeal to the boss?

9. Is Bankruptcy Stealing?

“Tanya and I are going to file for bankruptcy. We have about \$16,000 in credit card debt and if we don’t file, we’ll lose everything we’ve bought.”

- Does Exodus 20:5 apply to bankruptcy and paying back legitimate debts? Why? Explain your answer.

- What recommendations would you give this couple if they came to you for counsel?

10. Handling Mistreatment

“Dad, that bully Kevin keeps saying mean things to me on the school bus. How can I get him to stop?”

- See Psalm 27:11; Romans 2:4; Matthew 5:43-48. What are the proper attitudes and actions in which you should train your children to handle mistreatment by others?

- What is true biblical meekness? How should this child respond in this situation?

11. Priorities: Ministry or Family

“My Mom has been ill for the past few days. This coming Sunday my husband and I were thinking of driving the four hours to go and see her. The only problem is that I teach Sunday School and our pastor says ministry takes precedence over everything else.”

- What are God’s priorities for a follower of Jesus?

- When these priorities seem to conflict with each other, how would God have you resolve them?

- What situations have you encountered in which an obligation or activity conflicted with a family need? How did you respond? Was your response sound from a biblical stance?

12. Tithing versus Family Need

“My brother’s been out of work for over a year since he got hurt. The money that he’s getting isn’t keeping up with the bills. My wife thinks we should give our tithe to help my brother and his family. I talked to our pastor and he says the tithe is only for the local church.”

- What is God’s purpose for the tithe?

- Since the Temple system is gone and the Levitical priesthood no longer necessary, to whom should your giving go?

- Are you regularly setting aside an amount of your income to be used for God’s Kingdom purposes?

We hope these case studies have been helpful to you. Now look at your own home, workplace, and faith community. Are there situations in which biblical applications are needed in any of these arenas?

If you honor God by applying His Word, He'll honor you before others. And you'll be establishing an important spiritual example for your children.