

Matt 2:13-23

13 And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him.

14 When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt:

15 And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son.

16 Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently inquired of the wise men.

17 Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying,

18 In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not.

19 But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth in a dream to Joseph in Egypt,

20 Saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel: for they are dead which sought the young child's life.

21 And he arose, and took the young child and his mother, and came into the land of Israel.

22 But when he heard that Archelaus did reign in Judaea in the room of his father Herod, he was afraid to go thither: notwithstanding, being warned of God in a dream, he turned aside into the parts of Galilee:

23 And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, He shall be called a Nazarene.

KJV

When Jesus was about two years old, God spoke to his father and told him to move his family to Egypt. Mary believed Joseph and they moved. Just after their departure, Herod killed all of the children in Bethlehem who were under the age of two.

We do not know how long they lived in Egypt. But before Jesus reached the age of 12, God spoke to his father and told him to move his family back to Israel. Mary believed Joseph and they moved back to Israel.

Because Joseph believed it was not wise to move back to Bethlehem, Joseph led his family to settle in Nazareth.

This is a clear example of how God leads a family.

Paul called the father the head.

Eph 5:23-24

23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.

24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.

KJV

Paul says a wife should submit to her husband.

Paul said children should obey their father and their mother.

Eph 6:1-3

6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.

2 Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;)

3 That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

KJV

God wants to lead a family thru the father.

There is a great deal of confusion about this issue in our society and in the church.

- Many fathers do not believe that God wants to lead their family thru them so they do not assume the responsibility of hearing God for their family.
- Many women do not believe that God wants to lead the family thru their husband so they do not submit to their husband and they do not encourage their husbands to seek the Lord for the family.
- Many children do not believe that God wants to lead the family thru their father so they do not obey their father and they do not encourage their father to seek the Lord.

All of us are someone's child. Until you establish your own family or until you are independent of your father, God wants to lead you thru your father.

Now, I know that you may have a father that does not want to assume this responsibility. You may have a father that does not try to follow God. You may have a father that will not give you any guidance.

You should always honor your father and obey your father's rules for your family. God will find other ways to reveal his will to you. For me this was first a Sunday School Teacher. When I went to college, God used the campus minister.

But if you have a father who has assumed this responsibility, God wants to lead you thru your father. You need to encourage your father to seek the Lord on your behalf until you have your own family or you are independent of your father.

Now I know that what happened with Joseph was before Pentecost. But the apostle's commands for a wife to submit to her husband and for children to obey their father and mother are after Pentecost.

And if we are to follow the example of Jesus, Jesus was led by his father as long as he was dependent upon him. And Jesus was never released from the responsibility to honor his father and mother. Just prior to his death, he gives direction for the care of his mother.

I have never seen it turn out well for a son or a daughter who did not live by this principle. I have seen the most dedicated young people fail morally because they did not follow this principle. I have seen the most sincere young people end up in bad marriages because they did not follow this principle.

If this is true for the dedicated young person, what will young people experience who do not care to follow God's Word?

So many young people raised by Godly parents in the church do not care to follow Jesus or keep His Word. Some are very bold in their defiance. Others live a double life.

If the dedicated young person suffers from not following this principle, what will become of those who don't care to follow God's Word?

- They end up with an addiction that is very destructive to their soul, their bodies, and their reputation. They smoke or they drink or they use other substances. They become addicted to sensuality.
- They become emotionally unstable and even mentally unstable. They are easily overcome by feelings of insecurity, insignificance, self-pity, despair, and depression.
- They waste the money they earn and most of them accumulate unnecessary debt.
- They make unwise and unreasonable decisions that cause them to lose their freedoms.
- They do not find favor with God and man, as Jesus did. If they are given opportunities because of the credibility of their parents, they squander those opportunities. They also miss opportunities because they did not understand or follow this principle. Because young people do not follow this principle, they are not in the right place at the right time or they are in the wrong place at the wrong time.

So many young people have experienced great tragedy when they were not obeying their father.

When Jesus was two, what would have happened to Jesus if Joseph did not accept the responsibility of leading his family? What would have happened to Jesus if Mary did not let Joseph lead? What would have happened to Jesus if he did not let his father lead him until he became independent of his father?

God's sovereign plan for the life of Jesus was fulfilled thru the leadership of His father. If you have a father who is willing to assume this responsibility, God's sovereign plan for your life will be fulfilled thru the leadership of your father.

This requires you to have faith in God and His Word.

This is not easy. It is not easy because fathers are not perfect. It is not easy because you live in a society that rejects this principle. It is not easy because of the temptations you experience from your flesh and from the devil.

Jesus never said it would be easy to follow Him.

Jesus said...

Matt 16:24-25

24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

25 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

KJV

If you are a young person that is still dependent upon your father, I pray that you will follow God's Word and let God lead you thru your father.

I have seen so much unnecessary devastation and tragedy in the lives of so young people that have been raised by Godly parents in the church. I want you to be spared. I want you to experience God's sovereign plan for your life and not Satan's.

I want your life to be different. I want you to experience all the favor that God has for you. If you are to marry, I want you to have a great marriage. I want the way that you live to be a testimony that draws others to Christ.

Let's pray.