

A Family Portrait

The Christian Home - Pt.7

Int.

1. Aim: To show some family portraits of Bible characters with obvious lessons for us to apply.
2. Rom. 15:4 "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope."
3. Portrait
 - a. Websters = a graphic portrayal in words
 - b. Thorndike = picture in words, description
4. In this lesson we will notice some pictures of Bible characters who are worthy family members:
 - a. Examples are very powerful.
 - b. A good example has the power to make us seek its emulation
 - c. Biographical studies are powerful examples for teaching.
 - d. God filled the Bible with living examples of people's lives
 - e. A portrait of the family is given in the Bible.

Discussion

I. Portraits of the Kind of Husbands We Need

A. We need husbands today who will consider the wife as "bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh." Gen. 2:23

1. Her husband will then consider her precious
2. This will prompt the husband to be kind and gentle and affectionate.
3. The result will be a happy marriage.

B. JACOB

1. Gen. 29:18-20 "And Jacob loved Rachel; and said I will serve thee seven years for Rachel thy younger daughter. And Laban said, It is better that I give her to thee, than that I should give her to another man: abide with me. And Jacob served seven years for Rachel; and they seemed unto him but a few days, for the love he had to her."
2. Husbands need that kind of love that Jacob had for Rachel when he was working seven years for her.
3. Love Makes Burdens light and service easy.
4. The seven years were as long as any seven years in his life. But to Jacob they seemed short. 2,555 days + another 7 years
5. There was daily work and labour that had to be done. But the burdens to Jacob seemed very light because he looked forward to the reward of the lovely Rachel as his wife.
6. We need husbands with this kind of love for their wives.
7. Frequently it is the case that this kind of love is shown during courtship but not after the honeymoon

8. It takes love to woo and win, and it requires love to retain and rejoice in a wife all the days of a mans life.
9. Jacob was a hard worker
10. We need more husbands possessing the kind of love that Jacob felt for Rachel and who are workers.

C. ELKANAH

1. Hannah's husband named Elkanah is a good model for a husband
 - a. He listened patiently to her problems and tried to comfort her.
 - b. She wanted a child - I Sam. 1:6-7
2. I Sam. 1:8 he asked her, "Hannah, why weepest thou? and why eatest thou not? and why is thy heart grieved? am not I better to thee than ten sons?"
3. Ten was a number of completeness or perfection
4. Properly trained sons will love their mother and care for them
5. He was better to her than 10 sons would be toward a mother that was highly esteemed by her sons. No physical abuse, but kindness
6. That's the kind of husbands we need.

D. BOAZ

1. Ruth and her mother-in-law, Naomi returned to Bethlehem after the death of Naomi's husband and Ruth's husband Mahlon
2. In order to support Naomi, Ruth gleaned in the fields of a wealthy landowner, Boaz. He was a distant relative
3. Boaz treated her with honor, gentleness and tenderness

4. He ordered his reapers not to molest her when she gleaned in his fields and he invited her to eat bread and parched grain with him.
5. In order to make her work better and easier he ordered some of his men to leave some of the grain for her to gather.
6. During their courtship he had such respect for her that he made sure to protect her reputation from malicious gossip.
7. Boaz recognized that Ruth had real character. He said, "For all the city of my people doth know that thou art a virtuous woman." Ruth. 3:11
8. He wanted to marry her but there was a nearer kinsman,
 - a. He allowed the nearer kinsman to decide
 - b. The man said no and gave Boaz the opportunity to marry Ruth.
 - c. The beautiful romance budded into a beautiful marriage.
9. Beautiful courtships encourage beautiful and rewarding marriages.
10. Boaz makes a worthy example for husbands today.

II. PORTRAITS OF THE KIND OF WIVES WE NEED

A. REBEKAH

1. She was sought as a wife for Isaac. She was taken from her native land to Canaan to become his wife.
2. Gen. 24:16 "And the damsel was very fair to look upon, a virgin, neither had any man known her: and she went down to the well, and filled her pitcher, and came up."
3. Rebekah was a virgin when arrangements were made for her to leave home and go to be the wife of Isaac

4. We need women to enter marriages who have practiced purity and retained their virginity when they stand at the marriage altar.
5. A young woman who has been wild and promiscuous before marriage may pursue the same type of life after marriage.
6. Her premarital past becomes the extramarital present.
7. We need wives who enter marriage as pure young women like Rebekah.

B. RUTH

1. She was married first to Mahlon and then to Boaz.
2. Very little is said about her first marriage to Mahlon before his death.
3. But we can be sure she was a good wife to Naomi's son because her mother-in-law would not have had such affection for her daughter-in-law.
4. Her Romance and marriage to Boaz is one of purity.
 - a. Boaz was a wealthy man of Bethlehem
 - b. Ruth was from Moab
 - c. She gleaned in the fields
 - d. A romance budded and marriage was the result
 - e. From this marriage came two important descendants -David and Christ the Messiah - Ruth. 4:21-22 Mt. 1:5-6
5. Ruth had many characteristics of a good wife:
 - a. She had a stable character - She was persistent
 - b. She was a hard worker - a woman of integrity
 - c. A woman of love for her family
6. These qualities will always make for a good wife.

III. PORTRAITS OF THE KINDS OF FATHERS WE NEED

A. JOSEPH

1. Joseph was a descendant of Judah and David
2. But Joseph had nothing to do with the conception of Jesus, Mary's firstborn child. Jesus was born of the virgin Mary.
3. Though Joseph was not the fleshly father he became the head of the home where Jesus grew to maturity.
4. Joseph would be his foster father, or adopted son.
5. What kind of father did God select to be the head of the home where he would place His only begotten Son?
 - a. He was a "just man" - Mt. 1:19 — He had serious doubts about marriage to Mary when he discovered she was with child. But the Angel explained it to Joseph.
 - b. He was a man of total obedience —When Jesus was in danger Joseph was instructed to take the family to Egypt. He obeyed immediately. They stayed there until the danger was over.
 - c. He was a man mindful of his duties to worship God. In Luke 2:41 we read of how they went to Jerusalem for the Passover every year. He did not stay home and let the mother do the religious training. He took the lead.
6. These are qualities that all fathers need:
 - a. Just
 - b. Obedient
 - c. Faithful and loyal in worship
7. Do your children have such a father?

B. JOSHUA

1. His name is usually associated with the military. He was a faithful spy, and a military leader who led the Israelites into the land of Canaan.
2. At the end of the book we have this verse which shows a good picture of him as a FATHER Josh. 24:15 "And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."
 - a. He would not force the Israelites into spiritual service.
 - b. But he spoke for himself and his household
 - c. My family and I will stand on Jehovah's side - we will be his people.
 - d. He was determined to have a God Serving family
 - e. But we are never told anything about his family.
3. Lesson for all fathers:
 - a. We should determine to serve God faithfully and loyally
 - b. And we should strive to lead our family into the same practices of Christianity.
 - c. Have you as a father decided that you are going to be a passive parent in spiritual matters?
 - d. Are you going to allow your children's future destiny to be determined by society?
 - e. Or are you going to do your best to shape them into serving God?

IV. PORTRAITS OF THE KIND OF MOTHERS WE NEED

A. HANNAH

1. Hannah was the mother of Samuel
2. I Sam. 1:11 - "O, Lord of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the Lord all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head."
3. Eli assures her that the Lord would grant her request.
4. A few months later she had a baby boy and named him Samuel.
5. She kept her promise and gave him to the Lord.
6. Ingredients of a good mother found in Hannah:
 - a. She wanted to be a mother - it is tragic when a child is born to a reluctant mother.
 - b. Hannah was a woman of prayer. Samuel was an answer to devout prayer. Mothers should be women of prayer.
 - c. She loaned her son to the Lord.
 - d. Many mothers today; are rearing their children without God and Christ. But Hannah wanted her son to serve God and he became a great servant of God.
 - e. The only real way to gain permanently a son is to loan him to the Lord.
 - f. If mothers fail to rear their sons and daughters in the fear of the Lord they are running a strong risk of losing them forever.
 - g. We can only "keep" our children by "giving" them to the Lord.

B. Elizabeth

1. The fulness of time was now at hand.
2. God's plan of redemption called for 2 baby boys.
3. One of these would be John the Baptist - the voice of one crying in the wilderness
4. God chose Elizabeth to be his mother.
5. Both Elizabeth and her husband Zacharias were descendants of Aaron.
6. Lk. 1:6 "And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless."
7. They were an older couple who had no children and God allowed them to have a Son who became the forerunner of Jesus.
8. Characteristics of Elizabeth:
 - a. She was righteous before God long before she became a mother. — It would be wonderful if every child had a mother who was righteous before God even before the birth of the child.
 - b. She was obedient to all God's commandments. This is good in all parents.

C. MARY

1. She was chosen out of all the women on the earth to become the mother of the Saviour.
2. Luke 1:28 "And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women."
3. God chose Mary above all the other women because of the outstanding qualities of motherhood that she possessed.
4. God used motherhood to allow His Son entrance into the world - he still depends upon motherhood for a continuation of His Son's cause on earth.
5. Mothers need to imitate the characteristics of Mary in order to be a good mother.
 - a. She was obedient to God.
 - b. She was Humble - Lk. 1:48
 - c. She was a woman of Love - tenderness - patience.
6. Mothers - if God were to be choosing a woman to give birth to His Son today, would you be of the character that He would choose you?

V. PORTRAITS OF THE KIND OF SONS WE NEED

A. TIMOTHY

1. He was raised by a good mother and a good grandmother -Lois and Eunice
2. II Tim. 1:5 - he possessed unfeigned faith
3. II Tim. 3:15 - he knew the scriptures from a child
4. I Tim. 4:12 - Be the right kind of example

B. JOSEPH

1. He was the son of Jacob and his favorite wife Rachel
2. He has many noble qualities which all sons should possess:
 - a. He stood against evil
 - b. He was a wise young man
 - c. He was a man of moral integrity - Gen. 39:9
 - d. He became the savior of his own people -

VI. THE KIND OF DAUGHTERS WE NEED**A. PHILLIP'S DAUGHTERS -**

1. Acts 21:9
2. He had four unmarried daughters
3. They had the honor of knowing and working with the great Christian men and women of their time in Jerusalem, Samaria, and Caesarea
4. They were called "prophetesses"
5. Because of their association with the leaders of the early church they became great expounders of God's words.
6. Lesson for daughters today - enjoy, and learn all you can from associations with other good Christians. Their lives can help you if you will allow it.

B. PHARAOH'S DAUGHTER

1. Exodus 2
2. Baby Moses was hidden by his mother Jochebed in an ark ⁰¹ the banks of the Nile. Miriam, his sister stood and watched.

3. Pharaoh's daughter had compassion on the child and saved it.
4. She raised Moses after he was weaned:
 - a. She saved his life by becoming his foster mother
 - b. She gave him the finest education available
 - c. She saved for the Hebrew nation the one who would become their great lawgiver and leader.
5. The quality she had which all daughters should have is "Compassion".
6. Her name is ungiven in the Bible - some authorities have said it was Their mouths, Myrrina, or Mercis.

CONCLUSION

1. The Family Portrait is a beautiful picture.
2. It includes all the family members doing what God would have them to do in their various relationships.
 - a. Husband - loves his wife, works, good to her, beautiful courtship
 - b. Wife - pure, good character, hard worker
 - c. Father - just man, obedient, worshipped God, served God
 - d. Mother - desired children, prayed, loaned child to Lord, righteous, humble
 - e. Sons - sincere, knew scriptures, example, good morals
 - f. Daughters - learned from others, compassion
3. What does your family portrait look like?
4. A good picture, as viewed by God, will make for a happy home.
5. The kind of home life may very well determine if we will have a heavenly home!
6. Put Christ in your home and it will be happy here and hereafter.

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