

Burning Mommy's Idols

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I. WHEN LEADERS PUT GOD BEFORE MOMMY

A. Asa put God and serving Judah above his family, including his own mother

1. 2Chron. 15:1-19 (16)

B. The results

1. He grew more bold than he had been for God

2. He extended his influence further than before

3. The newcomers were a great encouragement to him

4. The appreciation he gave them, and the invitation he gave them to the general assembly, were a great encouragement to them.

a. All strangers are to be helped, but those that give themselves to God's will and trust in His children enough to change their course, purely to keep a good conscience, are worthy of respect and attention.

5. What was the nature of this covenant?

a. Nothing but what they were before obliged to

b. That they would diligently seek God

c. That they would encourage others to seek him

6. How did they keep this covenant?

a. With cheerfulness and expressions of joy

b. With sincerity, zeal and resolution

C. This is what happens when a leader puts God before Mommy

1. In Asa's case, he literally had to burn Mommy's idols

2. For the rest of this lesson we are going to use Mommy's idols as a metaphor for putting the interests of our own families above our duty to God and His children

II. CHRISTIANS MUST PUT GOD BEFORE MOMMY

A. Jesus said all Christians must put Him and service to Him above family, including our own mothers.

1. Matt. 10:34-37

2. When you were a little boy, your Mommy told you that you were someone special. That's what Mommies do. When you grew up, you were supposed to forget that Mommy said you were special and realize that God is special and the people He put in your care are special and that you are just a servant. That's what grown men do.

III. WHEN LEADERS PUT MOMMY BEFORE GOD

A. One of the contributing factors to Judah's captivity was leaders who put their own interests above the God's will for their charges

1. Ez. 34:6-24

a. Failures of the shepherds

b. Selfishness of the sheep

B. Analysis

1. Their only interest was to advance and enrich themselves and their own and to make themselves great.
2. They had little interest in the benefit and welfare of those that were committed to their charge
3. They focused on their own needs and the needs of their own
4. Judges did not bother to right wrongs or protect the innocent.
5. They took no care of the poor to see them provided for
6. The priests took no care to instruct the ignorant, to correct the mistakes of those that were in error, to warn the unruly, or to comfort the discouraged.
7. The ministers of state gave no attention to unrest and unhappiness in the kingdom

C. The results

1. Their charges were driven away by enemies that invaded the country
2. They were forced to seek for shelter elsewhere
3. Some went abroad and begged, and the country became sparse of inhabitants, and was weakened and impoverished, and lacked me both in the fields of grain and on the fields of battle
4. God made promises to them and charged leaders with the task of keeping His promises.
5. God doesn't think it's about you; He thinks it's about the promises He made to the little ones, the weak ones, the defenseless ones

Conclusion:

A. If you are an evangelist, elder, deacon, Bible class teacher or in any other leadership role, you will not be a good leader until you burn Mommy's idols

B. It is not about:

1. Keeping your position; excusing doing harm to charges by rationalizing that it is more important in the long run for me to be a leader
2. Exercising the rights of your power or influence; you only have those in trust; you are only permitted to use them to the benefit of your charges
3. Advancing or promoting yourself or your family; leadership is a stewardship held in trust, not a right to be inherited

C. It is about:

1. God and His will
2. The charges He put in your care