

Family Series (Richardson Baptist: Message 5 of 7)

“Under Orders and On Assignment...” (Placing it All in the Hands of Jesus)

The fear of the Lord is the ABC's and the 123's of kingdom life. It is the basics to all life in God's kingdom.

What fundamental learning tools, like the very basics of reading, writing and arithmetic, are to the foundation of our education so is the fear of the Lord to wisdom and knowledge in

the kingdom of God. [It's] an irreplaceable treasure that comes with learning the ropes of His language, His life, His lead and His love that always teaches us to give place, priority and purpose to the King and His righteousness.

Yes, the fear of the Lord is the ABC's and the 123's of kingdom life. It's the beginning or foundation of what His wisdom and knowledge will continue to establish, again and again. And like the basic principles of phonics that are reiterated with every word we pronounce, and the

basics of addition and subtraction... principles that we apply every time we use numbers, spend cash or pay our bills, the fear of the Lord will be a part of all that is done and said by faith in God's kingdom.

As I mention already, Isaiah tells us that kingdom wisdom and knowledge will be our stability, security and strength throughout all the ages, and the fear of the Lord is God's precious treasure... So I must remind myself, and encourage you, don't miss out (Isaiah 33:6 ; Proverbs 1:7 ; Proverbs 9:10 ; Psalm 33:18 ; Psalm

147:11).

Have you ever noticed how the word speaks of wisdom in a feminine since?

I think it runs much deeper than the beauty of poetic language that Solomon has chosen to use as he is inspired of God to pen the book of Proverbs.

I believe if we were to dig deeper, and uncover the foundation and root to why he refers to wisdom as "she and her", we would find it in Genesis.

It was God who said, "It is not good that man should be alone..." so He created and brought to him all the animals but there was not found among them ANY that was a suitable help meet or companion. So God put Adam to sleep, took a rib FROM him, then fashioned and made for him a woman, from his flesh and bone. It was not good for man to be alone, without a woman, and "It's not good" than man be without wisdom. I think this is why the inspired writings of God refer to wisdom in the feminine voice, pointing us back to

the garden.

Let's take it a step farther and see the consequences of man or what comes FROM man that is void of God (His wisdom).

We need to learn from Eve... What comes out of man [that's not of God] only produces and spreads deception, despair and death.

What comes from man, that's not of God, only causes trouble and leads to a certain expectation of

death and destruction.
Think about it, Eve, who came out of man, and her independent actions (that were void of God) reveals this current reality. God could have created Eve, just as He did Adam...but He chose to take her OUT of man. This is a vivid image and reminder for us today...that which comes from man (each of us), that acts independent of God, just as Eve did, with Adam's consent, only produces and spreads death and deceit.

I stand today with a need...I need Jesus!! I need Him and His redeeming and all

sufficient grace to cover and compel me. I, without Him, can only produce and spread death and deceit. You, my friend, need Him, too!

HE IS OUR WISDOM and SO MUCH MORE (1 Corinthians 1:30)!

It's not good that man should be without wisdom. Isaiah solidifies for us the importance of God's wisdom and knowledge, telling us that they will be the stability and strength of our days (Isaiah 33:6). He also couples wisdom and

knowledge with the treasure of the fear of the Lord.

How can we know that our knowledge and wisdom is from God?

The foundation of both, wisdom and knowledge, will always be the fear of the Lord. The wrong kind of knowledge and wisdom, according to Isaiah and illustrated by the early Babylonians, will warp and twist our way (Isaiah 47:10). But the fear of the Lord will not only position you in the proper place that we give priority to God and His ways

but it will provide and protect you with wisdom and knowledge.

Therefore, we can discern the difference between a wisdom that perverts our thinking and a wisdom that purifies our minds and hearts to be approachable vessels that bear the fruits of God's kingdom and grace.

James helps us with learning how to recognize worldly wisdom and some of the ugliness that comes with it. James is making a distinction between the the

outcome of worldly and heavenly wisdom (James 3). And these same principles applies to faith or wisdom:

Input determines output.
Roots determine fruit.
Source dictates service.
Origin dictates outcome.

The output or outcome of worldly wisdom is... self-centered envy and jealousy.

Envy and jealousy are some cruel rascals. [They] delight in torturing [their] victims by

starving the joy in them ---
quenching the joy in others,
through them --- and
providing a banquet for
anxiety, anger and
bitterness to feed and
manipulate their feelings
until they consume every
ounce of life they once had.
[They] will make life about
us... that we avoid seeking
what God's personal and
loving view, to either
diminish or pridefully exalt
how we view ourselves.
Jealously will shame us for
being or having less than
another, but envy will
demand we deserve better
from everyone but
ourselves. They will cause
us to either underestimate or

overestimate our value and vision of the things we see, hear and know.

Jealously and envy are two nasty spirits that make a serious big deal about codling and pitying self, to purposely derail the believers focus on the things that really matter, now and for eternity, that they may be stranded on the journey and wallowing in their own self-seeking interest. Don't fall into [their] trap and be consumed with [their] ugly spirit. The sad thing is [they] disguise themselves as wisdom so [their] subjects will ignore or overlook the

damage [they're] causing in their relationships.

Christ came to give us life... and the wisdom He gives is never threaten or intimidated by things that oppose it, and neither are we when we under His influence and led and serve by His wisdom. (James 3)

Take for example the word submission... it's one of the most misunderstood and misapplied words of our day, and for that reason most of us want to avoid like a

plague. But neglecting or avoiding the truth only leads to more misinformation of God's design and the rich blessings that comes with knowing and understanding His ways.

So what does this word mean?

First off it's a compound word that has tremendous value to Jesus and His people. The two words used to make up this word are "sub" and "mission" and when put together they mean "under assignment." Think about it like this: to be

under an assignment, one must also be under orders. Why? Every MISSION comes with a set of ORDERS from the one who gave them the ASSIGNMENT. Think about it, if we're not under orders and on mission, we're off the assignment.

Therefore, submission, as Ephesians 5 teaches us to be submissive to one another and let the wives be submissive to their husbands, just as the

church is subject to Christ, is more about being under ORDERS and on MISSION to the specific ASSIGNMENT we've been given. It's not about being UNDER a man or a pastor or a boss or anyone else, as much as it means to be under and on the assignment given to us by the Lord. Now those orders often and faithfully place us under the leadership of those mentioned above that we may fulfill the calling upon our lives and finish the MISSION He's given to us.

Your marriage is more than a relationship... it's a vital part of your mission and He will use you to glorify Himself through it and display the love and beauty of His gospel in it.

Submission has never been about being subservient to people but being subject to Jesus, being a part of something bigger than yourselves, honoring the Lord, obeying His design and being fruitful, while living life on mission for Him.

What God says about life, blessings, grace, family,

marriage, relationships, jobs, missions, food or our next breath is more important than life itself. Think about?

What God says about a [thing]—is ALWAYS more important than the [thing] itself—no matter what, or how important, that [thing] may be.

Let me explain... or let me rephrase that. May we let Jesus explain it to us in the way He spoke of manna as an example. Jesus, when tempted by Satan, used the sword of the Spirit as an example for us when living

life and how to battle the enemy with the word of God. He took us back to when Moses reminds Israel (and us) of a very important resource God graciously and purposely provided for His people for 40 years while they discovered the value and significance of trusting God and taking Him at His word. (Deuteronomy 8)

This particular principle, "what God says about it," is illustrated so beautifully in the giving of manna or more importantly, the **INSTRUCTIONS** that sustained them for 40 years

of gathering the manna each day. Everything hinged on what God initially, and not on how they interpreted, manipulated or altered what God said about it over time.

In our reading today He let them know why He gave them manna. It was to teach them the beauty and blessings of humility. He was teaching them how to trust Him. And when they trusted every single word that proceeded out of His mouth, as it applied to the simple to the significant things in life, all would rest on Him to sustain and fulfill what He said. But when they

go independent, and do life the way that seems best for them, they can expect it to turn sour and rot. Life cannot not be sustainable nor satisfying, for His own people, without His compassion or the clarity of His instructions on a continual and daily basis. Therefore, the humility was to be found in seeking, trusting and depending upon God, as they followed His instructions and applied what He said with purpose and passion.

The manna was only as good as God said it was. It would only sustain them if

they carefully followed His instructions, as it applied to collecting the manna each day. What God said about the food was far more important than the bread itself...and as we look at it closer, we see that what the Lord said is what would sustain them in life and beyond. Therefore, He taught them that man is not to live on food alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord.

It's NOT your marriage or the relationship you have with others, or the job, or the ministry, or the mission, or the children, or the fun, or

the recreation, or the summer, or the rest, or the day, or our very lives that are most important—but what supersedes them all, and is more important than anything else, is what God's says about these things and how we trust Him and what He's revealed. That's what Jesus thought, revealed and applied in His everyday life. And I believe He will still apply it, when He's in us, living the life He lived then, through us today.

You see...what God says about a [thing] is ALWAYS more important than the [thing] itself... no matter

what, or how important, that [thing] may be.

Pride, for those who operate in the flesh, is as natural as our next breath.

The nature of things is to grow or to swell or blow up... like children, everything is designed to grow/swell and so does our pride. The word pride literally means to swell. It conveys the idea of being filled and inflated with ourselves and having little to no room to be filled with the presence and promises of Jesus. And whatever fills us is what influences and

comes out of our lives from day to day.

And it's neat to understand that when we're filled with God, His wisdom and His love that influence our thought life and actions.

And we are taught and have been looking at the very things, that both wisdom and love are never boastful nor do they ever parade themselves.

Think about like this... How many of us enjoy a delicious plate of bacon? Man, the

smell and taste of a savory slab of bacon can do wonders to a mediocre dish. Bacon is so good. And what makes it so good is the mixture of smoke, seasonings, meat and fat ratio.

But have you ever noticed? The fattier the meat... the more it draws up when heat is applied. Like our beloved bacon... because of all the fat each piece will draw up to hardly nothing in a hot hot skillet. But a heavy #castiron bacon press, like mine, will make that fat kiss the heat and keep more of its form. Same applies for a

heart full of greasy pride. It wants to get away from the heat of God's word... but I'm so glad, and ever grateful, the Lord knows exactly how to press us out... and render that greasy pride out of our stubborn hearts. Every time you want to run from the reading, teaching and preaching of God's word... keep in mind, like our fatty bacon, our hearts will want to get away from the heat, too. It's a pride thing... therefore, may we welcome the pressure from above, and let Him render the pride out of our lives, He's knows exactly what He's doing. (2 Corinthians 12:7-10)

And when we apply these things to life, marriage and the family we start to see the importance of dealing with this inflated pride in our own lives so we can raise arrows that can be used to bring glory to Jesus.

Rebellion is an inherited trait... submission must be taught again and again.

Raising rebels is easy and simple... any fool can do it.

But it takes submissive servants with a heart full of

love, compassion, wisdom, diligence, patience, discipline, strength and courage, to name a few, to raise champions of grace and truth.

Contention breeds contention... rebels mislead rebels but meek and humble servant leaders encourage and equip future servant leaders. There must be a balance of liberty and order, freedom and submission, love and law and correction and compassion.

Therefore, it will take Jesus working in and through

dads, moms, grandparents
and a community of
likeminded family and
friends to raise well-
rounded• warm hearted
•wise warriors who are
tough and tender•gritty and
gracious•pleasant and
passionate•courageous•cou
rteous•confident and
compassionate champions
of grace and truth that love
and lead well.

In loving and serving and
submitting to one another
giving place and purpose
and priority...

The husband gleans and learns from the example and lead of Christ

The wife takes gleans and learns from the example and lead of the Church

Headship and submission is designed to prophetically and purposely, in principle and practice, to be an example of the covenant love and relationship of Christ and His bride.

A crown of glory...

"An excellent wife is the CROWN of her husband, but she who cause shame is like CANCER/rotteness in his bones" (Proverbs 12:4).

...a CROWN has a way of lifting, elevating and exalting but a CANCER weakens, diminishes, pushes down, demotes, belittles, lessens and disintegrates

I'm FOREVER grateful for my crown... she wears so well on me, I never want to take it off. Glory...

"Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is far above rubies. The heart of her husband safely trust her; so he will have no lack of gain (being distracted, wondering or worrying what she's into now). She does him good and not evil all the days of her life" (Proverbs 31:10-11).

Her rareness speaks of her willingness to do what other wives wouldn't do. And it's obvious that she's not afraid or intimidated to stand alone. When the majority of her contemporaries are seeking and fighting for independence and fun, at

the high price of neglecting their husbands, children and households, she's not moved nor interested in their pride or their agenda. She takes care of her nest... and for that she's rare. And those who mean the most to her know it... and they appreciate and affirm her when others mock her rareness. She loves, lives and leads with grace and honor. Others may be more beautiful and charming but she knows those qualities do not last. But, when it comes to fearing God, she stands out with no worries of being ashamed of what is fading away with time.

We all live by what we have been taught... the things we have heard, seen, experienced and understand. Someone said... "this is how you do this", then they showed us how, we then experimented with it and experienced it with them and now understand what they said.

The problem with this is that what we know and understand about what we learned from someone else can be and often is, **WRONG.**

This is where being transformed BY the renewing of our mind.

Romans 12:1-2

NOT TO BE — Squeezed by the times...

WE MUST BE — Sanctified by the truth...

This is the idea of what God was doing when He taught His people, that what He said about a thing was more important than the thing itself or what we knew about

it prior to what God says about it.

And keep this in mind, Jesus didn't work THEN, and He will not work in us NOW, WITHOUT the presence and power of the Spirit of God and His Scriptures, actively working in and through us, TODAY. There are no short cuts in the kingdom, only surrendered servants trusting the Master knows best.

A God size assignment... requires a God size anointing. Heaven's purpose... requires Heaven's

power. God's salvation...
requires God's Son.

Let's illustrate what God's
Son can do in our situation:
in our marriage, family,
church, community, job, and
country.

Remember, the first miracle
Jesus ever publicly
performed was turning
undrinkable water into wine.
The water He turned to wine
was similar to our bath
water. It was for washing...

how many of you would want to drink your bath water? Your life today may be like bath water. The best way to describe it would be simply undrinkable or unsharable. You wouldn't want people drinking from your life. The "joy" of your life, like what wine delivers, is simply out. What's left is not suited to share as drinkable water.

But Jesus is the best at turning the undrinkable things of this life into something full of joy and He's still taking things that

seem undrinkable and making them taste ever so good.

Whether it's water or skepticism or unbelief or rebellion or self-centeredness or frigid hearts or whatever [it] might be... when we "do as He says" He transforms the "undrinka