



## 2019 Q2 Family Seasons - Lesson 12

### What Have They Seen *in Your House*?

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#### SABBATH

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Memory Text – “But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.” 1 Peter 2:9

Paragraph 2 and 3: What have people seen in your house?

- What have heavenly angels seen? What kind of spirit permeates our residences? Can one “smell” the scent of prayer? Is there kindness, generosity, love, or tension, anger, resentment, bitterness, and discord? Will someone who's there walk away thinking Jesus is in this home?
- These are important questions for all of us to ask ourselves regarding the kind of home that we have created. This week we will look at some of the issues that can make for a wonderful home life, despite the inevitable tensions and struggles that homes today face.

We should ask ourselves, why we are often kinder to strangers and save our worst behaviours for those we “love” in our own home?

- We let down our guard at home – is that where we let out the “real” us?
- I am well acquainted with people who have left the church, at least partially because they were children of church leaders, friends of children of church leaders, or neighbors of church leaders, who could readily see or hear what was being said and done in the homes of some of our highly respected leaders.

So, if we have time, I would also like to delve a bit into some other houses that pertain to us....ourselves - our internal, personal temple of the Holy Spirit, and our Church house.

#### SUNDAY

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##### Learning From a King's Mistake

To paraphrase 2 Chronicles 32; Isaiah 38, 39, After serving God faithfully,

- King Hezekiah had very great riches and honor, and he made treasuries and buildings to store all of this. He became proud and he did not respond to the kindness shown him.
- He was told by God that he would die, but Hezekiah begged and prayed for more time, and when God granted his request (15 more years of life and delivery from the hand of the king of Assyria), Hezekiah asked for a sign, so God caused the sun going backward 1 step, as Hezekiah requested.

What did Hezekiah do with that extra time?



- The son of the king of Babylon brought a letter from the king as he had heard about Hezekiah's illness and recovery, and some gifts.
- Instead of giving God the credit/glory and teaching him about God, or apparently asking God for guidance in this matter, Hezekiah showed him ALL of his treasure
- God sent Isaiah to Hezekiah with the message that because Hezekiah showed them all his treasure, Babylon would come back and take it all, including his descendants, and make some of the eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.
- He sired Manasseh, the worst king Israel had ever had
- The Babylonians ultimately invaded, destroyed the temple and removed the Israelites from their nation, just as God had said.

In what ways are you able to use your home to witness to others?

- Every visit to the homes of Christians is an opportunity for people to meet followers of Christ.
- Christians may find ways that are sensitive and appropriate to the occasion to share the good news.
- Christians are not called to show off their material prosperity or accomplishments, though they may recognize these as blessings from God.
- Cleanliness, order, simplicity, hospitality, courtesy, respect, happiness, joy, love, all of these provide examples of how God works in the hearts of the family and home..

## MONDAY

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### Family First

Sharing faith at home –

- **Andrew was a disciple of John the Baptist** and heard what John said about Jesus. The first thing he did was to enthusiastically tell his brother, Simon (we know him as Peter), “We have found the Messiah,” and brought him to Christ, and that simple act started the wonderful, saving relationship between Peter and Jesus.
- **Naomi – Her Moabite daughter-in-law Ruth was converted**, even though Naomi was discouraged and tried to send her back to her family of origin. Because Ruth refused to leave Naomi and embraced Naomi's God, she was grafted into the Israelite nation and became a fore bearer of Jesus. This story shows that even imperfect parents can introduce a child to God and foster the child's relationship with God.
- **The greatest of all miracles, and something I believe we ought to pray for is insight like Jesus had into other people, their needs and the best way to minister to them.**
- **In our homes, regular spiritual habits of personal and family worship are to be encouraged.** But make these short for children, understandable at their level, and very interesting. Don't make it something the child or youth dreads.



## TUESDAY

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### Peace That Wins

Marriages divided by religion – stay if you can.

- **1 Corinthians 7:12-15** “To the rest I say this (**I, not the Lord**); **If any brother has a wife who is not a believer and she is willing to live with him, he must not divorce her. And if a woman has a husband who is not a believer and he is willing to live with her, she must not divorce him.** For the unbelieving husband has been sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife has been sanctified through her believing husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy. But if the unbeliever leaves, let him do so. A believing man or woman is not bound in such circumstances. God has called us to live in peace. How do you know, wife, whether you will save your husband? Or, how do you know, husband, whether you will save your wife?”
- **1 Peter 3:1,2** “Wives, in the same way be submissive to your husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, **they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, when they see the purity and reverence of your lives.**”

What might be the limitations of a spouse's responsibility toward an unbelieving partner?

- You are not responsible for their salvation, but may be the guide toward it, with warm friendliness, loving-kindness, unwavering fidelity, and humble service toward them. Love them as you love yourself. You are one in God's sight.
- When a spouse relates with Christian submission to an unbelieving partner, the first allegiance is always to Christ.
- Faithfulness to the claims of God on one's life does not require a spouse to suffer abuse at the hands of a violent partner.

Question at the bottom of the page:

- If someone in your church is struggling with an unbelieving spouse, what practical ways could you possibly help?

## WEDNESDAY

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### Family Life Is for Sharing

Relationship between modeling and witnessing?

- **Modeling** is what you show and do. How you act and how you live.
- **Witnessing** is more related to what you believe and say. The explanation of the meaning behind how you act and how you live.
- But obviously, modeling and witnessing have some cross-over.
- **We witness from our homes when we provide opportunities for others to observe us and to share in our home experience in some way.** In our homes, others may see how the spirit of Jesus makes a difference.



- The display of mutuality, affirmation, communication, conflict resolution, and accommodation of differences testifies of family life in Christ.
- But all human examples are flawed; however, the witness of the Christian home is not about modeling absolute perfection. The idea is that individuals will grasp Christian faith as they see it demonstrated in the lives of others who are as human and fallible as they are.
- **I've found that people hate perfect people**, and feel awkward or jealous around them.

People tend to become like whom or what they watch.

- **Chose close friends carefully.** It is tempting to think you can be a good influence on those who are making terrible choices, but it is far more likely they will be a bad influence on you.
- **Girl visited her pastor and said she wanted to marry her non-christian boyfriend.** She thought she would be a good influence on her. He responded by having her get up on his desk and try to elevate him onto the desk. When she couldn't do that, he said it was his turn. He showed her how easy it was for him to pull her down to the floor from his desk.
- Since you usually can't choose your family, you often find that **you have a choice between following the bad or destructive behavior you see, or learning from it** and deciding to make healthy choices instead.
- **Some of my friends growing up said that they wished my parents were their parents.** My parents had some detrimental habits, behaviors and baggage like we all have, but they expressed love, and fun, and rarely lost their tempers. They encouraged creativity and teamwork. They believed in us and in our God-given abilities. They forgave us when we made mistakes.

## THURSDAY

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### Centers of Contagious Friendliness

Hospitality – meets another person's basic needs for rest, food, and fellowship. It is a tangible expression of self-giving love. True hospitality springs from the hearts of those who have been touched by God's love and want to express their love in words and actions.

Many contemporary families confuse hospitality and entertaining. Some Biblical examples of hospitality:

- Genesis 18:1-8 Abraham and Sarah
- Genesis 24:15-20, 31-33 Rebekah and her family
- Luke 19:1-9 Zacchaeus
- Matthew 25:34-40 Jesus attached theological significance to hospitality when He taught that feeding the hungry and giving drink to the thirsty were acts of service done to Him.

I once heard a well known speaker and writer say that people are afraid to invite her to dine with them in their home, for fear she will judge them for anything not done perfectly. She said she'd be happy to be invited to be the recipient of hospitality that only included peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. She just wanted the friendship.

## FRIDAY

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## Further Thought

The power of the home in evangelism.

“Far more powerful than any sermon that can be preached is the influence of a true home upon human hearts and lives..... **Our sphere of influence may seem narrow, our ability small, our opportunities few, our acquirements limited; yet wonderful possibilities are our through faithful use of the opportunities of our own homes.**” Ellen G. White, *The Ministry of Healing*, pp 352, 355

- **My grandmother raised 9 children by herself through the Great Depression.** And somehow, she managed to hold a “Branch Sabbath School” in her home, which resulted in hearts converted to God. She never had much money, but she managed to get her children educated, made quilts for all of her huge family and gave them freely to others. She was a great vegetarian cook, and made sure no one left the table hungry. God was her “True Husband” and a “Father to the fatherless”. She had an unshakable faith in a God that was as real to her as you are to me sitting right here, and she passed that legacy on to her family. What excuse do I have, do we have?

You can be an example of recovery.

- If you have lived your life in such a way that when you see your children copying from you, rather than learning from your mistakes, it can feel like a knife stabbing into your heart.
- But, you can also be an example of recovery. **God uses the most wounded, the least, the poorest, the most humble of people to do some of his very best work. Allowing Him inside your mind to mend your broken parts is the way you give glory to Him, and the changes that follow WILL be noticed by those in your life and home.**

What will they see in your churches' house?

- Have you ever cringed at the idea of bringing someone new to faith in God to your church? Or recommending that they go to your church in their area?
- Maybe their habits aren't right up there to par with the “believers.”
- It can feel almost like sending your child off to school where you hope they will find friends and mentors, not be ignored or disdained or bullied, etc.
- You can't imagine how many people I have talked with that left the church because of how they were treated at church.
- Many people will go to a church with beliefs that they don't agree with simply because the people there are so warm, caring and friendly.
- Do we expect people to become perfect before they come to church or to God?
- How does that attitude fit with our imperfect, unwelcoming behaviors?
- I read of a man that came to the church of he was to become the new minister that day, but came incognito as a homeless, disheveled guy. When sermon time came and he got up out of the



audience to speak, you can believe that his first sermon there was both pointed and poignant.

**Jesus said, “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. The the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’ The King will reply, “I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.” Matthew 25:31-40**

- And of course he said the opposite to the wicked on his left, who do not enter into eternal life, who's final death in the fire is their eternal end.
- John 15:17 Jesus gave this instruction to his disciples during one of his last conversations with them, “This is my command: Love each other.”
- John 17:1-3 Jesus was praying for his disciples the night he was betrayed, “...Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. **Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.**”
- Consider....this is how we are judged.

What did Jesus see in His Father's House?

Well worth reading, Desire of Ages, the whole Chapter 16, ”In His Temple,” and Chapter 65, “The Temple Cleansed Again.”

Excerpts from Chapter 16:

The dealers demanded exorbitant prices for the animals sold, and they shared their profits with the priests and rulers, who thus enriched themselves at the expense of the people.

A great number of sacrifices were offered at the time of the Passover, and the sales at the temple were very large. The consequent confusion indicated a noisy cattle market rather than the sacred temple of God....so great was the confusion that the worshipers were disturbed, and the words addressed to the Most High were drowned in the uproar that invaded the temple. **The Jews.....were scarcely aware how far they had wandered from the original purpose of the service instituted by God Himself....**The priests and rulers were called to be the representatives of God to the nation; they should have corrected the abuses of the temple court. **They should have given to the people an example of integrity and compassion. Instead of studying their own**



**profit, they should have considered the situation and needs of the worshipers, and should have been ready to assist those who were not able to buy the required sacrifices. But this they did not do.**

As Jesus came into the temple, He took in the whole scene. He saw the unfair transactions. He saw the distress of the poor, who thought that without shedding of blood there would be no forgiveness for their sins. He saw the out court of His temple converted into a place of unholy traffic. The sacred enclosure had become one vast exchange.

Christ saw that something must be done. **Numerous ceremonies were enjoined upon the people without the proper instruction as to their import. The worshipers offered their sacrifices without understanding that they were typical of the only perfect Sacrifice...**with prophetic eye He looks into futurity, and sees not only years, but centuries and ages. **He see how priests and rulers will turn the needy from their right, and forbid that the gospel shall be preached to the poor. He sees how the love of God will be concealed from sinners, and men will make merchandise of His grace.** As He beholds the scene, indignation, authority, and power are expressed in His countenance.....They feel that this Man reads their inmost thoughts, and discovers their hidden motives.....it is as if they were arraigned before the tribunal of God to answer for their deeds. Looking upon Christ, they behold divinity flash through the garb of humanity. **The majesty of heaven stands as the Judge will stand at the last day...with the same power to read the soul...with a zeal and severity He has never before manifested, He overthrows the tables of the money-changers...Jesus does not smite them with the whip of cords, but in His hand that simple scourge seems terrible as a flaming sword...even the disciples trembled. They are awestruck by the words and manner of Jesus, so unlike His usual demeanor....**in the cleansing of the temple, Jesus was announcing His mission as the Messiah, and entering upon His work...**from eternal ages it was God's purpose that every created being, from the bright and holy seraph to man, should be a temple for the indwelling of the Creator...by the incarnation of the Son of God, the purpose of Heaven is fulfilled. God dwells in humanity, and through saving grace the heart of man becomes again His temple.**

**The courts of the temple at Jerusalem, filled with the tumult of unholy traffic, represented all too truly the temple of the heart, defiled by the presence of sensual passion and unholy thoughts. In cleansing the temple from the world's buyers and sellers, Jesus announced His mission to cleanse the heart from the defilement of sin – from the earthly desires, the selfish lusts, the evil habits, that corrupt the soul.**

**Malachi 3:1-3 “The Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to His temple, even the Messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, He shall come, saith the Lord of hosts. But who may abide the day of His coming? And who shall stand when He appeareth? For He is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap: and He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and He shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver.”**

Note: I came across an item on Face book that was about refining silver, that the silversmith must hold the silver in the middle of the fire where the flames were hottest as to burn away all the impurities. He has to



sit there in the presence of the silver being refined the whole time, to make sure that it did not go a moment too long, because that would damage the silver. He knows when the refining process is completed when he sees his image in it.

**“Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.”** 1 Corinthians 3:16,17

**No man can of himself cast out the evil throning that have taken possession of the heart. Only Christ can cleanse the soul temple. But He will not force an entrance....**”Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him.” Revelation 3:20. He will come, not for one day merely; for He says, “I will dwell in them, and walk in them; ...and they shall be My people.” “He will subdue our iniquities; and Thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.” Corinthians 6:16. His presence will cleanse and sanctify the soul, so that it may be a holy temple unto the Lord, and 'an habitation of God through the Spirit.” Ephesians 2:21,22

**In putting Christ to death, they Jews virtually destroyed their temple.** When Christ was crucified, the inner veil of the temple was rent in twain from top to bottom, signifying that the great final sacrifice had been made, and that the system of sacrificial offerings was forever at an end.

**“Wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them.”** Hebrews 7:25....While He delegates His power to inferior ministers, His energizing presence is still with His church.

Excerpts from Chapter 65:

**At the close of His mission, He came again to the temple, and found it still desecrated as before. The condition of things was even worse than before.** The outer court of the temple was like a vast cattle yard.....The dignitaries of the temple were themselves engaged in buying and selling and the exchange of money. So completely were they controlled by their greed of gain that in the sight of God they were no better than thieves.

**Jesus looked upon the innocent victims of sacrifice, and saw how the Jews had made these great convocations scenes of bloodshed and cruelty.** In the place of humble repentance of sin, they had multiplied the sacrifice of beasts, as if God could be honored by a heartless service...He knew that His blood so soon to be shed for the sins of the world, would be as little appreciated by the priests and elders, as was the blood of beasts which they kept incessantly flowing.

In fulfillment of prophecy the people had proclaimed Jesus king of Israel. He had received their homage, and accepted the office of king. In this character, He must act. **He knew that His efforts to reform a corrupt priesthood would be in vain; nevertheless His work must be done; to an unbelieving people the evidence of His divine mission must be given.** Again the piercing look of Jesus swept over the desecrated court of the temple. All eyes were turned toward Him. Priest and





ruler, Pharisee and Gentile, looked with astonishment and awe upon Him who stood before them with the majesty of heaven's King. Divinity flashed through humanity, investing Christ with a dignity and glory He had never manifested before. Those standing nearest Him drew as far away as the crowd would permit. Except for a few of His disciples, the Saviour stood alone. Every sound was hushed. The deep silence seemed unbearable. Christ spoke with a power that swayed the people like a mighty tempest: "It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves." His voice sounded like a trumpet throughout the temple. The displeasure of His countenance seemed like consuming fire. With authority He commanded, "Take these things hence." John 2:16

**Three years before, the rulers of the temple had been ashamed of their flight before the command of Jesus. They had since wondered at their own fears, and their unquestioning obedience to a single humble Man. They had felt that it was impossible for their undignified surrender to be repeated.** Yet they were now more terrified than before, and in greater haste to obey His command. There were none who dared question His authority. Priests and traders fled from His presence, driving their cattle before them.

On the way from the temple they were met by a throng who came with their sick inquiring for the Great Healer. **The report given by the fleeing people caused some to these to turn back. They feared to meet One so powerful, whose very look had driven the priests and rulers from His presence. But a large number pressed through the hurrying crowd, eager to reach Him who was their only hope.** When the multitude fled from the temple, many had remained behind. These were now joined by the newcomers. Again the temple court was filled by the sick and they dying, and once more Jesus ministered to them.

**After a season the priests and rulers ventured back to the temple. When the panic had abated, they were seized with anxiety to know what would be the next movement of Jesus. They expected Him to take the throne of David.** Quietly returning to the temple, they heard the voices of men, women, and children praising God. Upon entering, they stood transfixed before the wonderful scene. They saw the sick healed, the blind restored to sight, the deaf receive their hearing, and the crippled leap for joy. The children for foremost in the rejoicing....some of them had fallen asleep upon His breast as He was teaching the people.... The sound of these happy, unrestrained voices was an offense to the rulers of the temple. They set about putting a stop to such demonstrations.

**The contrast between Jesus and the high priest as they talked together was marked.** The proud dignitary of the temple was clothed in rich and costly garments. Upon his head was a glittering tiara. His bearing was majestic, his hair and his long flowing beard were silvered by age. His appearance awed the beholders. Before this august personage stood the Majesty of heaven, without adornment or display. His garments were travel stained; His face was pale, and expressed a patient sadness; yet written there were dignity and benevolence that contrasted strangely with the proud, self-confident, and angry air of the high priest. Many of those who witnessed the words and deeds of Jesus in the temple from that time enshrined Him in their hearts as a prophet of God.



**In asking the questions, “When the lord therefore of the vineyard cometh, what will he do unto those husbandmen?” Christ designed that the Pharisees should answer as they did. He designed that they should condemn themselves.** His warnings, failing to arouse them to repentance, would seal their doom, and He wished them to see that they had brought ruin on themselves. He designed to show them the justice of God in the withdrawal of their national privileges, which had already begun, and which would end, not only in the destruction of their temple and their city, but in the dispersion of the nations. **The hearers recognized the warning. But notwithstanding the sentence they themselves had pronounced, the priests and rulers were ready to fill out the picture by saying, “This is the heir; come, let us kill him.”**

**To fall upon the Rock and be broken is to give up our self-righteousness and to go to Christ with the humility of a child, repenting of our transgressions, and believing in His forgiving love. And so also it is by faith and obedience that we build on Christ as our foundation.....**Many persons are by their own endeavors hewn, polished, and beautified; but they cannot become “living stones,” because they are not connected with Christ. **WITHOUT THIS CONNECTION, NO MAN CAN BE SAVED. WITHOUT THE LIFE OF CHRIST IN US, WE CANNOT WITHSTAND THE STORMS OF TEMPATIONS.....**The glory of His countenance, which to the righteous is life, will be to the wicked a consuming fire. Because of love rejected, grace despised, the sinner will be destroyed.....The desecrated temple, the disobedient son, the false husbandmen, the contemptuous builders, have their counterpart in the experience of every sinner. Unless he repent, the doom which they foreshadowed will be his.

What does He see in YOUR house – inside you?

**“You do not have, because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.” James 4:2, 3**

**“Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.” James 4:7-10**

**“Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. THEN I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will turn back to you.” Psalms 51:10-13**

Final Prayer, joining Paul with his prayer/letter from prison, probably in Rome:

“When I think of the wisdom and scope of God's plan, I fall to my knees and pray to the Father, the Creator of everything in heaven and on earth. I pray that from His glorious, unlimited resources He will give you mighty inner strength through His Holy Spirit. And I pray that Christ will be more and more at home in your hearts as you trust in Him. May your roots go down deep into the soil of



God's marvelous love. And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep His love really is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is so great you will never fully understand it. Then you will be filled with the fullness of life and power that comes from God. Now glory be to God! By His mighty power at work within us, He is able to accomplish infinitely more than we would ever dare to ask or hope.”  
Ephesians 3:14-20 NLT