

“A man shall leave his father and mother....”

It was always nice waking up in the morning and knowing that your job was going to school. It was always nice during the day knowing that someone would provide you with three meals and a roof over your head. It was always nice knowing that bills were paid by someone else. It was always nice knowing that most major decisions were made by the head of the household and it was even nicer knowing that was not you. Yes, we were growing up and doing what we were told and others, the adults, were making the decisions for our family, our state, and our nation. Some people might refer to this as the good old days. For me, Charles Dickens in *A Tale of Two Cities* summed it up best for me. “*It was the best of times; it was the worst of times*”. And then we grew up and as the adult we began to realize that our responsibilities were changing and we were required to change as well. And change for the better eventually became a part of our lives. That change for the better I would like to address. Most likely you have had the same experience.

It started out as a most ordinary day. The sun might have been shining and the seasons were beginning to change. You might have been with friends at work, in a trade school, in the military, or in college. You might have been by yourself and then it happened. No, nothing hit you in the head directly but you were hit with something in a way you had never truly experienced before. You noticed someone and you truly realized your life would never be the same again. The heart felt different and you were almost instantly transformed. It was one big WOW factor. Truly, it was

*“Some enchanted evening
You may see a stranger...”*

And that person might never be a stranger again and you knew that these were the best of times. And this is how it began and then the time came when.....

“*A man shall leave his father and mother....*” Matthew Chapter 19. One’s first thought might be.... (No, it is not to abandon one’s parents... Exodus 20:12..”Honor your Father and your Mother....”) ...that this text deals only with marriage and a man’s and woman’s responsibility to each other. In part it does, but one must also understand that this was and is scripture that deals with a fundamental law of marriage. Read Chapter 19: 1-11. The Pharisees were doing their best to put Jesus in a no win situation and we know that never happened. Jesus speaks to them about what they do know (reference to Adam and Moses) and what they need to understand. What the Pharisees needed to understand was that the focus of a man must shift to be a good husband as priority number one when a man leaves his father and mother. For this to successfully occur parents have a responsibility to prepare their children for this most important time of their life. Parents need not raise a child to be an emotional cripple. Parents need not raise a child to be totally dependant on the parent. There is a time for the child to leave his father and mother and a huge responsibility goes to the parents for making this transition easier so that priorities and focus change and children mature and take on adult responsibilities. Parents must prepare their children to be the best father or mother they can be. Parents must prepare their children to solve problems that can come their way. Read Matthew

Chapter 19:1-11. We know parents have a difficult road to travel in raising their children and sometimes even the best effort in raising one's child does not render a positive and fruitful life for your child. Then the parent learns. "Thus saith the LORD unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle [is] not yours, but God's ". (II Chronicles, 20: 15) Then the parent learns. "The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles. The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." (Psalm 34:17-18 NIV) And then if battles occur I believe the parent has even greater responsibilities in support of their child but the main priority must be to focus on God and to remember the battle is not yours, but God's. The focus must be to cry out and I can personally tell you that the Lord does hear and does deliver.

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