

Sermon ~ Sunday, May 9th, 2021 (Mother's Day) by Pastor Dwight Benoit

Text: Luke 19: 5 "...make haste, and come down, for today I must *abide* (stay) at thy house."

Title: "Can The Church Help Your Family?"

Our Mother (Mrs. Julia Mitchell), now *abide* (stay) in Heaven, *and*, within our hearts!
Your Mother may be with you, may be nearby or somewhere. Yet may *all* Mothers know,
no matter what, we Love you and **Thank GOD** for you, for **HE** made Mothers like no other!!!

"You are as much serving **GOD**, in looking after your own home,
training us up in **GOD'S fear**, minding the house,
and making your household **The Church of GOD**, as you would be
if you had been called to lead an army to battle for **The LORD of hosts.**"

Charles Spurgeon

"Can The Church Help Your Family?"

A woman bought an Exercise Plan. When the time for the use of the Plan had expired,
the woman went to the Company, *complaining* that she had not been helped at all. In fact,
she said, "I have gained more weight, than before I purchased this Plan. When the Owner
checked the records on the woman's attendance to the Exercise classes, he discovered,
that she had attended only *two* classes...

For many families, **The Church**, is as ineffective as this woman's Exercise Plan, and for the same
reasons. **CHRIST (The Church)** can do much for our *homes* if we will allow **HIM** to work through
HIS Church. However, **The Church**, can be only effective as a family will allow.

Please hear what **The SPIRIT of GOD** is saying to you (us)! [Because of COVID-19, this Pandemic,
we have been barred from *The Church-house*, but not **The Church (JESUS CHRIST)!!!**]
Hear **JESUS** say, "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build
MY Church, and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it." (Matthew 16: 18)
[**JESUS** used a clever play on words to teach his disciples about **The Church**. When **HE** referred
to Peter by name Peter (the *Greek--petros*), **HE** used the word for a *small, movable stone*, like a
pebble. But the word Rock (the *Greek--petra*) means an *immovable foundation*. **JESUS** was
saying **The Church (JESUS abiding** in his disciples) would not be built on Peter "*little pebble*"
but upon **CHRIST**, the *massive ROCK* and **Chief Cornerstone**, in you and me—**The Church!**

Zaccheus, in the text, discovered the difference **CHRIST** makes when **HE** enters a person's life
and thereby enters that person's home! In this text, **JESUS** declared that Zaccheus home would
be *saved*, by **HIS Presence**— "And **JESUS** said unto him, This day is *salvation* come to this
house..." However, for **CHRIST** to help your family, **HE** must start with you, with you becoming
The Church, and you taking **The Church (JESUS in you)**, home to your family!

"Can The Church Help Your Family?"

***CHRIST can Help your Family through The Church if your Habits allow it!**

There is a *style* of life that makes the resources of **The Church** available to the family. It is the *style* of life that **CHRIST JESUS** functions in. Not the *style* of life you want **JESUS** to function in. But the *style* of life that **CHRIST JESUS** functions in. That is, **Worship of GOD, Devotion to HIM** through meditating in **HIS WORD, confession, forgiveness, repentance, Loving HIM, being Loved by HIM** and **Loving others**. This *purpose* is made available for families to use in **The SPIRIT of JESUS CHRIST**.

Families that develop the habit of *servicing* with **CHRIST** create for themselves an atmosphere of *unselfishness* and *giving*. The members of a family that learns the *JOY of service* will be able to function with each other and others, in *service*. When **JESUS** came into Zaccheus, and Zaccheus brought **JESUS** home, this difference was discovered. By contrast, the family that excludes **The Church** from its activities cannot expect **CHRIST** to have much impact on the home. The absence of **The SPIRIT of CHRIST** in the home is usually due to the *failure* of the family member(s) to give **CHRIST** the opportunity. Zaccheus new habits (vs. 8) made it possible for **CHRIST** to feel at home in his house.

***CHRIST can Help your Family through The Church if your Attitudes encourage it!**

Attitudes are the roots of habits. Attitudes can destroy **CHRIST'S effectiveness** through **HIS Church** for a family. This simple test has always proven true: "Listen to the children of a family for a while, and you will discover what the attitude of a family is toward **The Church**."

Many families see **The Church** as an *enemy*. Many families think they need to protect itself against **The Church**. Many families have the negative attitude about **The Church** because they are committed to *their Jobs, their Money, their Material things*, believing **The Church** is only interested in their money. [I agree, many *Church-houses* and its *Leaderships* are that way, but not **The Church!!!**] When attitudes in a Home cultivate personal animosities, petty jealousies, and lack of appreciation, these form in children a mind-set that is difficult for **The Church** seemingly to overcome. Zaccheus was seeking a framework of "*good judgment*", "*good choices*" about life. When **JESUS** came into Zaccheus and they, into Zaccheus home, Zaccheus discovered the one upon whose judgment he could rely. **JESUS, The Church!**

***The Church can Help your Family if your Heart responds to CHRIST!**

The name Zaccheus means "*righteous one*," but this 'supervisor of tax-collectors,' was not living up to his name. Are you living up to your Name? If not, To day, changes can be made in you and in your home! See in vss. 2-4, 'A Man becoming a Child.' Zaccheus, *humbled* himself and *ran* before the crowd, *climbed up* into a sycamore tree, to see **JESUS**, for **HE** was to pass that way." **JESUS** said, "Whosoever shall not receive **The KINGdom of GOD** like a little child shall in no way enter therein." (Luke 18: 17) See in v. 5, 'A Seeking Man became Found.' In v. 3, Zaccheus thought he was *seeking JESUS*, but in v. 10, it was **JESUS, WHO** was *seeking* Zaccheus. See in vss. 7, 8, 'A Small man became Big.' Zaccheus was *short*— "little of stature" v. 3. But in a *spiritual sense*, all of us are "little of statue," for "*All have sinned and come short of the glory of GOD.*" (Romans 3: 23) No one measures up to **GOD'S High Standards**.

The tragedy is many lost *sinner*s think they are “*big*.” Measuring themselves by ‘man’s standards’—*money, position, authority, popularity, houses, cars*—things that are an “abomination in the sight of **GOD**.” (Luke 16: 15) Zaccheus *trusted* **JESUS CHRIST** and became a true “son of Abraham,” meaning, of course, “a child of **Faith in GOD**. This is as *Big* as you can get! See in vss. 9-10, *A Poor man becoming Rich*. The people thought Zaccheus was a wealthy man, but actually, he was only a bankrupt *sinner* who needed to receive **GOD’S free gift of Eternal Life**, the most *Expensive gift* in the world. “For **GOD** so loved the world, that **HE** gave **HIS** only begotten **SON**, that whosoever believeth in **HIM** shall not perish but have everlasting life.” Zaccheus was not *saved* because he promised to do good works. He was *saved* because he responded by *faith* to **CHRIST’S gracious WORD** to him. *Saving faith* is more than pious words and devout feelings. *Saving faith* creates a *living union* with **CHRIST** that results in a *changed* life!

See back in vs. 6, *The Host became the Guest*. **JESUS** invited **HIMSELF** to Zaccheus’s house, and Zaccheus *received* **HIM** Joyfully. Zaccheus became the *guest* in his own house, for **JESUS** was now his **LORD and SAVIOR**. Zaccheus was ready to *obey* **The LORD** and do whatever was necessary to establish a genuine testimony before others. When a day begins, you never know how it will end.

“Can The Church Help Your Family?”

What a wonderful *change* in my life has been wrought,
Since **JESUS** came into my heart;
I have light in my soul for which long I have sought,
Since **JESUS** came into my heart.

Since **JESUS** came into my heart, Since **JESUS** came into my heart,
Floods of *JOY* o’er my soul like the sea billows roll,
Since **JESUS** came into my heart!