

“What Have They Seen In Thine House?”

Introduction. The question which heads this discussion is one which has 2,700 years of wisdom resting on it. It was asked by Isaiah and directed to a king who had just hosted a delegation of dignitaries from a distant land (Isaiah 39:1-8).

Pride was one of the besetting sins in the heart of Hezekiah (2 Chronicles 32:24-26). It appears that Hezekiah’s heart may have been lifted by pride because these dignitaries were sent with a letter and a present from the Babylonian king Merodach-baladan. Foolishly, he showed them all that was in his house. Isaiah predicted that the Babylonians would plunder the wealth of Hezekiah’s descendants and take them into captivity.

Hezekiah showed his visitors all that was in his house on a voluntary basis. If there is good or evil in our homes, we cannot always conceal it from our guests. However, good and evil will be laid bare to the eyes of God. Let’s look at some biblical homes and apply lessons from these homes to our own homes.

I. ***Noah, What Have They Seen In Thine House?***

- A. Many commendable statements are made to the credit of this ancient ark builder (Genesis 6:8-9, 22; 7:5, 9, 16; Hebrews 11:7; 2 Peter 2:5).
- B. However, after the flood there is a sad incident in Noah’s home (Genesis 9:20-21). The entrance of drinking problems into a home has always brought some of the worst consequences imaginable (Proverbs 20:1; 23:29-32; Galatians 5:19-21).
- C. Even though we may be skilled at concealing beer, wine or other drinks from friends and members of the church, we cannot conceal it from the Lord for He sees all and knows all.
- D. It may be said to the credit of Noah that the account of his earthly pilgrimage contained only one recorded confrontation with drinking. Many who try drinking today return to it time and time again. Yet he teaches us that righteous people must always be on their guard against sin, for it only takes one time to wreck a life (1 Corinthians 10:12-13).

II. ***Jacob, What Have They Seen In Thine House?***

- A. Polygamy was seen in Jacob’s home.
 1. There has never been or ever will be a home big enough for two or more wives married to the same man. The four wives of Jacob (Leah, Rachel, Zilpah and Bilhah) produced thirteen children (Genesis 29:23-30).

2. Rachel resented Leah because she bore Jacob more children, which angered Jacob. In subsequent years there were deeply destructive attitudes among all the sons.
 3. The laws of our land keep a man from being married to more than one woman at the same time but the lax divorce system allows a person a number of mates within a lifetime, provided there is just one at a time. This situation will never produce a happy and wholesome family relationship.
- B. Partiality was seen in Jacob's home.
1. Jacob failed to learn this lesson from his childhood years and, to no surprise, repeated the same mistake with Joseph.
 2. The hatred and contempt between Joseph and his brothers grew to such proportions that they sold Joseph into slavery and deceived their father (Genesis 37:28).
 3. Partiality is not fair to the child receiving the preferred treatment or to the ones who are left out (Acts 10:34).
- C. Idolatry was seen in Jacob's home.
1. Jacob worshiped God but members of his family were not always true to God (Genesis 31:30-35; 35:1-4). While Jacob journeyed to build an altar to God, his family was worshiping strange gods.
 2. Fathers and mothers may have to curb the "worship" of television, the internet, extracurricular activities or money. Any object which comes first in a family's love or an individual's affections is an idol. We need men and women who will declare war on all the strange gods in their families.

III. ***David, What Have They Seen In Thine House?***

- A. Seven words describe the saddest chapter in the life of David: idleness, lust, adultery, deception, murder, guilt and consequence.
- B. This sad catalog of sins began with simple idleness (2 Samuel 11:1).
 1. Young girls or boys who are left home with no parental supervision may turn the family home into a convenient center of fornication.
 2. Frequent business trips which separate a husband and wife may lead to the temptation of fornication and adultery (Romans 13:14).
- C. Sadder still are homes that are filled with computers, reading materials and television programs which encourage such immoral escapades as fornication and adultery. Remember, even the privacy of a king's palace did not conceal adultery from the all-seeing eye of God Almighty.

IV. ***Herod Antipas, What Have They Seen In Thine House?***

- A. Although married himself, Herod Antipas went to Rome on imperial business and visited with his brother, Philip. This hospitality was repaid

with Herod taking Herodias, Philip's wife. The courageous John stood before them and condemned the practice (Mark 6:18).

- B. When this monarch acquired his illegal wife, it proved disastrous. Through her maliciousness and a shameless Salome who loved to dance and please lustful men, Herodias turned Antipas into the reluctant executioner of a godly man, John the Baptist.
- C. In many homes today we have men who, for all practical purposes, have stolen other men's wives (Matthew 19:9). These people show contempt for God's morality. What is even worse is that they may raise children who will be every bit as wicked as Salome.

V. ***Mary, What Have They Seen In Thine House?***

- A. Mary of Nazareth was married to Joseph and had many children (Matthew 13:55-56). However, for many years Mary literally had Christ in her home. She watched Him as He grew in wisdom, stature, favor with God and favor with man (Luke 2:52).
- B. It is striking when one thinks of what all Mary would have been exposed to in her home. She must have pondered great truths in her heart as she thought of the way He had come into the world, the shepherd's visit, the presentation in the temple and the utterances of Simeon and Anna, the wise men's gifts, adoration and worship, the flight into Egypt to escape Herod, the events that surrounded the trip to Jerusalem when He was twelve and His marvelous advancement in everything that was right and admirable.
- C. You can just imagine how Mary would have tried to understand all the great events which characterized His ministry. How much of her Son's deity she understood as He lived upon earth we will never know, but Mary always had Christ in her home in a unique way.

VI. ***Eunice, What Have They Seen In Thine House?***

- A. A sincere faith would have been one of the firstfruits witnessed by the eye of a guest in this home. Eunice was blessed because she had witnessed this sincere faith in the heart and life of her godly mother, Lois (2 Timothy 1:5). She was successful in bequeathing this faith to her son Timothy. No parent can give a greater gift to their children.
- B. Eunice did not have a Hebrew husband to join her in rearing her son. He was a Greek and we never know if he became a Jewish proselyte or a Christian. It seems safe to assume that Timothy's religious upbringing rested solely on the shoulders of Lois and Eunice.
- C. They must have determined very early that Timothy was going to be Hebrew and not Greek in outlook. He was going to be taught about God and not about Jupiter or Zeus (2 Timothy 3:14-15).

1. Lois and Eunice rejected the philosophy that a child should be left alone as far as the planting of religious inclinations is concerned and when they are old enough he will decide his own religious route. It was a great decision on their part.
 2. They recognized the fact that if God did not capture his impressionable mind and pliable heart, the forces of Greek and Roman infidelity and idolatry would.
- D. There are a couple of wonderful tributes given to Timothy in the scriptures (Acts 16:2; Philippians 2:19-23). We know that these were accurate appraisals of Timothy's righteous character not only in the sight of great giants in the faith such as Paul and Luke but also of God in heaven.

VII. *What Have They Seen In Our House?*

- A. What have they seen in the way of family responsibilities?
 1. Have they seen a place of happy and harmonious marriages, where the father loves and cherishes and the mother faithfully submits?
 2. Have they seen a place where men and women are Christian fathers and mothers to their children?
- B. What have they seen in the way of treatment of others?
 1. Have they seen love or hatred, concern or indifference, gratitude or ingratitude, unselfishness or selfishness in the family relationships?
 2. A happy, godly home will be overflowing with love, concern, gratitude and unselfishness.
- C. What have they seen in the way of recreation or entertainment?
 1. Do they see computers, books, magazines or television programs that are filled with material that is not fit for anyone to see or watch?
 2. Would they see you putting recreation and entertainment above worship assemblies and Bible study?
- D. What have they seen in the way of a spiritual atmosphere?
 1. Is your family a spiritually minded and Bible-centered family? Would they see prayers being offered at the table? Would they see the Bible being read and studied?
 2. Would they see regular attendance at worship services, even when visitors are in the home? Would they hear profanity and see alcoholic beverages?
- E. What have they seen in the way of friends?
 1. Would they see those who have sinful lives brought into your home for the purpose of indulging with them in their sinful activities?
 2. Would they see children bringing friends home which will do nothing but draw them away from God and His church in the years to come (1 Corinthians 15:33)?

Conclusion. Human guests do not always see all that goes on in a home. Fallible eyesight and limited opportunities may conceal much of the good and a great deal of the bad characteristics of individual homes. Yet what God sees in our homes is far more important than any earthly visitor (Hebrews 4:13). The godly home will only have what should be seen in the home by God and guests. Let the home lift up Christ and the Bible and Christ and the Bible will lift up the home.