

Holiness

Delivered by: Jesus' Holiness, Saint Dikeji Daniel Miyerijesu, the Bishop of the whole world

Text: Hebrews 13:1-9

Lesson Reading: Hebrew 13:1-9

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When “Holiness” is mentioned, God moves. He moves because it is His weapon. He lives in holiness, in the holy of holies. Anyone who is holy is a friend of God. Fasting cannot replace holiness; no amount of sacrifice can take the place of holiness. Fasting, prayers or sacrifices done without holiness will not be accepted by God. A holy person is a friend of God.

From the text, Hebrews 13:4 in particular, it is written: ***“Marriage is to be honoured by all, and husbands and wives must be faithful to each other. God will judge those who are immoral and those who commit adultery.”***

Honour for marriage begins from husbands and wives. Before others will honour a marriage, husbands and wives must first honour it. Husbands and wives must be faithful to each other. To be faithful means to be truthful. The marriage bed must be kept pure and all those who defile it or live in immorality will be judged by God. Let your marriage be holy so that when others see it, they will see the light of God in it - a home that is void of quarrel, abusive words, adultery and other sins.

God is holy. Before He visited the Israelites, He instructed them to keep themselves clean – He told them to watch their clothes and stay away from sexual relationship (Exo. 19:9-15). When God speaks, you must pay attention and obey what He says. If you will obey this message and keep your marriage holy, you will become God's favourite.

You must not compare your marriage with others because you are God's special people. For example, God instructed me to stop wearing suit and I did. I didn't compare myself to other men of God who wear suits because this is my calling; I'm special to Him. In the same way, God wants you to honour your marriage and live in holiness because He has called you to be holy; you are special to Him. Be satisfied with what God has given to you (See Heb. 13:5).

God wants you to leave at peace with your spouse and every one (Heb. 12:14). No matter the offence, never swear. It is shameful to hear that some women can swear for their husband using their private part. Stay away from mistakes that can cause you regret tomorrow in your marriage. For instance, some newly married couple would not want to have children at the beginning of their marriage for some reasons and so choose to abort their coming babies. After a period when they would be in need of children, they might no longer be able to have. Don't make this mistake in your marriage. It leads to regret because it is against the laws guiding a holy marriage.

Husbands and wives are to submit to each other and not deny each other sexual intercourse (See 1 Cor. 7:1-7). Denial can bring temptation and lead the man or woman into the sin of adultery. If you must stay from intercourse, it must be an agreement between both parties for a good reason e.g., for the purpose of giving yourself to God in fasting and prayers for a given period.

In a holy marriage, living with grudges and offences in the home is a sin. When you are offended, express yourself to each other, forgive and continue your peaceful living. Also, do not suspect your spouse. As husbands and wives, be generous with what God has given to you. Open your homes to strangers and be there for those who are in need (See Hebrews 13:2-3).

Keep away from the love of money. The love of money will lead you to tell lies. For example, imagine a wife who used her money to do things in the home and then lied to her husband that she borrowed it. She did it so that the husband would pay back. (See Hebrews 13:5)

Husbands and wives are to fulfill their duties to each other. As a husband, it is your responsibility to care for your wife, provide for her, protect her, cloth her and sexually satisfy her. Similarly, as a wife, it is your duty to respect your husband. As a wife, how do you respond to your husband's call? Answer, "Sir" to your husband each time he calls you. This will add colour to your marriage (See 1 Thess. 4:3-6).

Now that you know this truth...

Jesus told the disciples, "Now that you know this truth, how happy you will be if you put it into practice." – John 13:17.

You have received the truth today about how to practice holiness in your marriage. If you can put this truth into use, your marriage will be a happy one. I urge you my dear children in the Lord to do your best to obey all you have learnt today so that the purposes of God for ordaining marriage will be fulfilled in your home in Jesus' name. Amen!