



“For he will be great in the sight of the Lord...he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, ‘to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,’ and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.” (Lk. 1:15-17)

“And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.” (Lk. 1:6)

## **BUILDING A STRONG CHRISTIAN FAMILY**

# Offer Sacrificial Love

- Woman anointing the head of the Lord Jesus
- How to offer sacrificial love?
- Prioritizing my concern
- “Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her.” (Mk. 14:9)



# Remove Idols

- “Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury; for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood.” (Mk. 12:43-44)
- Some often fail to realize the damaging consequences of idolizing something other than God.



# Remove Idols

- King Solomon

- “For it was so, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned his heart after other gods; and his heart was not loyal to the Lord his God, as was the heart of his father David.” (1 Kings 11:4)

- “Whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I did not withhold my heart from any pleasure, for my heart rejoiced in all my labor; And this was my reward from all my labor. Then I looked on all the works that my hands had done and on the labor in which I had toiled; And indeed all was vanity and grasping for the wind. There was no profit under the sun. (Eccl. 2:10-11)



# Establish and Maintain a Family Altar

- Teaching
  - “And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children...” (Deut. 6:7)
- Altar
  - Make the home an extension of church
  - How to begin?



# Model Biblical and Church Teaching

- “Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.” (Jam. 1:18)
- “You shall...talk of them [commandments of God] when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.” (Deut. 6:7)

# Three Phases of Development

- 1. Discipline and Training Phase** – focus on behaviors
  - “Honor your father and your mother, as the Lord your God has commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may be well with you in the land which the Lord your God is giving you.” (Deut. 5:16)
- 2. Catechism Phase** – teach them to believe through education
- 3. Discipleship Phase**

# Summary

- Four Activities to Build Stronger Christian Families
  1. Offer Sacrificial Love
  2. Remove Idols
  3. Establish and Maintain a Family Altar
  4. Model Biblical and Church Teaching