

New Year

12.31.2012

Self-reflection is a command

- ▣ **“Take heed to yourself** and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.” (1 Tim. 4:16)
- ▣ **“Ponder the path of your feet,** and let all your ways be established.” (Prov. 4:26)

Parable of the Great Supper

- 15 Now when one of those who sat at the table with Him heard these things, he said to Him, Blessed is he who shall eat bread in the kingdom of God! 16 Then He said to him, A certain man gave a great supper and invited many, 17 and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, Come, for all things are now ready. 18 But they all with one accord began to make excuses. The first said to him, **I have bought a piece of ground**, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused. 19 And another said, **I have bought five yoke of oxen**, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused. 20 Still another said, **I have married a wife**, and therefore I cannot come.

Parable of the Great Supper

- 20 Still another said, **I have married a wife**, and therefore I cannot come. 21 So that servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind. 22 And the servant said, Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room. 23 Then the master said to the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. 24 For I say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper. (Luke 14:15-24)

Excuse 1: Preoccupation with money

- **“Do not overwork to be rich;** Because of your own understanding, cease! 5 Will you set your eyes on that which is not? For riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away like an eagle toward heaven.” (Prov. 23:4-5)
- **“But those who desire to be rich** fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition.” (1 Tim. 6:9)

Excuse 2: Five Yoke of Oxen

- Example: Samson
- “If your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you. It is better for you to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire.” (Matt. 18:9)

Excuse 3: Marriage or Relationships

- “He who loves father, mother, daughter, or son more than Me is not worthy of Me.” (Matt. 10:37)

Resolutions in the family of Samuel¹

■ 1 Now there was a certain man of Ramathaim Zophim, of the mountains of Ephraim, and his name was Elkanah the son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite. 2 And he had two wives: the name of one was Hannah, and the name of the other Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children. 3 This man went up from his city yearly to worship and sacrifice to the Lord of hosts in Shiloh. (1 Sam. 1:1-3)

■ Regular worship

Resolutions in the family of Samuel²

- “Moreover his mother used to make him a little robe, and bring it to him year by year when she came up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice.” (1 Sam. 2:19)
- Assess growth

Resolutions in the family of Samuel³

■ “And Samuel judged Israel all the days of his life. 16 He went from year to year on a circuit to Bethel, Gilgal, and Mizpah, and judged Israel in all those places.” (1 Sam. 7:15)

■ Minister

Summary

- What are some distractions that we need to be cautious of?
 - Busyness
 - Preoccupation with money or riches
 - Our senses
 - Relationships
- What can we focus on this year?
 - Regular worship
 - Assess growth
 - Minister to our one another