

## **“Seeking To Establish A Home of Moral Value”**

**Good morning. I saw a interesting sign last Sunday on my way to the local post office. It said “Homes for rent by owned.” I thought to myself, “How interesting. I wonder if the owner really meant homes and not houses?” Upon sharing that with some clergy, I was told that a sign bearing “Homes for rent” would rents faster. It started me thinking and this morning, I want to talk with you about home building, especially as it relates to the homemaker.**

**Before we begin this sermon, let we proffer a disclaimer. This attempt to talk about a bride, capable wife or mother is not to indicate that a woman should have a subservient role to any man or should only be a homemaker. Nor is it in any way to suggest that any woman does or should possess all of these characteristics. It is rather to ask that you look at and appreciate the role of our wives, mothers, daughters and the women in our lives. I have for you this morning some good news, some bad news and some exceedingly better news. Now, I will begin by asking you to give me one desirable trait that you appreciate and possibly look for in a homemaker. Afterwards, it is my pleasure to introduce four characters from an imaginary village.**

### **L Every Home Should Has a Capable Homemaker-Proverbs 31:10-31**

**May I now introduce Lady Wisdom who will tell you about the good news in our village.**

**Hello there! I wish to welcome you to the Village of Human Struggle and into the Home of Moral Values!. Hummm! A capable wife, surrogate mother and a suitable maiden, you say? Well, such a woman is hard to find these days, but I have good news for you. You have come to the Right Place.**

**A maiden from this house will be trustworthy, supportive and profitable to her home making. She will have her family’s best interest at heart. She is a thrifty shopper who knows how to select food items that are nutritious, balanced and appetizing to the pallet. She even raises some of her own vegetables and fruits.**

**She is physically strong, morally straight, religious focused and beautiful to behold. She will know how to shop for attractive clothing for her family and has even been known to make some clothing items herself. Her skill with the distaff and spindle is legendary among the townsfolk as well. She is generous to the poor and needy around her.**

**When her husband sits at the city gates with the Council or works in the marketplace, he will be highly respected because of his wisdom in choosing a praiseworthy and beautiful wife.**

**She will manage her household superbly. She is not a busybody and will guide her children to good behaved, thoughtfulness in handling their chores and to excel in their school work. It is said that the beauty of her heart and inner strength make her the most charming of all the women in our village. Certainly, if you are looking for a wife, surrogate mother or suitable daughter-in-law, you have come to the Right Place.**

**Now, it is my pleasure to introduce you to my husband, Councilman Wise.**

## II. The Man of Wise Counsel-Psalm 1

Good Morning! I too welcome you to our lovely Home of Moral Values. I am an elder on the Council of Right Judgement. We adjudicated matters of the Law near the East gates of the Village. I was recently elected to sit on the Council. They assigned me to keep the peace among the villagers. Let me explain to you how that came to be.

I used to hang around with another crowd that gathers every night near the West gate around a barrel of fire. I associate with the wicked, hung around sinners and often sat with the town scoffers. Within our group were Coke Head, Needle Arm, Bourbon Breath, Sticky Fingers, Ambush and Sacrilege. And I have to tell you, I was the worst one of all of them. Then one day, Lady Wisdom walked by the West Gate. I whistled at her, but she passed me by as if I did not exist. On numerous occasions, I tried to talk to her at other venues. She just look at me and said, "Sir, I am Lady Wisdom. I neither associate with, travel with nor linger around such as you. As a matter of fact, please never speak to me again."

Man, was she beautiful. I went to the Christos, the village manager and asked him, "What must I do to win the hand of that Lady Wisdom?" He said, you have to be wise enough to straighten up your life, stop hanging around those men at the West Gate and get a good job in a respectable business. From that day forward, I took his advice, was hired out to the House of Full Recovery and finally got a chance to date and marry Lady Wisdom. I became a practicing Jew in the local synagogue and now I am a man of prayer who meditates upon the laws of the Lord night and day.

Since I knew first hand what life was like in the Village of Human Struggle and at the West Gate, they made me the law enforcer for the whole village.

It is now my pleasure to introduce you to my mother-in-law Mrs. Strict Guardian.

## III. The Children of The House of Traditional Values-James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a

Good morning! I too welcome you to the Home of Moral Values. May I introduce you to my granddaughters Charity and Sophia? Charity and Sophia are not perfect, but they have been wonderful young ladies who have made their parents and us proud to be their elders. They are attractive, modest, and truthful in all of their dealings. Charity is sincere, peaceable, merciful and has a generous heart. Sophia is wise, gentle and flexible. She shows no trace of partiality nor is she hypocritical. Here in the household of Moral Values, Truth and Peace has kissed each other, and we live in perfect harmony and balance. Either of my granddaughters would make an excellent candidate and a fitting bride.

My family and I, nevertheless, would advise you to be very careful when you go next door to the House of Ill Content. They too have two daughter, Envy and Deceit. If you have to compare them with our girl, go right ahead, but let me warn you what you will find.

Envy fights with her more attractive sister all of the time. She wants to look like her and is enraged because the young men of the village are more attracted to Deceit. Deceit isn't what she seems, either. She steals from her family, sister and friends often. She paints herself up and dresses to allure and deceive the young men of the village as well.

They both are extreme pleasing to look upon, but their beauty, in my opinion, is only outward and fleeting. They run around with the wrong crowd, with Jealousy and Selfishness. Together, they make up the Havoc Girls.

Our neighbors, Curiosity and his wife Gossiper contend that Devilishness, Conflict, Strife and War often date those sisters and their friends. The Havoc girls have had many

suitors, none of whom have found suitable wives, fitting mothers or capable homemakers. Beware of Envy, Deceit and the Havoc girls. Much of the strife and disturbances in our village seem to originate from their association.

Friends, go anywhere you will or may in our village, but I can assure you that you will never find any more suitable candidates than we have here in Home of Moral Values.

After we finish our presentation and you will have visited around several places in our village, Councilman Wise and my husband, Where-Is-The-Money will discuss the terms of the engagement to one of our lovely ladies.

My advise to you is to “*Submit yourselves therefore to [Christos], resist [ Envy, Deceit and the Havoc Girls], and they will [not deceive you]. Draw near to [Christos ] and he will [give you good advice].*” James 3:8a. Such advise should help you to make the right choice.

Now, it is my honor to present to you our village manager, Mr. Christos.

### III. Mark 9:

Good morning! I too wish to welcome you to the Village of Human Struggle and especially to the Home of Moral Values. A long, long time My Father established this Village of Human Struggle. He tried over the millennia to establish a moral beachhead in various places within the village. He sent seers, prophets, holy men and women to teach his people about obedience to my Father and moral values, but his efforts were thwarted. Then two thousand years ago, he sent me to establish this home and others like it throughout the village, beginning from here. I collected twelve men to help me begin to carry out my work.

One day as we traveled throughout the northern region of the village, I told my disciple a second time that spiritual maturity and moral values are found only through discipline suffering. Having told them about my death before, I had to rebuke Cephus because he sought to correct me publicly. I even called him Satan and told him that he was thinking from an earthly not a spiritual point of view.

This time, I said to them again, “*The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.*” Mark 9:31. There was complete silence, but I saw the looks on their faces. We continued on our journey toward my second home at Capernaum.

Upon entering the house, I asked them what they were arguing about while on the road. Again, there was silence. Since I knew that they were arguing about who was the greatest among the twelve and who would hold the favorite positions in my village, I called them to myself. I said, “*Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.*” Mark 9:35. Such earthly jockeying for positions of honor will be the undoing of humans and the very work of the devil. The killers of the Son of Man will not come from the men who sit at the West Gate nor people like the Havoc Girls. No, they will be from the very synagogue [churches, mosques holy places] itself. Let there not be such striving be among you! My disciples still remained silence.

I saw a little girl in the crowd. Children were not valued two thousand years ago and little girls were less valued than little boys. I led the little girl to the very center of the gathered crowd. I put my arms around her and I said, “*Whoever [honors] one such child in my name [honors] me, and whoever [receives] me [accepts] not me but the one who sent me.*” Mark 9:37. For you see, jealousy, envy, deceit, disputes, conflicts, strife and wars all begin with human seeking after the place of honor. It is not to be so in my village, especial in the

**Home of Moral Values. Whoever wants to be important in my Home must be humble enough to be of service to all. “For the Son of Man came also not to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.” Mark 10:45.**

**Now as to those of you who are looking for a capable wife, surrogate mother or bride for your sons, look not in the house of Ill Content. Envy, Deceit and the Havoc girls will only disappoint you. Curiosity and Gossiper are only interested in finding out further gossip to spread. The men at the west gate are among the wicked and are headed toward destruction. Do not go looking among them to establish a Home of Moral Values. Such can only be found in the close street of the Narrow Way. Go now. I wish you well! Have a prosperous journey and a bright future!**

**If you have followed my story very carefully, you will realize that through allegory, personification, metaphor and other figures of speech, I have combined and retold the story of the lessons for today. I, especially, hope that you will find the text interesting and informative.**

**Let us pray. Dear Lord, give us humble hearts, clear minds, strong wills and discerning spirits to become what you through your Son Jesus Christ have called us to be. Help us to be the presence of Christ in all of our lives, in our relationships and in our neighborhoods. Fill us with your love and peace that we may reflect the Body of Christ and the Cup of Salvation. We pray this in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**