

ever simply go out of your way to be their helper or consoler? Because of the law God gave, Israel always tended to be a culture respectful of the elderly and this outlook finds itself reflected in the Christian-Judaen civilization of the West. Admittedly there are different cases: parents caught with illness, poverty, and occasionally stubborn independence, etc., all of which can make a difficult problem for children who desire to honor their parents. But if one's desire is to do what God has told one to do, we believe that asuitable outworking will develop.

The attitude of Jesus to His parents is instructive. We do not see a lot of it but in Luke 2, when Jesus was 12 years old, his parents had him with them at Passover. After the feast, Jesus went among the scholars of the temple while the family headed home in caravan fashion. Eventually he was missed and when reunited after a search he informed his parents that ultimately he must be about the heavenly Father's business. Nevertheless the text tells us (2:15) that he returned to Nazareth and was subject unto them. We see the ultimate picture of this when Jesus, on the cross, committed his mother to the disciple John with the steady words: "Behold your mother." The tenderness in the agonized voice is a good lesson to us all.

Honor your father and mother...that is the beginning of relationships with men about us that enables us to live with others in honor as we are to live with God. The greatest honor you can give your parents is that of allowing your life to be lived for God. If you want them to have maximum credit, trust the Lord and let your life be lived by faith in Him.