

## Jeremiah 7:17-18

*Do you not see what they do in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem? The children gather wood, the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead dough, to make cakes for the queen of heaven; and they pour out drink offerings to other gods, that they may provoke Me to anger.*

When I read today's verse, all I could think was, WOW." Because when you read this, you realize that worshipping false gods and false idols became a family affair. Mom, dad, and the children all played a part in this pagan worship.

- *The children gather wood.*
- *The fathers kindle the fire.*
- *The women knead dough.*

And why were they doing it?

- *To make cakes for the queen of heaven; and they pour out drink offerings to other gods.*

And if you read this last part in the Message bible, it makes it clear why they were doing it.

- ‡ *And as if that weren't bad enough, they go around pouring out libations to any other gods they come across, just to hurt me. Jeremiah 7:18b (MSG)*

They were doing it on purpose to make God angry and to hurt God (*just to hurt me*).

But we used to be like that. I remember growing up in an alcoholic family, with both my mom and dad being alcoholics, and how they would party and even drag us kids to some of these parties or have them in our home. My dad would drag me to the bars with him as I sat there while he drank. The results were that my sisters and I grew up living the worldly lifestyle. There is no need to go into detail, because if you grew up in a non-Christian home, then you know what I am talking about.

But before I go on with today's devotional, let me give you a word of encouragement, and that is that both my mom and dad gave their life to Jesus and repented of their sins, and they are both in heaven right now. And both of my sisters are Christians too.

But before all of that, serving the world, the flesh, false gods, and idols was a family affair for my family and me. Just like it was for some of the Israelites that God was telling Jeremiah about in today's verses.

But Paul tells us, ***“And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.” 1 Corinthians 6:11***

That’s what we used to be before we gave our lives to Jesus Christ and repented of our sins. But a change has happened in our lives so that we should, ***“testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind.” Ephesians 4:17b***

We are no longer walking in those sins and have a sinful lifestyle that was a Family Affair. Instead, we should now make walking and serving the Lord a Family Affair, worshipping, and serving the Lord together as a family.

So, what are you and your family making a Family Affair of in your home?

† ***Ezekiel 20:39-40 “As for you, O house of Israel,” thus says the Lord GOD: “Go, serve every one of you his idols--and hereafter--if you will not obey me; but profane My holy name no more with your gifts and your idols. For on My holy mountain, on the mountain height of Israel,” says the Lord GOD, “there all the house of Israel, all of them in the land, shall serve Me; there I will accept them, and there I will require your offerings and the firstfruits of your sacrifices, together with all your holy things.”***