

Proverbs 28:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Whoso robbeth his father or his mother, and saith, It is no transgression; the same is the companion of a destroyer.

Analysis

Whoso robbeth his father or his mother, and saith, It is no transgression (גָּזָל אֲבִיו וְאֶמוֹ וְאָמַר אֵין פְּשָׁע) — (gazal, 'to rob, plunder, tear away violently') from אֲבִי (av, 'father') and אֶמֶת (em, 'mother') while claiming אֵין פְּשָׁע (ein pesha, 'no transgression, no sin') reveals radical moral blindness. Jesus condemned the Corban tradition that evaded parental support (Mark 7:9-13): 'Ye say, If a man shall say to his father or mother, It is Corban... he shall be free.'

The same is the companion of a destroyer (חָבֵר הוּא לְאִישׁ מַשְׁחִית) — (chaver, 'companion, associate, partner') with אִישׁ מַשְׁחִית (ish mashchit, 'man of destruction, one who ruins/destroys'). Such behavior aligns one with those who tear down rather than build. The fifth commandment (Exodus 20:12) promises long life for honoring parents; this proverb shows the inverse—robbing parents associates one with death-dealers.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern societies considered parental care a sacred duty. Adult children supported aging parents who had no social security system. Jesus's anger at Corban abuse (first-century Pharisaic loophole allowing vows to temple to override parental support) shows how seriously He took this command. Paul echoes it: 'If any provide not for his own... he hath denied the faith' (1 Timothy 5:8).

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. Are you caring for your aging parents according to biblical commands, or finding loopholes?
2. What rationalizations might you use to justify withholding support or honor from parents?
3. How does proper honor of parents reflect honoring God, who commands it?

Interlinear Text

רֹבֵבֶת	לְ	אָבִיךָ	אוֹםְתָה	רָאָמָת	אַיִלָּת	שָׁעָרָת
Whoso robbeth	his father	or his mother	and saith			It is no transgression
H1497	H1	H517	H559	H369		H6588
רָבֶבֶת	לְ	אָבִיךָ	אוֹםְתָה	רָאָמָת	אַיִלָּת	שָׁעָרָת
the same is the companion						מִשְׁחִיתָה
H2270		H1931		H376		H7843

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 19:26 (Parallel theme): He that wasteth his father, and chaseth away his mother, is a son that causeth shame, and bringeth reproach.

Proverbs 18:9 (Parallel theme): He also that is slothful in his work is brother to him that is a great waster.

Proverbs 28:7 (Parallel theme): Whoso keepeth the law is a wise son: but he that is a companion of riotous men shameth his father.

Judges 17:2 (Parallel theme): And he said unto his mother, The eleven hundred shekels of silver that were taken from thee, about which thou cursedst, and spakest of also in mine ears, behold, the silver is with me; I took it. And his mother said, Blessed be thou of the LORD, my son.

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