



## Exodus 20:12

### *The Fifth Commandment - Honor Your Father and Your Mother*

[These are merely some introductory portions of the sermon, the full text will be made available soon]

12 " Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.

Sometimes, when I feel like being reminded how uneducated, unquestioning and just downright stupid, I must be to be an Evangelical Christian, I'll read the New York Times online edition.

When I do so, I know I'm entering into an entirely different worldview, so it doesn't really surprise me when Times Columnists like David Brooks routinely come to wildly different conclusions than I would about things that have happened in the world.

Let me give you an example of what I mean, in an article back in May, Brooks interviewed the parents of Columbine Killer Dylan Klebold, and at the end of the article Brooks essentially agreed with the Klebold's assessment that *what their son did had nothing to do with them*. As Susan Klebold put it:

**"Dylan (Klebold) did not do this because of the way he was raised, he did it in contradiction to the way he was raised."**

You can tell why Brooks was eager to agree with the Klebold's self-assessment. These are after all his kind of people, as he puts it:

**"They are a well-educated, reflective, highly intelligent couple (Dylan was named after Dylan Thomas)."**

Brooks' article horrified the parents of many of their sons victims, especially lines like the following:

The Klebolds describe the day of the shootings as a natural disaster, as a "hurricane" or a "rain of fire." They say they had no intimations of Dylan's mental state. Tom, who works from home and saw his son every day, had spent part of the previous week with Dylan scoping out dorm rooms for college the next year.

The most infuriating incident, Susan said, came when somebody said, "I forgive you for what you've done." Susan insists, "I haven't done anything for which I need forgiveness."

When they talk about the event, they discuss it as a suicide. They acknowledge but do not emphasize the murders their son committed.

They believe that what they call the "toxic culture" of the school — the worship of jocks and the tolerance of bullying — is the primary force that set Dylan off. ***But they confess that in the main, they have no explanation.***

"I'm a quantitative person," said Tom Klebold, a former geophysicist. "We're not qualified to sort this out." They long for some authoritative study that will provide an answer. "People need to understand," Tom said, "this could have happened to them."

But is all that really true? Was this some sort of natural disaster? Could any child of any parents suddenly have spent one year planning to blow up his school mates, and when that didn't work out, systematically gun them down in cold blood? Is it totally unexplainable? Did the way that Dylan was raised have nothing to do with what happened in Littleton?

Setting aside the fact that Klebold and Harris main plan was to set off a series of propane bombs; perhaps it's the prevalence of guns in our society that caused this tragedy? Well then how do we explain the 19<sup>th</sup> century? Back then guns were uncontrolled and about as common a household implement as shovels, even dynamite was uncontrolled back then, and yet we have no record of 19<sup>th</sup> century American youths shooting up their school house. Perhaps they hadn't yet invented bullying back then.

Brothers and Sisters, God's word says ***“Prov. 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”***

"It is shocking, but I can believe it," said Columbine senior Laura Stewart, 18. She was in a French class with Klebold. "He (didn't) behave very well in class. He was very disrespectful to the teacher, and he would never listen to anybody."

***Judges 21:25 In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.***

“Question Authority” and “Jesus is Lord”