**SPEAKER:** Matimu Khosa

**TITLE:** When In-Law Relations Hinder Families

1. **Introduction**
2. **In-Law Relations Defined**
   1. Immediate
   2. Extended
3. **Biblical Examples**
   1. Bad examples
      1. Jacob and Laban
   2. Good examples
      1. Ruth and Naomi
      2. Peter and his mother-in-law
      3. Moses and Jethro
4. **Biblical Directive**

For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined [cleave’ to his wife; and they shall become one flesh (Genesis 2:24).

(Matthew 19:5-6; Mark 10:7, Ephesians 5:31)

* 1. Leave
  2. Cleave
  3. Become one flesh (weave)

1. **Hindrances to Families**
   1. Not leaving/leaving only geographically
      1. Influence on preference
      2. Decision-making
      3. Problem-solving
   2. In-law (non-verbal/verbal) expectations
      1. Family traditions
      2. Duties
      3. Comparison
   3. Failure to develop peer relations
      1. How many people know that relationship dynamics need to change to peer relations?
      2. Authority
   4. An unhealthy/unbiblical Respect/honour for father and mother
      1. Fear of man?
      2. Selfish interpretation of the 5th commandment? (Blessing seeker)
      3. Ancestral beliefs?
   5. Confusion about the priority relationship: parents or spouse? Equal?
      1. Priority Relationship
         1. Husbands, love your wives like Christ loved the church (Ephesians 5:25)
         2. Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord (Ephesians 5:22)
      2. Secondary relationships
      3. Societal stigma (being controlled by a woman)
   6. Financial implications of leaving, cleaving, and weaving (Black Tax)
2. **Three Stages of the Parent-Child Relationship**
   1. Stage 1: Stewardship (active, not passive)
      1. Teach and instill the Word in them (Deut. 11:18-21)
      2. Train them in godly habits (Proverbs 22:6)
      3. Aim at godliness rather than "being a good citizen", “being wife/husband material", "academic excellence".
      4. Aim for the heart: beliefs, desires, commitments
      5. *Shepherding a Child’s Heart*
   2. Stage 2: Intermediary
      1. Preparing for the leaving
      2. Consequence
      3. Decision-making
      4. *Age of Opportunity*
   3. Stage 3: Peers
      1. Friendship
      2. Advisors
      3. *In-Laws: Married with Parents*