

WE HONOR MOTHERS...

Exodus 20:12

MOM HUMOR:

“The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world.”

Another version: “The hand that rocks the cradle usually is attached to someone who isn't getting enough sleep.”

A four-year-old and a six-year-old presented their Mom with a house plant. They had used their own money and she was thrilled. The older of them said with a sad face, “There was a bouquet that we wanted to give you at the flower shop. It was real pretty, but Dad wouldn't let us. It had a ribbon on it that said, 'Rest In Peace', and we thought it would be just perfect since you are always asking.”

I hope you are getting your mother or wife a gift for Mothers Day. Last year I got Patsy a gift that left her speechless....she didn't talk to me for three weeks!

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The Bible contains the word “mother” 226 times.
- B. It is used in both the literal and figurative sense. It is used of both good and bad women.
 - 1. It is used in the Bible as a term of endearment and as a term of treachery (cf. Revelation. 17:5).
 - 2. It can be used negatively today also: Sadaam Hussein promised “The Mother of all Wars.”
- C. ILLUSTRATION: Several years ago I was talking to a big, gruff man who mentioned what happened the past Mother's Day where he attended.
 - 1. The preacher had chosen on Mother's Day to preach about the evil women in the Bible.
 - 2. This man did not like that at all, because of the special feeling he had in his heart about his departed mother.
 - 3. That's the way it is with Mothers. They hold such a special place in our lives that no one else can hold.
- D. Therefore, I would not even begin to speak about the evil women in the Bible on Mother's Day.
- E. Mother's Day is a day to HONOR our mothers.
 - 1. I hope you are or were blessed with a mother worthy of honor.
 - 2. I realize that not everyone is thus blessed.
 - 3. For some, this is the first Mother's Day since the death of their mother.
“The death of a mother is the first sorrow wept without her.”

- F. Today we will study four mothers in the Bible and see why they should be honored.
- G. We should honor our mothers who hold these same qualities.
- H. Lead Statement: “We Honor Mothers...”

I. WHO PROTECT THEIR CHILDREN LIKE JOCHEBED, Exodus 2:1-4.

- A. She was the mother of Moses. She made sure that Moses was protected, even when he was in great danger.
 - 1. Pharaoh had given orders that no more male Hebrew children should be allowed to live, *Exodus 1:22*.
 - 2. To protect the infant Moses, his mother “took an ark of bulrushes for him, daubed it with asphalt and pitch, put the child in it, and laid it in the reeds by the river’s bank.” *Exodus 2:3*.
 - 3. Since Miriam was watching Moses, she was able to suggest Jochebed as a nurse for Moses, allowing him to grow up knowing about God and His people, and therefore choose to “suffer affliction with the people of God rather than enjoy the passing pleasures of sin,” *Hebrews 11:26*.
 - 4. All this happened because she was protecting her son.
- B. Godly mothers protect their children:
 - 1. PHYSICALLY: make sure they have proper nutrition, clothing, etc.
 - 2. MORALLY: teach them right from wrong and instill proper morals in them.
 - 3. EMOTIONALLY: prepare them for the various relationships of life.
 - 4. SPIRITUALLY: instill within them a love for God and a desire to do His will.
- C. Over-protective parents can do more harm than good to their children, in the long run.
- D. Parents cannot always be there physically to protect their children, but they must do all they can to see that they grow up in the proper way.

II. WHO PRAY FOR AND SUPPORT THEIR CHILDREN LIKE HANNAH, 1 Samuel 1:24-28.

- A. BACKGROUND OF THE STORY:
 - 1. Elkanah had two wives: Hannah and Peninnah.
 - 2. Peninnah had children, and mocked Hannah because she was barren. *1:6-7*.
 - 3. Hannah wept and would not eat, *v 7*.
 - 4. Elkanah tried to comfort her, *v.8*.
- B. Hannah promised God that if she had a male child, she would give him back to the Lord, *v.11*.
- C. Samuel was born and Hannah kept her promise.
 - 1. Samuel: “asked of God” or “name of God.”
 - 2. Hannah took him at a very young age to the Lord’s house to be a servant.

- D. But Hannah did not forget him. She continued to support the boy by providing for his needs: “Moreover his mother used to make him a little robe, and bring it to him year by year when she came up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice.” **1 Samuel 2:19.**
- E. Hannah is a model for all parents of Christian children. Our children should be given over to the Lord for His service.
- F. Too often parents are concerned about the financial and career success of their children, but neglect what is really important...SPIRITUAL Growth.

III. WHO TEACH THEIR CHILDREN LIKE EUNICE, **2 Timothy 1:5 and 3:15.**

- A. Eunice possessed “unfeigned faith,” **2 Timothy 1:5.**
 - 1. “Genuine” faith, NKJ.
 - 2. Eunice got it from her mother, Lois.
- B. Look at the importance of Bible study in the home.
 - 1. Eunice taught Timothy from a time he was a child, **2 Timothy 3:15.**
 - 2. Knowing the OT prepared Timothy to accept the NT and the Messiah.
- C. Proper instruction for your children is not an option:

You are diligent to teach your children to read and write or to see that they learn it.
 You are diligent to teach your children some manners.
 You are diligent to feed your children good food and to teach them proper hygiene.
 You are diligent to take your child to the doctor and dentist, and if necessary, the eye doctor.

Be MORE diligent to teach your children about Jesus!
 Be MORE diligent to teach your children the way of salvation!
 Be MORE diligent to teach your children the Word of God.

- C. HOW YOU CAN TEACH YOUR CHILDREN:
 - 1. WITH YOUR WORDS: "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up." **Deuteronomy 6:6-7.**
 - 2. HAVE DEVOTIONALS IN THE HOME:
 - a. This shows that God is important to you.
 - b. They also will learn about God.
 - 3. USE OBJECT LESSONS:
 - a. Nature – “Look at the flowers that God made.”
 - b. Items around the house – “God made the plants that give us flour that goes into the cookies we are making.”
 - c. Things you see and hear on TV – teach moral lessons on what you see that is wrong; point out anything you see that is positive.
 - 4. BY YOUR ACTIONS:
 - a. We must be consistent if we want our children to do what is right.
 - b. Little ears hear everything we say and little eyes see everything we do....whether

we like it or not!

- D. The lesson to be learned from Eunice: Teach children the way of the Lord AND live it before them.

IV. WHO STAND BY THEIR CHILDREN LIKE MARY, Luke 1:30-ff; John 19:25.

- A. An angel appeared to her and said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.” **Luke 1:30.**
1. She accepted by faith what the angel told her, **v.38.**
 2. She then sang a song of rejoicing, **v.46-55.**
- B. Because of her influence:
1. “And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.” **Luke 2:40.**
 2. “Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them, but His mother kept all these things in her heart.” **Luke 2:51.**
 3. “And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.” **Luke 2:52.**
- C. MARY WAS LOYAL TO HER SON TO THE POINT OF DEATH.
1. She was present at His crucifixion, **John 19:25.**
 2. She went, not knowing if she was placing herself in danger of those who were killing Him.
 3. Johan Gerhard describes it in this way: *"She sees Him suspended, but cannot touch Him, she sees Him nailed, and may not loose Him. She sees Him dripping with blood but cannot remove it. She sees Him wounded upon the entire body, but cannot bind up his wounds. She hears Him cry 'I thirst,' but may not give Him to drink."*
- D. Are you glad the gospel writers told us about Mary’s loyalty to Jesus?
- E. We need to be loyal to our children to the end. This does not mean we should approve of our children's sin. But they need to know that we support them and will stand by them in what they do.

CONCLUSION:

- A. MOTHERS, WE HONOR YOU ON YOUR SPECIAL DAY.
- B. MAY WE ALL TRY TO BE THE MOTHERS, FATHERS, SONS, DAUGHTERS THAT WE OUGHT TO BE.
- C. If your mother has passed away, you can honor her by living the life she would want you to live.
- D. If you are not a faithful Christian, you need to make your life right, not for your mother, but for your own eternal destiny.