

HONOR YOUR MOTHER

Ephesians 6:1-4

INTRODUCTION:

- A. On May 8, 1914, Woodrow Wilson signed a joint resolution of Congress which resulted in an annual observance of Mother's Day.
- B. While we give out ribbons and say special things about mothers and make this a joyous day, I realize this **MIGHT NOT BE A HAPPY DAY FOR SOME** in the audience:
 1. You may have recently **LOST YOUR MOTHER** and miss her on this Mothers Day.
 2. You might be a mother who recently **LOST A CHILD** who is not here to honor you today.
 3. You might be a woman who is **UNABLE TO HAVE CHILDREN** and feel sadness on this day.
 4. Maybe you did not have the **RIGHT KIND OF MOTHER** who causes you to rejoice on Mothers Day.
 5. Maybe you are a mother who is having **A DIFFICULT TIME** with your children.
- C. Whatever your circumstances concerning your mother or your children, remember that **GOD LOVES YOU** and wants you to continue to trust and love Him.
- D. **HUMOR:**
 1. A mom was out walking with her 4 year old daughter who picked up something off the ground and started to put it in her mouth.
The mom asked her not to do that.
“Why?” she asked.
“Because it’s been lying outside and is dirty and probably has germs.”
AT this point, she looked up at her mother with total admiration and asked, “How do you know all this stuff?”
“Uh,” thinking quickly, “...it’s on the mommy test. You have to know it, or you don’t get to be a mommy.”
“Oh.” She said seemingly satisfied.
They walked along in silence for 2 or 3 minutes, but the little girl was evidently pondering this new information.
“I get it!” She beamed. “**THEN IF YOU FAIL, YOU GET TO BE THE DADDY!**”
 2. A mom had one son who loved school and another who didn’t like to go to school at all. One weekend, the younger son cried and fretted and tried every excuse not to go back on Monday. Sunday morning, on the way home from worship, the crying and whining built to a crescendo.
At the end of her rope, the mom stopped the car and explained, “Honey, it’s the law. If you don’t go to school, they’ll put Mommy in jail.”
He looked at his mom, thought a minute, then asked, “**HOW LONG WOULD YOU HAVE TO STAY?**”

- E. Well, we don't want to send our mothers to jail. We want to honor them today on the national holiday of Mothers Day.
- F. Honoring our parents is the first obligation toward humans given in the Ten Commandments, **Exodus 20:12**.
- C. The word "honour" occurs 56 TIMES IN THE NKJ text of the New Testament:
 1. The Greek word used most often in the New Testament is "*timao*" (tim-ah'-o): "to prize, i.e. fix a valuation upon; by implication, to revere."
 2. This is the same word that is used each time the Bible speaks of honoring God.
 - a. Six times deals with honoring God.
 - b. Seven times deals with honoring parents.
 - c. The other times it deals with honoring others, (widows, the king, brethren, etc.)
- D. Life changes and HOW we best honor our mothers may be determined by her stage in life.

I. WE NEED TO HONOR HER IN OUR YOUTH.

- A. We need to both honor AND respect her.
- B. The Bible says, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right." **Eph 6:1**.
"Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord."
Colossians 3:20.
 1. One could be "obedient" without being respectful.
 2. Obedience without respect does not show honor.
- C. Many mother's hearts have been broken by a lack of honor, obedience and respect.
- D. "A wise son makes a father glad, but a foolish man *despises* his mother."
Proverbs 15:20.
 1. Hebrew word: *bazah* (baw-zaw'); a primitive root; to disesteem: KJV - despise, *disdain*, contemptible.
 2. This is the same word used to describe how Goliath looked down on David, 1 Samuel 17:42 — "And when the Philistine looked about, and saw David, he disdained him: for he was but a youth, and ruddy, and of a fair countenance."
- E. "A wise son makes a glad father, *but a foolish son is the grief of his mother.*"
Proverbs 10:1.
 1. Heaviness – KJV.
 2. Hebrew word: *tuwgah* (too-gaw'); from OT:3013; depression (of spirits); concretely a grief.
 3. Found four times in the OT, translated as heaviness, sorrow.
- F. On the other hand: Nothing honors a parent or makes them feel more proud than for their children to obey and act responsibly.
- G. REMEMBER: WHAT we say and HOW we say it makes a huge difference to our mothers.

II. WE NEED TO HONOR HER AS WE ENTER ADULTHOOD.

- A. "My son, hear the instruction of your father, and do not forsake the law of your mother." Prov 1:8.
- B. When we leave home, we need to take our mother's teachings with us.
 - 1. Illustration: There was a young man in the military who was about to go drinking with his buddies. Just as they were about to leave, he looked at his watch and realized that his mother was getting dressed to go to Wednesday night Bible Study. This kept him from going.
 - 2. Illustration: Man on horseback with \$22,000.
 - 3. Can you ever forget the teachings of your mother?
 - a. It is difficult to forever forget the teachings of a godly mother.
 - b. Some can somehow "overcome" their good upbringing, but I doubt they forget all about it.
- C. *Part of honoring her at this point in life might involve apologizing for some of the pain we gave her as we grew up.*
- D. We will never be completely free from the influence of our mothers - whether it is *good or bad.*

III. WE NEED TO HONOR HER AS SHE GROWS OLDER.

- A. "Listen to your father who begot you, And do not despise your mother when she is old." **Proverbs 23:22.**
- B. "The silver-haired head is a crown of glory, if it is found in the way of righteousness." **Proverbs 16:31.**
- C. When we have our own families, we are not to forget to honor her.
- D. We honor her by doing what we can to meet her needs.
- E. Poem: "Give It Now".

IV. WE NEED TO HONOR HER EVEN IF SHE HAS ALREADY PASSED AWAY.

- A. We can still honor her by being what she taught us to be.
 - 1. By being honest, kind, compassionate, hard-working.
 - 2. By being obedient to God.
- B. "Memories of Mother"

CONCLUSION:

- A. Everyone in this audience IS a mother, WAS a mother or HAD a mother.
- B. If you are a mother, be the best Christian mother you can be.
- C. If you have a mother, honor her today.