

MOTHERHOOD

Proverbs 31:10-31

INTRODUCTION: Mother's Day began May 9, 1914. "President Woodrow Wilson signed a joint resolution of congress recommending that congress and the executive departments of the government observe mother's day." World Book Encyclopedia Vol 13. **(107 years to the day)**

- A. I'm not a mother, but I had one; had two grandmothers, my wife has been one 57 years. So, I know a little about mothers (I also have the Bible)
- B. No one rises to a higher plane of moral accomplishment than a godly mother.
- C. No one selflessly sacrifices as a mother. She shares her body with the unborn, gives nourishment, protection; shares her time, energy, talent, and her heart as she weeps and laughs through the turbulent changes from childhood to adulthood.
- D. No task on earth requires more dedication, commitment, and highly refined skills tempered by compassion & patience, as a mother.
- E. No human obligation less adaptable to substitution than motherhood.
- F. As we look at the various functions of motherhood, let us be moved to gratitude for godly mothers. Mothers are:

DISCUSSION:

I. Mothers are: MANAGERS OF THE HOME. Prov 31:27-28

- A. Note God's order in 1Tim 5:14 - marry, bear children, guide home.
 - 1. Keeping home, not advancing a career, is primary responsibility.
 - 2. Seek and find satisfaction, fulfilling, "yourself" in motherhood.
- B. The "worthy woman" was an example of a domestic manager.
 - 1. An efficient manager of the home - vs. 21-22.
 - 2. Priorities in order. though she had pursuits outside of the home (v 16,24) family came first - before outside interests. vs. 15, 18
 - 3. Such a woman complements husband (v. 23) and contributes to a bright future for her family. (v. 25)

II. Mothers are: MODELS OF OBEDIENCE.

- A. First & foremost, she is obedient to the Lord. James 4:7
 - 1. Second, to her husband. 1Peter 3:1, 5-6
 - 2. She becomes the role model, as well as the primary teacher, of her children.
 - 3. At a banquet, the mother of George Washington was sitting beside a distinguished French officer. Turning to Washington's mother, the officer asked, "How have you managed to rear such a splendid son?" She replied, "I taught him to obey."
- B. A model of obedience is seen in Mary. Luke 1:38
 - 1. What greater attitude than "Let it be to me according to your word."
 - 2. What were her options? She could run away, offer excuses, argue with the angel, demand answers, simply refuse, or surrender.

III. Mothers are: TEACHERS OF GOOD THINGS.

- A. This reflects God's original plan for the operation of the human family.
 - 1. The book of Proverbs is full of admonitions that clearly show that mothers are to be teachers: Prov 1:8; Prov 31:1, 3-5, 8-9

- 2. Teaching is done largely by example.
 - a. When our actions and words don't harmonize, we do our children a great disservice. They recognize us as hypocrites and the effectiveness of the teaching is destroyed.
 - b. We should never demand more of our children than we do of ourselves.

B. Examples of good mothers:

- 1. Jochebed is an example of a worthy mother.
 - a. Son born in midst of difficult and perilous times (Ex 2:1-10).
 - b. Yet she instilled faith in her child, because later he was able to make a wise choice Heb 11:23-26
- 2. Hannah as an example of a mother who encouraged her son to excel in good things. She prayed for a child. 1Sam 1:11-18; then gave him to the Lord as she had promised. 1Sam 1:24-28 and continued to provide for him 1Sam 2:18-19
- 3. Eunice & Lois, mother & grandmother of Timothy. Acts 16:1b; 2Tim 1:3-5, 3:15; Phil 2:19-21

IV. Mothers are: HELPERS OF THE HELPLESS.

- A. Is there anything more helpless than an infant?
 - 1. Mothers have wonderful ability to love their children regardless of how ungrateful or hurtful they may be at times. Prov 10:1
 - 2. Think of how often our mothers have to be nurses, teachers, housekeepers, cooks, chauffeurs, counselors, and friends.
- B. Through her teaching of good things, the godly mother "builds" her house. Prov 14:1
 - 1. The wisdom of God is exhibited in motherhood.
 - 2. Greatest lessons we ever learned have come from loving, caring, sacrificing mothers who were always available to us.

V. Mothers are: TO BE RESPECTED AND HONORED Prov 31:28

- A. Respect for mothers is rooted in the O.T. & sprouts in the N.T. Lev 19:3; Prov 23:25; Eph 6:2
- B. Consider what God thinks of a disrespectful child: Prov 19:26, 20:20, 30:17; Deut 21:18-19
- C. "Disobedience to parents" is a manifestation of worsening society – 2Tim 3:2; Rom 1:30
- D. Love needs to be expressed in deeds. 1John 3:18 (See Illustration)

CONCLUSION

- A. "Like mother, like daughter" is Bible expression Ezek 16:44
 - 1. Most of us can trace what admirable qualities we possess to our mothers.
 - 2. Have you taken the time to thank her? (read poem)
- B. Let each of us thank God for His wisdom as expressed in His plan for the human family.
- C. Oh, if we could only adequately tell the worth of mothers!

(By David J. Riggs: some of the material from John Smith) (some revisions by JLH)