

MOTHERHOOD

Proverbs 31:10-31

INTRODUCTION: (Read: "How Much is Your Mother Worth?")

- A. I'm not a mother, but I had one; had two grandmothers, my wife has been one 49 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.
 - 3. After years of experimentation, selfish ambition, and career-first attitudes, our society has experienced some "backlash" against surrogate 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)

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

How Much Is Your Mother Worth? Try \$635,724!

Your mother may be priceless to you, but in today's job market she's worth more than \$635,000 per year, up more than \$40,000 from 2001, according to an Edelman Financial Services' Annual Mother's Day study, which includes the salaries of many possible occupations that a typical mother might hold during the course of a given year. The third annual EFS study examined salary data supplied by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, trade groups, various human resource organizations and staffing service firms. Edelman's goal was to establish criteria and determine what the combined median yearly salary would be for a multi-tasking mother being asked to: raise children; cook meals; keep house; care for pets; dispense medication and nursing care; attend meetings and functions; manage family finances; provide transportation; assist with homework; listen to and resolve family problems; keep family on schedule; maintain family order and harmony

Based on 17 key occupations, Edelman Financial Services Inc. estimates that this year a mother's financial worth is approximately \$635,700 per year, or nearly \$53,000 per month. The 17 key occupations mothers typically perform, along with corresponding median yearly salaries for Mother's Day, 2001 are: **Animal Caretaker** - \$22,256; **Chef** - \$25,110; **Computer Systems Analyst** -- \$60,860; **Financial Manager** -- \$70,366 **Food/Beverage Service Worker** -- \$14,710; **General Office Clerk** -- \$24,128; **Registered Nurse** -- \$45,614; **Management Analyst** -- \$52,457; **Child Care Worker** -- \$18,179; **Housekeeper** -- \$15,410; **Psychologist** -- \$56,576; **Bus Driver** -- \$26,832; **Elementary School Principal** -- \$66,930; **Dietitians/Nutritionists** -- \$38,313; **Property Manager** -- \$36,020; **Social Worker** -- \$31,387; **Recreation Worker** -- \$30,576; TOTAL \$641,900

"Edelman Financial Services is attempting to quantify and track the true market value of a mother's annual worth in today's economy," says Ric Edelman. "Of course, no one can place a value on the love and affection that mothers give to their families," he said. "But since a mother wears many hats and is on duty 24-hours-a-day, we decided that a typical mother deserves a full-time yearly salary for all 17 key occupational positions." Edelman notes that these figures should be higher,

because they do not include the retirement, health and insurance benefits that workers in these positions typically receive.

"So if you haven't given much thought to the benefits of having a mom, try finding the money you'd need to pay someone to do everything that she does," Edelman says. "You don't have enough money to hire a mom as good as yours - and from that perspective, our mothers are indeed priceless."

(Illustrate love shown in deeds)

A man stopped at the flower shop to order some flowers to be wired to his mother who lived 200 miles away. As he got out of his car he noticed a girl sitting on the curb sobbing. He asked her what was wrong and she replied, "I wanted to buy a red rose for my mother, but I only have 75 cents and a rose costs \$2." The man smiled and said, "Come on in with me. I will buy you a rose for your mother." He placed his FTD order of flowers to his mother and bought a rose for the girl. As they were leaving he offered the girl a ride. She responded, "Yes, please, if you could. Take me to my mother," and she directed him to a cemetery where she placed the rose on a freshly dug grave. The man returned to the flower shop, canceled the wire order, picked up the flowers and drove the 200 miles to his mother's home.

"Mother's Are.."

by Floyd Wood

Blowers of noses and washers of ears,
Smothers of bumped spots and wipers of tears,
Bathers of babies and umpires of spats,
Finders of boots and mittens and hats,
Helpers with lessons and makers of beds,
Shakers of dustcloths and combers of heads,
Button-sew-oners and winders of clocks
Menders of dresses and darners of socks.
Tellers of stories and readers of books,
Judges and juries of conduct and looks,
Doctors of heartaches and hearers of prayers,
Generals directing all family affairs,
Tenders of home fires and builders of men,
(Oh, for the gift of an adequate pen!)