

GODLY MOTHERHOOD

There are radicals who scoff at motherhood, denouncing the role of mother as something inferior to the glamorized careers in the world. But in our nation there is still a day set aside each year when everyone is called upon to pause and render honor to motherhood, each one's mother in particular. It is called "Mother's Day." It is not a religious ceremonial day, but it is a tradition when mothers are honored in special ways. While there is no Biblical authority to respect one Lord's Day above another, and Mother's Day is usually a Sunday, it is fitting and proper for us to meditate upon what the Bible teaches regarding motherhood.

The Lord's Pattern

In order for a mother to be a godly mother she needs a pattern to follow, and the Lord has provided His pattern with both instructions and records of examples what mothers should be. There is Mary, the mother of Jesus, who was submissive to God's plan and to whom even the Son of God was subject in His early years. There was Lois, the mother of the evangelist Timothy, who taught him the scriptures from his youth. We read of Sarah, Rachel, Mary, the mother of John Mark, each of them demonstrating exceptional qualities of character that go to making a woman and mother approved of God. There is another mother which shall be the center of our focus in this lesson of whom we read in the Old Testament and her name is Hannah, the wife of Elkanah, the mother of Samuel.

Samuel became the great Samuel of Israel. His manliness, purity, justice, dignity, devotion to the best interest of his people, his dedication to the heavenly Father, his stout vindication and defense of the ways of God may be traced to the deep piety and supreme faith and devotion to duty that characterized his mother. There is the old saying, "As the twig is bent, so grows the tree." Hannah bent the twig and Samuel became a mighty tree of righteousness.

Sowing and Reaping

What we sow, we reap. That is true in every realm, and in no realm is it more evident than in the family unit and development in which the mother is a major component. Many mothers sow in tears, work, self-denial, pain and sacrifice but they will reap in joy and find their highest happiness when they

can see the purity, nobility, goodness and Christlikeness in the lives of her children. Proverbs 31:28, "*Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her.*" Possibly in this matter above all others it can be said of the godly mother, "*Thou excellest them all*" (Proverbs 31:29). The world groans and agonizes in need of godly mothers who instill in the hearts and lives of their children the righteousness of God.

Rather than simply having the capacity to reproduce, or to be glamorous, greedy, grasping for gain and glory, we need mothers whose goal is godliness. The following parable, written by Temple Bailey, presents what should be the ambition of every mother regarding her children.

The young Mother set her foot on the path of life. "Is the way long?" she asked.

And her Guide said, "Yes, and the way is hard. And you will be old before you reach the end of it. But the end will be better than the beginning."

But the young Mother was happy, and she would not believe that anything could be better than these years. So she played with her children, and gathered flowers for them along the way, and bathed with them in the clear streams; and the sun shone on them, and life was good, and the young Mother cried, "Nothing will ever be lovelier than this."

The night came, and storm, and the path was dark, and the children shook with fear and cold, and the Mother drew them close and covered them with her mantle, and the children said, "Oh, Mother, we are not afraid, for you are near, and no harm can come," and the Mother said, "This is better than the brightness of day, for I have taught my children courage.

And the morning came, and there was a hill ahead, and the children climbed and grew weary, and the Mother was weary, but at all times she said to the children, "A little patience, and we are there." So the children climbed, and when they reached the top, they said, "We could not have done it without you, Mother."

And the Mother, when she lay down that night, looked up at the stars, and said, "This is a better day than the last, for my children have learned fortitude in the face of hardness. Yesterday I gave them courage. Today I have given them strength."

And the next day came strange clouds which darkened the earth--clouds of war and hate and evil, and the children groped

and stumbled, and the Mother said, "Look up. Lift your eyes to the Light." And the children looked and saw above the clouds an Everlasting Glory, and it guided them and brought them beyond the darkness. And that night the Mother said, "This is the best day of all, for I have shown my children God."

And the days went on, and the weeks, and the months, and the years, and the Mother grew old, and she was little and bent. But her children were tall and strong, and walked with courage. And when the way was hard, they helped their Mother; and when the way was rough, they lifted her, for she was as light as a feather; and at last they came to a hill and beyond the hill they could see a shining road and golden gates flung wide.

And the Mother said, "I have reached the end of my journey. And now I know that the end is better than the beginning, for my children can walk alone, and their children after them."

And the children said, "You will always walk with us, Mother, even when you have gone through the gates."

And they stood and watched her as she went on alone, and the gates closed after her. And they said: "We cannot see her, but she is with us still. A Mother like ours is more than a memory. She is a Living Presence."

Honor Due

So as the world may honor mothers on "Mother's Day," we who are Christians go a step further and honor those mothers who show God to her children in word, attitude, and deed. Many of us have been blessed with God's boundless favor by having a godly mother. Some hold them today only in memory. Many a lady has the privilege of being a godly mother. Some have children who are now grown and others still with infants. We pray that the influence of godly mothers might increase in our world. "The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world." May we ever proclaim throughout the world, "*Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.*" (Proverbs 31:30).

Jim Boyd adapted from O, Give Me A Home

BIRTHDAY

Dee Adams, 05-16.

ILL

Sunday: Chris Edwards; Steven and Debbie Schleif; Millie Robertson (PM); Allen and Clara Scott (PM).

Wednesday: Allen and Clara Scott (PM).

Glennis Foust was in Olathe Medical Center for observation last weekend, and returned to The Sweet Life of Rosehill facility on Monday evening.

Those battling cancer: David Cole, Ledgia Campbell, Betty James and Cleo Stone. Please remember these in your prayers, as well as: Millie Robertson, Allen Scott, and Ralph Franklin.

HOME BOUND

Bob Adams resides at Room D-4 of the Johnson County Nursing Center in Olathe. Marion Stone is at home. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

OUT OF TOWN

Ted and Julia Thrasher were in Newton, KS for the lectures last Sunday and went on to Oklahoma to visit relatives last week.

MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING

Our monthly Men's Business Meeting will be held this Sunday, May 11 following our AM worship. All men of the congregation are encouraged to attend.

SATURDAY SEMINAR

Saturday May 17 is the date for the next Saturday Seminar at the 39th Street congregation in Independence, MO. Lessons are at: 9:30, 10:30, and 11:30 AM. See the flyer in the foyer for details.

ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 44; Sunday PM, 31; Wednesday PM, 34.

"Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies."
Proverbs 31:10

Those To Serve

May 11, 2008

BUILDING AND COMMUNION..... Nelson

MORNING WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS..... George Thomas
SONG LEADER..... Steve Brown
OPENING PRAYER Chris Edwards
PRESIDE..... Trent Thrasher
ASSIST..... Jared Nelson
ASSIST..... Dave Parish
CLOSING PRAYER..... Jeff Nemechek

EVENING WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER John Cody Carter
CLOSING PRAYER..... Joel Nelson
LORD'S SUPPER..... Trent Thrasher

WEDNESDAY 14th

SONG LEADER..... John Cody Carter
INVITATION Steve Brown

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM
Morning Worship 10:30 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher

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