



CHARACTERISTICS OF A GODLY MOTHER

VARIOUS TEXT

WESTPORT CHRISTIAN CHURCH

MAY 14, 2017

Today is Mother's Day. It is a day set aside every year to honor mothers. Let me share with you how Mothers' Day Started. Anna M. Jarvis (1864-1948) first suggested the national observance of an annual day honoring all mothers because she had loved her own mother so dearly. At a memorial service for her mother on May 10, 1908, Miss Jarvis gave a carnation (her mother's favorite flower) to each person who attended. Within the next few years, the idea of a day to honor mothers gained popularity, and Mother's Day was observed in a number of large cities in the U.S. On May 9, 1914, by an act of Congress, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day. He established the day as a time for public expression of our love and reverence for the mothers of our country. By then it had become customary to wear white carnations to honor departed mothers

and red to honor the living, a custom that continues to this day. (Pulpit Helps, May, 1991)

However, it is my opinion, that we should honor our mothers more than one time a year. Mothers are important. Let me illustrate this fact. I am going to ask a question and I would like for you to raise your hand in response. How many of you here are mothers or how many of you here have a mother? Now, do you see how important mothers are?

Perhaps you heard about the four-year-old and a six-year-old who 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 really pretty, but it was too expensive. It had a ribbon on it that said, 'Rest In Peace,' and we thought it would be just perfect since you are always asking for a little peace so that you can rest." (Source Unknown.)

I feel that it is very safe to say, that throughout history, mothers have had a great influence not only in their homes, but in the lives of leaders in many nations.

So today, I would like for use to consider the characteristics of a godly mother.

A godly mother must have . . .

I. VISION FOR HER CHILDREN

The first mother that we will look at today, is found in the book of Exodus. Here in the second chapter, we find a mother who had a vision for her son. The mother's name is Jochebed.

In chapter one we read where Pharaoh had ordered that all male babies were to be thrown into the Nile River. The reason for this is the Hebrew people had grown into such a large number of people, Pharaoh was worried about a revolt.

Exodus 2:1-8 Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a daughter of Levi. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was beautiful, she hid him for three months. But when she could hide him no longer, she got him a wicker basket and covered it over with tar and pitch. Then she put the child into it and set it among the reeds by the bank of the Nile.

His sister stood at a distance to find out what would happen to him. The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the Nile, with her maidens walking alongside the Nile; and she saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid, and she brought it to her. When she opened it, she saw the child, and behold, the boy was crying. And she had pity on him and said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children." Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and call a nurse for you from the Hebrew women that she may nurse the child for you?" Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Go ahead." So the girl went and called the child's mother.

Jochebed chose life for her son, she had done all she could for him by hiding him for three months. Then when she could no longer hide him, she placed Moses in a basket that she had prepared and trusted God. God rewarded her faithfulness as she became Moses' nurse. Her vision for Moses was to trust and obey the Lord.

Did she know that God would use Moses like He did? I don't believe she did, but I do believe that she showed a vision that she had for her son by protecting his life.

Years ago, a young mother was making her way across the hills of South Wales, carrying her tiny baby in her arms, when she was overtaken by a blinding blizzard. She never reached her destination and when the blizzard had subsided her body was found by searchers beneath a mound of snow. But they discovered that before her death, she had taken off all her outer clothing and wrapped it about her baby. When they unwrapped the child, to their great surprise and joy, they found he was alive and well. She had mounded her body over his and had given her life for her child, proving the depths of a mother's love. Years later that child, David Lloyd George, grown to manhood, became prime minister of Great Britain, and, without doubt, one of England's greatest statesman. (James S. Hewett, Illustrations Unlimited, Tyndale, 1972, p. 375.)

A godly mother has vision for her children.

A godly mother must . . .

II. GIVE HER CHILDREN SACRIFICIALLY TO THE LORD

In I Samuel, we find a mother named Hannah. Now Hannah did not have any children like the other women and she long to have a child, not just a child but a son.

In verse eleven of chapter one we read, *“She made a vow and said, “O LORD of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will give Your maidservant a son, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life.”*

Before her child was even conceived, Hannah prayed for her son. Lorne Sanny of The Navigators once wrote of his mother: "My mother gave birth to me in a frontier house on a Midwestern prairie. On the kitchen counter, she placed a list of the ingredients necessary for my formula. At the top of the list was 'prayer,' and that remained at the top of her list for me throughout her life . . . I have her to thank for firmly establishing my spiritual roots." (Today in the Word, January, 1990, p. 23.) Ladies, do you pray daily for your children?

Not only did Hannah pray for her son, she made a vow to God, to give her child back to Him for His service. Hannah put her child in God's hand, not the world's.

Mothers, have you given your children over to God? Do you or have you encouraged your children to serve the Lord? Do you encourage them to consider some part of a ministry as a way of life? If you hadn't or never did, I must ask why? Now, perhaps there are good reasons, but I think for the most part we don't want to think about our child moving away. We want to hold onto them because we think they are ours. Yes, in many way they are, but God blessed us with our wonderful children and we should encourage them to serve the Lord either full time or part time or at least on a voluntary basis.

A godly mother must be willing to give her child sacrificially to the Lord.

A godly mother . . .

III. MUST TEACH HER CHILDREN THE WAYS OF THE LORD

In the book of II Timothy. Here we find a mother by the name of Eunice. The mother of a young man named Timothy. *“For*

I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that it is in you as well.” 2 Tim 1:5

Through a study about Timothy and his mother Eunice, we would find that Eunice was a Greek lady that had at some point in time became a Jew and then later after hearing the Gospel message became a Christian.

Timothy had learned about a faith in Christ from his mother and grandmother. Paul states that their faith was sincere, it was real and now was evident in the life of Timothy. Think about that for just one moment. Both of these ladies that are mentioned were Greek and the Greeks were known for worshiping a plurality of gods. There had to be something very evident in the life of Timothy’s mother to encourage him to seek the faith. I don’t believe it was by some accident that Timothy chose to follow after the same belief that his mother was following. There was not only a strong teaching, but there was proof of her faith.

When Robert Ingersoll, the notorious skeptic, was in his heyday, two college students went to hear him lecture. As they walked down the street after the lecture, one said to the other, “Well, I guess he knocked the props out from under Christianity, didn’t he?” The other said, “No, I don’t think he did. Ingersoll did not explain my mother’s life, and until he can explain my mother’s life I will stand by my mother’s God.” (James S. Hewett, Illustrations Unlimited, Tyndale, 1972, p. 381.)

Timothy’s mother Eunice understood the importance of teaching her child about Christ. She knew and understood that it was truly a matter of life and death.

Mother’s, it is your duty to raise up your child to die knowing Christ as Lord. If they chose at some point in their life not to follow, that is their choice.

It’s been said that Charles Spurgeon while speaking of his mother said, “I cannot tell how much I owe to the prayers of my good mother. I remember her once praying, “Now Lord, if my children go on in sin it will not be from ignorance that they perish, and my soul must bear swift witness against them at the day of

judgment if they lay not hold on Christ and claim Him as their personal Savior." (Source Unknown)

Conclusion; Many godly men of the past have been richly blessed by what they learned from their mothers. Consider the biblical characters Moses, Samuel, and Timothy. The maternal influence experienced by these spiritual leaders bore rich fruit in their lives. Think too of men like Augustine, John Newton, and the zealous Wesley brothers. Their names would probably never have lighted the pages of history if it hadn't been for the godly women who raised them in homes where the law of love and a Christian witness were their daily guide and inspiration.

Susannah Wesley, for example, spent one hour each day praying for her 17 children. In addition, she took each child aside for a full hour every week to discuss spiritual matters. No wonder two of her sons, Charles and John, were used of God to bring blessings to all of England and much of America.

Let us honor our godly mothers today, not only with words of praise, but with lives that reflect the impact of their holy influence! - (H.G.B. Our Daily Bread, May 8)

AMEN