

MOTHERS DAY SERMON, May 9, 2021

Before getting serious about Mother's Day, I would like to share with you what some well known people have said about mothers.

"I want my children to have all the things I couldn't afford. Then I want to move in with them."

Phyllis Diller

"My mother's menu consisted of two choices: Take it or leave it." Buddy Hackett

"When my kids become wild and unruly, I use a nice, safe playpen. When they're finished, I climb out." Erma Bombeck

"I always say if you aren't yelling at your kids, you're not spending enough time with them."

Reese Witherspoon.

"It's not easy being a mom. If it were easy Fathers could do it." Betty White

"Insanity is hereditary; you get it from your children." Sam Levenson

When a national magazine described her Nobel Prize-winning son as "the world's smartest man," Lucille Feynman told the reporter, **"If my son is the world's smartest man, God help us."**

Silence is golden unless you have kids. Then silence is just suspicious

Now to get serious this is Mother's Day. It is the day we set aside each year to honor and give thanks to mothers. Our text is Genesis 2:18-24:

"Then the LORD God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him. Now out of the ground the LORD God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all the livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then

the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." Therefore, a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. Genesis 2:18-24

Have you ever read some of the crazy warning labels there are out there today? I get Consumer Report. Here's a few they have highlighted. One says danger do not hold the wrong end of a chainsaw. Another one says of an Iron on application, "Do not iron while wearing shirt." A fanbelt warning says, "Be sure you shut off the engine as it may cause irreversible injury. This is a caution printed on a portable stroller. Remove infant before folding for storage." The funny part about this is that someone somewhere had to have done some of these things for them to become warnings. The not so funny part is that people still at times ignore the warning labels on dangerous things.

In Genesis we are giving a clear understanding of the roles and responsibilities of men and women. Fathers and mothers according to God's design. Before the fall into sin no instructions were necessary. Adam and Eve lived together with themselves, creation and God in perfect harmony. After the fall they- and us-need to have warning labels and instruction manuals. Here's a truth to ponder: children don't come with instruction manuals. They come with mothers.

When faced with unrealistic and worldly ideas and instructions about motherhood it is not surprising when moms sometimes feel like quitting. Here is encouragement from a woman by the name of Diana Allen on how to face this attitude in a poem called, "I Quit." After explaining the hardships of parenthood, she concludes, **"There will be days when I'll still hunt through the yellow pages for the number for the Mother's Resignation Hotline ... or my heart will feel as though it has been shattered into a thousand pieces. One thing is sure, however: I have to hang on, to stand firm, to fight the good fight. The souls of my children and the quality of the lives they live here on earth is at stake—and so is their eternity. My children are too precious for me to do anything but persevere."**

There is a generation of children and grandchildren that need to be instructed in the right ideas and attitudes toward motherhood and womanhood. We begin by recognizing that God has every right to rule. He has the last word on every subject. It is in accepting his right to rule that we begin to accept and defer to God's word. In his word He has given a clear design for mothers.

God designed mothers to be suitable helpers. What God means by helper is not what our common understanding of the word "helper" is. In the Bible the word "helper" is a strong and powerful word. In fact, it is a word that God uses to refer to Himself.

Psalm 54:4 says, **"The Lord is my Helper, the Lord is the sustainer of my life."**

Psalm 46:1 reads, **"God is our refuge and strength, a helper who is always found in times of trouble."**

Psalm 33:20 reads, **"We wait for God; He is our help and shield."**

Jesus refers to the coming of the Holy Spirit after His ascension as the coming of the "helper." If God is our "helper" then being a helper is an awesome responsibility. A suitable helper is able to step into any situation time or trouble. That's what mothers do.

Mothers and fathers are different. God's grand plan is for us to complement each other. God designed mothers to reproduce His image. While it is true that both men and women bear the image of God, mothers alone have the express responsibility and joy of carrying the beautiful gift of life in their womb. Only to woman has God given the privilege of bringing life into the world.

To the world, a Mother is just that a Mother. But to her family, she is the world. That's a great thought to hang on to. "To the world, a mother is just a mother. But to her family she is the world." Mothers hold their children's hands for a short while, but they hold their hearts forever.

Only a mother can know a mother's love because only a mother loves you even before she knew you. Only a mother can experience what it means to carry and bring forth life. A mother knows that while she gave her child life, it was really the child who has given the mother a life of purpose, joy and fulfillment.

God designed mothers to nurture their children. Providing a nurturing home reveals the image of God. God provides for His children and He does so through mother's. Mothers have the amazing opportunity to provide a home of constant support especially verbal.

Mothers, just by their words of encouragement, can empower their children to feel good about themselves. Good about who they are and where they are going. Webster's says to nurture is to feed or nourish. Without nurture we wither. Mothers have the responsibility of creating an environment in their home where children can grow and develop in the happy obedience of God. Nurturing your children through failures, difficulties, hurts and pains reveals to them the unending love of God.

God designed mothers to know Him. Mothers weren't just made to reflect God. They were also made to relate to God. Jesus came to give life and give it to the full. Full life is full of God. Our children's lives get fuller and fuller as they get older. They get full of activities. Full of relationships. Full of hobbies. Full of ideas and opinions. A mother must be persistent in pursuing God for the sake of their own soul so that they will have something to show their children what a full life is really like.

Share with them the God you know. We can see in the story of Genesis the desire of God to know Adam and Eve. He makes them like Him as moral and logical creatures. When he is ready to give life to them, he breathes life into Adam and Eve. Then he desires to walk with them in the garden in the cool of the morning. God still wants us to reproduce His image. When we share with our children our relationship with God, we give Him an opportunity to open their blind eyes. We are to teach them God's word. Why?

Why is it important to teach them God's Word? It is important because faith comes by hearing the word of God. We trust God by learning of Him and our need for his saving grace. Romans 10:17 reads, **"So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."**

We grow by the word of God. There are so many stunted Christians in the world because of the neglect of a proper diet.

1 Peter 2:2 reads, **"like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation."** We are to invest in them obedience. Not only does the Bible teach us to be disciplined but it clearly tells us to discipline our children. Why? Because discipline is a display of love. Discipline helps children to learn right from wrong.

This is Hebrews 12:6, **"For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives."**

As we celebrate Mother's Day, we relate a mother's love with the love God has for us. Isaiah 66:13 reads, **"As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you...** a mother's love is so reminiscent of the love that God has for us.

1. A mother will give everything for her children. **"God so loved the world that He gave His only son begotten Son so that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."**
2. A mother loves her children no matter what...
Romans 5:10 **For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God thru the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved by His life.**
3. A mother will protect her children.
2 Thessalonians 3:3, **But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen and protect you from the evil one.**
4. A mother wants the best for her children. Isaiah 48:17, 17 **This is what the LORD says— your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: "I am the LORD your God, who teaches you what is best for you, who directs you in the way you should go.**

Moms only want the best for their families. They will do anything to see that they get it.

Now, having said that about earthly mothers, I want you to know that you also have a heavenly Father who wants only the best for you. Today I want you to see that the characteristics that we see in our mothers are present in the God who has saved us. They may not always be right, but they always care, and they always have your best interest in mind.

In the Old Testament the word "compassion" comes from the word that means "womb".

The idea is one of "birthing". Something new is being born. Whether it is life coming forth from a mother or the "new birth" offered by our heavenly Father something new has been created. And just as the love of a mother bears that child through their whole life, so the love of your heavenly Father bears you through eternity by the love He offered on Calvary through His Son Jesus Christ. God sees who you really are – a sinner deserving of death but has offered you His only begotten Son to save your life. God sees who you can be and offers the guidance of His Holy Spirit to lead you and empower you for this life. God

sees you as if it is already done and ordains you to good works by His grace... not your works but His grace working through you.

1 Corinthians 10:31 says, **"So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."**

God wants to work in your life to make you the best you can be. Will you let Him do it?