

Mother's Day at CF!

Sermon Notes - HANDOUT – BK

May 11, 2025

SO... I am going to be talking to moms a lot today. All the rest of you, much of *this message applies to you as well...*

But... since it IS Mother's Day... *well... you understand!*

I also pause to recognize that this can be a time of pain and sadness for some, for various reasons. I always want to be mindful of this.

At the same time, I feel led to speak a word of encouragement to moms today, in a time when *raising children is not easy.*

- We know that **raising children has never been easy**, but ***in this day***, there are **more distractions and more to have to be mindful of *than ever before.***
- **Watching our daughter Cayley and her hubby Chris**, raising Joshua, and ***their little baby girl on the way***, we are **more mindful of this than we have been in a long time.**
- I was also **definitely reminded of the differences** raising kids nowadays, compared to what we went through, as we were going **through the parenting class.**

It is good that we set aside a day to honor Mothers and next month, Fathers.

- **Setting aside a day** to do what we are **instructed to do in God's word...**
- Truly, we are **not just instructed, we are commanded.**

Deuteronomy 5:16

¹⁶ “Honor your father and your mother, as the Lord your God commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may go well with you in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

It is an **interesting** that **THIS** is the fifth commandment of the 10 Commandments. ***What does 5 have to do with it?***

The number 5 in the Bible is often associated with –

- **Grace**
- **Favor**
- **Divine power**

Regarding this commandment, Paul teaches it this way to those in Ephesus...

Ephesians 6:1-2

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ² “Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise), ³ “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.”

Honor – To have in honor... In the Present, Active, Imperative

- **DO this!**
- **KEEP doing this!**

It God calls us to honor our mothers and fathers,

If this is the only commandment that comes with a promise...

Wouldn't it stand to reason God Himself takes much care in and has much love for parents?

Some of you moms and grand-moms need to hear today that Jesus loves you and that the Lord has in no way abandoned you.

With that in mind, I wanted to give a few reminders that I hope will be an encouragement to you moms...

It comes in the form of an acrostic...

Do I dare making a MOM acrostic?

I dare indeed 😊

3 powerful things moms can do in raising their kids and influencing their world...

M – Move By God's Leading

O – Offer Hope

M – Make Room

M – Move by God's leading

Moving by the leading of God can be *tricky* for moms,

- **Tricky** for a mom with very young children, since it can be such a busy hands-on time!
- **Tricky** for a mom of growing children in early elementary, because there is so many formation times as they are understanding much more about the world around them.
- **Tricky** for a mom of later elementary children as they are being so influenced by friends, not all of it to your liking!
- **Tricky** for a mom with a child in Middle School... because they ARE “Middle schoolers!”
- **Tricky** for a mom of High School children who are developing skills that will effect their future forever.
- **Tricky** for moms of young adults as you are shifted now into more of a cheerleader and coach.
- **Tricky** as a mom of your adult children
 - As you encourage them
 - As you see them make some of the same mistakes you made
 - As they make decisions you so proud of
 - As you see them hurt in ways that bring you to your knees in fervent prayer

We know that being a mom can be really tricky, through ALL of this!

Moving by God’s leading comes when you learn what He is saying and choosing to trust Him in it...

The **Psalms** are such a guide for us all... definitely for mothers...

Finding His lead in His word –

Psalm 119:105

***Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path.***

Psalm 19:7-11

***The law of the Lord is perfect,
reviving the soul;
the testimony of the Lord is sure,
making wise the simple;
8 the precepts of the Lord are right,
rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is pure,
enlightening the eyes;***

*⁹ the fear of the Lord is clean,
enduring forever;
the rules of the Lord are true,
and righteous altogether.
¹⁰ More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey
and drippings of the honeycomb.
¹¹ Moreover, by them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.*

Knowing what He is saying comes when we wait on Him...

Psalm 37:7-9

*⁷ Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him;
fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way,
over the man who carries out evil devices!
⁸ Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath!
Fret not yourself; it tends only to evil.
⁹ For the evildoers shall be cut off,
but those who wait for the Lord shall inherit the land.*

This is why –

- **Prioritizing time with the Lord every day** is the **best thing you can do** for your life as a mom...
- **Developing a hearing ear to what the Lord** is saying is SO important!
- **Growing in your love for your children**, in spite of differences of opinion and how you may do things differently

The Lord is an amazing leader! Hear Him and follow His lead!

- **He leads us in His word**... what does it say about...? Be a student of it.
- **He leads by His people**... trusted friends that have your back.
- **He leads by His Spirit**... He is talking a lot more than you may know.

M – Move By God's Leading

O – Offer Hope

Offering hope sounds like a daunting task...

But it is **actually a byproduct of following God's lead.**

This could be better said, ***“You will offer hope, as you follow Jesus.”***

When you are following the Lord’s lead, hope will emanate from you, because He is the God of all hope who is living in you.

Romans 5:13

13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

Your kids look to you as their mom to find hope.

You have been doing it all along, since your child was a baby.

Offering hope is not always easy...

This is why we

- **Seek the Lord for our hope**
- **Look for ways to continue to grow in hope**

There are some powerful places in God’s word, where God brings hope to a mom in need of hope.

Hagar and Ishmael (Genesis 21:15-21)

Widow and her son (oil and flour) (1 Kings 17:8-16)

Hanna and Samuel (1 Samuel 1,2)

Jesus entrusting His mother Mary to John (John 19:26-27)

M – Move By God’s Leading

O – Offer Hope

M – Make Room

As we have talked about, being a mom is tricky...

But know, that this process always takes time.

There is no shortcut or easy way to do it.

YouTube, PlayStation 5 nor Nintendo Switch does not have what your kids need the most... YOU do!

Make the room, it is to take the time, but it is more than that. It is to make room to be there for your kids.

What do I mean by “Make Room?”

- It means to **think ahead** have forethought for your kids
- It means to **be intentional**
- It means that **in your busy life and full head of To-Do's** that you **make room for your kid's hearts and minds...**

So often we talk about how fast time goes by.

There is no more vivid an example as your children.

Paul says it this way,

Ephesians 5:15-16

¹⁵ Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.

“Making room” does not mean –

- **Dropping everything, every time.**
It means to be **open** and **intentional** at the same time.
- **Does not mean giving all you have, till there is nothing left...**
 - o Remember, **you move by God's leading,**
 - o **Bringing your filling... And the hope you offer that God has given...**

Making room for others does not always come naturally.

But it is where so much good is developed!

Making Room –

- **Some of the best opportunities** come at ***the most inconvenient times***
- **Usually for teens, it tends to be later at night**
- ***Guarding against get “all jammed up” with other things that get in the way...***
- ***Being aware of your OWN phone use... in front of your kids!***

In this way... the Making Room is something that is wonderful fruit of being led by the Lord and out of the overflow of hope in you.

In all of this, I have not talked much at all about your marriage.

**Truth is, your husband is critical in his role.
Loving your husband is one of the most powerful ways to love your children.**

Arguing with, not honoring your husband will undermine your relationship with your children.

OR – it will cause great division in your family, making them choose...

This is NOT God's plan or heart for you, your marriage and your role as mother.

Today's message is pretty simple... MOM...

**M – Move By God's Leading
O – Offer Hope
M – Make Room**

Admittedly, when you limit yourself to three letters when it comes to the topic of "mom," – especially on Mother's Day... you run into some problems!

There are many things you try to fit in those three letters...

You kinda feel like you could actually add a whole lot more letters!

- Mother**
- Mothering**
- Motheringly**
- Motheringliness**
- Motheringlinecessariliness...?**
- You get the point ☺**

Truth is... God's design for the purpose of a mom is profoundly simple and yet absolutely important and complex.

MAY YOU BE FILLED TO OVERFLOW TODAY MOMS!

May God's love overflow...

1 John 4:19

"We love each other because he loved us first."

1 Corinthians 13:13

"Three things will last forever—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love."

For those of you who have mothers to honor today...

Proverbs 23:22-25

"Listen to your father, who gave you life, and don't despise your mother when she is old. Get the truth and never sell it; also get wisdom, discipline, and good judgment. The father of godly children has cause for joy. What a pleasure to have children who are wise. So give your father and mother joy! May she who gave you birth be happy."