

Thank you choir. We certainly appreciate Mother's Day every year and I'm so delighted that we had the opportunity to honor each of you mothers here this morning. To recognize you, to give you a gift, it is our privilege. I believe that it is important for husbands, it's important for dads to make sure that our children honor their mothers. And excuse me, excuse me, I'm going to use a rough word that if a man's children do not show proper respect to their mother there should be hell to pay because children are to be trained to honor their father and their mother. Sometimes, excuse me for using another nasty word, sometimes coercion is required. But if coercion is required then coercion is called for. I'm so thankful that my wife and I have a daughter who has always honored her mother and has always honored her father, but it's not like she had a choice. You feel me? It's not like she had a choice. Now I don't think she needed to have a choice, but even if she needed one she didn't have one. Amen. So I congratulate you mothers. I miss my mom terribly. Terribly. I'm a mama's boy. I'm a real mama's boy. But that doesn't mean that I let women lead me around or tell me what to do. Because my mama wouldn't tolerate her son to be that kind of boy, because that kind of boy is not a man. Amen. Mother's Day is our nation's special time set aside each year to honor you moms. It's a special time, we ought to honor you all the time, 24/7, but it's a time of national recognition and reminder and to encourage you who might someday be blessed by God to be moms. There are few tasks in this world that are more difficult to do correctly than being a good mom, partnering with dads and rearing children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Think of it, being responsible for other human beings to form the personalities of little children and establish their patterns of thought and reason. To establish them in the habits of behavior that ultimately lead to character, to prepare them for the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

At the same time when children see their mother in an intact nuclear family, they have the opportunity to witness their mother yielding to her husband in a manner reminiscent of a believer yielding to Christ. No wonder Paul declared to Titus that young women so disposed to their husbands resulted in the word of God not being blasphemed. You

know that if I misbehave, the Bible is not blasphemed. If a young man misbehaves, the Bible is not blasphemed. If an old woman misbehaves, the Bible is not blasphemed. But if a young woman is guilty of misconduct, the Bible tells us that the word of God is blasphemed. So how important it is for young women and young mothers to be godly. At the same time, when children see their mother in an intact nuclear family and have the opportunity to submit to her husband as unto the Lord, they have a pattern for their own lives to grow up to. Oh, the importance of mothers. Of course, without mothers there would be no babies. I don't care what they say in California, I'm very binary in that way. The Bible is very binary in that way. God is very binary in that way. He created mankind very binary in that way. Without mothers, there are no babies. Without mothers, nations die from population collapse. And we see the threat of population collapse in Korea, in Japan, in Italy, in Spain, in France, and but for the illegal migration into the UK, in England and Scotland. Without mothers, men can never be fathers.

I'm of the opinion that the astonishingly bad policies adopted by so many European leaders of the previous and present generation is owing to the fact that Prime Minister May of the UK, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, and French President Macron have no children. People who have no children are less inclined to concern themselves with the future, either of their own family, their own tribe, their own nation, their own region, than those who have children. What husbands will not do for their wives and wives will not do for their husbands, both are more willing to do for their children. Unless, of course, they're without natural affection and had been turned over to a reprobate mind, Romans 1:28 and 31. Moms, you are so important to God's plan. We at Calvary Road Baptist Church love children, and therefore we salute you moms, and we want to show our respect to you by the way we conduct ourselves around you and the way we seek to honor you.

Now for the great challenge of motherhood. Turn in your Bible please to Proverbs chapter 22 and verse 6. Proverbs chapter 22 and verse 6. And when you find that portion of God's word, please stand and read along silently while I read aloud so that Bible truth can come into your

mind and hopefully make its way to your heart through the eye gate as well as the ear gate. Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it. Won't you please be seated. Of course, that's a portion of the passage that Pastor Kim read earlier. So what do you imagine is the most significant factor, the outcome of a child upon reaching adulthood? Is it inheritance or is it environment? Inheritance or environment, is it in the genes or is it in the house that you were raised? That's an age-old conversation, is it not? We used to have those kinds of discussions at our house when we were growing up, sitting around the supper table discussing politics as well as nature versus nurture.

My guess is that moms who are exasperated by the difficulties they have with rambunctious little boys who frequently remind them of the boy's fathers will suggest inheritance is the vital factor so they can blame their boy's problems on the fathers. He got that from you. Well, he probably did. On the other hand, moms who have well-mannered daughters who are relatively obedient in comparison might be persuaded it is environment so they can take credit for how docile and well-mannered their girls are. I'm almost joking. But as hostile as you are to my humor of late, I don't know whether you could tell whether I'm joking or not. Though both inheritance and environment are factors that contribute to how every child turns out or will contribute to how likely children are to make life's choices, the life's choices that they will eventually make. Once a woman selects the father she makes her babies with, the man she chose, and she is then left with environment as the only factor that she then has any semblance of control over. Once that choice is made, honey, you picked him. Are you happy about that, or do you deeply regret that? I don't want to know. Do not some women make strange choices of the men that they make their babies with? It's always mystified me.

You would think that once a woman comes to the conclusion that her judgment is somewhat suspect based upon the choice she made because of the kind of guy she chose to make her baby with or babies with, you'd think that she would decide to seek the counsel and advice of those who have proven to make better decisions. Or better yet, she would seek the counsel of those who have access to wisdom from

God. You would think. Sadly, you will no doubt agree with me that many women who did not select particularly good men to make babies with were also all too often the same women who insisted on trying to raise those babies without seeking greater wisdom than they have already exhibited. So it's a bad choice followed by bad choices. And it's a free country, you can make whatever choice you want. In other words, having made a questionable choice for the father of her children, many women proceed on the assumption that their child-rearing wisdom will somehow be better than their child-fathering wisdom has proven to be.

Too frequently, women will insist on rearing their children in such a way as to guarantee that their kids end up being the examples of success their fathers showed themselves to be. That aspect of motherhood has proven to be somewhat discouraging to me over my decades of pastoral ministry because I do two things. Number one, I pay attention. And number two, I care. And wow, does it break my heart. However, this morning I want to be upbeat and encouraging to you moms who are determined by God's grace to be even more successful mothers than you have been at this point. However successful you are, I want to encourage you to be even more successful from this moment on. So if you're a so-so mom, you can become a really good mom. And if you are already a good mom, you can develop into a great mom. With God, all things are possible. Amen. Amen. I mean, they really are. I was talking to someone yesterday who I love and admire who was relating to me how God answers her prayers and her husband's prayers. Miraculous answer to prayer after answer to prayer after answer to prayer after answer to prayer.

Our text should be a great encouragement to you if you are committed to properly training children. Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it. This is an important verse in God's word to hang on to. Make sure you know the way your child should go. Make sure you know how to train a child. And if what you're training the child to be is what you already are, you're just about set. And that is what the teaching and discipling ministry of a church is all about, after all. People learn so much about how to be married,

even if they're already married, and they come to Christ if they will receive with meekness the engrafted word which is able to save their souls. Wow, does God do interesting things. And then learning how to parent children. You learn how to parent children in the church house. It is what godly women in the church who are mature and advanced in years provide for younger women who have the humility to learn, Titus 2:3-5.

All that is left, of course, is the terribly difficult task of prayerfully performing the doing of it by God's grace. But of course, you got to avail yourself of God's grace. You have to have access to God's grace. Let me give you moms four examples from God's word of mothers who found themselves in situations of varying difficulty but who God graciously blessed with success in the rearing of their children.

First, there was Jochebed, the mother of Moses. Please turn in your Bible to Exodus chapter 2:1-10, where we read about this mother and her very famous son. And there went a man of the house of Levi, and took to wife a daughter of Levi. And the woman conceived, and bare a son. And when she saw him that he was a goodly child, she hid him three months. And when she could no longer hide him, she took for him an ark of bulrushes, and daubed it with slime and with pitch, and put the child therein; and she laid it in the flags by the river's brink. And his sister stood afar off, to wit what would be done to him. And the daughter of Pharaoh came down to wash herself at the river; and her maidens walked along by the riverside. And when she saw the ark among the flags, she sent her maid to fetch it. And when she had opened it, she saw the child, and, behold, the babe wept. And she had compassion on him, and said, This is one of the Hebrews' children. Then said his sister to Pharaoh's daughter, Shall I go and call to thee a nurse of the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for thee? And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, Go. And the maid went and called the child's mother. And Pharaoh's daughter said unto her, Take this child away, and nurse it for me, and I will give thee thy wages. And the woman took the child, and nursed it. And the child grew, and she brought him unto Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. And

she called his name Moses, and she said, Because I drew him out of the water.

What most people misunderstand about the mother of Moses, since they get their information from the Hollywood movie The Ten Commandments rather than the Bible, is that she was the primary caregiver of her son Moses until he was about four or five years old. It is likely Jochebed did not nursemaid Moses in her own home but in quarters provided for that purpose by Pharaoh's daughter in the royal court. You don't go to your servant's quarters; your servants come to your quarters. That's the way it's done, I've heard. Thus, we have the unusual situation of a little boy raised by his own mother, but he was raised for another woman. It is also likely that Moses's father was not much in the picture, though he was probably alive during most of Moses's childhood. So, the early life of Moses was in some ways like a modern-day broken home situation where you have a single mom raising a kid without much help from the dad. The difference with Moses, of course, was the absence of poverty and the presence of cultural and educational advantages that other children certainly did not have, along with the benefit of his birth mother and actual dad not being estranged and fighting for the child's favors all the time. They weren't in court all the time suing for custody and support and all that kind of stuff.

So, how did Jochebed do in the few years she had the boy before she had to turn him completely over to Pharaoh's daughter? How successfully did she employ this principle of Proverbs 22:6, though that portion of the Bible would not be written for another six centuries? Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it. Hebrews 11:24-27 lets us know how Moses turned out, for those of you who are interested. By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward. By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible. Moses grew up to be godly rather than opting for fame and

fortune and security and comfort and acceptance. And this is what was written about Moses when he died: There arose not a prophet since in Israel like unto Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face. Moses should be an encouragement to every godly mom, especially godly moms who are single, that if you raise your child God's way, if you train up a child in the way he should go, when he is old he will not depart from it.

Next, there was Hannah, the mother of Samuel. Hers was a heartbreaking story. She was the wife of a man who was married to two women at the same time and was mocked by the other wife because she had not borne children. Throughout the Bible, it's generally considered a curse to be childless. Her husband loved her, after a fashion, but she was not the only woman he so loved. Don't women just love it when their man loves somebody other than them? Not. So, Hannah took her situation to God in prayer. You may remember from 1 Samuel chapter 1 that Hannah's heartfelt prayers were mistaken by the high priest Eli for drunkenness. She's over there with her head down and her eyes closed and mumbling to herself, and he thought that she was juiced up. No, she was praying. Nevertheless, God heard her prayers and gave her the baby boy she named Samuel. When the child was weaned, which was probably when he was around three years old in that cultural setting, so Americans will go "Oh," but in that cultural setting, she fulfilled her promise to give the lad to the Lord all the days of his life.

Consider the situation of Samuel's mother. He was born into a household of confusion, with a father married to two women and half-brothers born to his dad's other wife. Add to that her promise to God, meaning that she had only a limited amount of time to pour her life into the formation of her son's personality and character. She was on the clock. Whatever mothering she would give to him had to effectively be given over a short span of time, of about three to four years, before he was delivered to live with the high priest in order that young Samuel might serve Eli the high priest. She had promised God. Samuel was not completely cut off from his mother when he went to live with Eli, but their time together was quite restricted. And the lad rose to the

challenge of growing up quickly. I think the little boy knew that it was for God. He just knew it was for God.

So, what happened? How did her efforts turn out? Listen to her words spoken when she brought her obedient and well-trained little boy to the high priest in 1 Samuel 1:26-28: And she said, Oh my lord, as thy soul liveth, my lord, I am the woman that stood by thee here, praying unto the Lord. For this child I prayed; and the Lord hath given me my petition which I asked of him: Therefore also I have lent him to the Lord; as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the Lord. And he, which is to say her little boy, worshipped the Lord there. Check that out. Her little boy worshipped the Lord right there and then. His mama had taught him to do that. Understand that Samuel was not converted at that time. It would not be until 1 Samuel chapter 3 that he would actually come to know the Lord. But Hannah's devotion to God, doubtless her devotion to the Lord, doubtless impressed her son. He knew that mama is real. Mama means business for God. Therefore, mama had an impact on him. So that when Samuel did come to know the Lord, all Israel from Dan even to Beersheba knew that Samuel was established to be a prophet of the Lord.

Sometimes, moms find themselves trying to raise kids while dad is sleeping with another woman and seeming to do his best to mess the kids up. There are a few things that mess kids up worse than that. With other dads, the problem is not so much what they overtly do wrong, as their complete absence of doing anything right, because the guy is spiritually a zero. He's just a zero. So, what's a mother to do? Mom, remember that there is a God in Israel. Keep the faith, pray fervently, and stay on track through thick and thin, through good times and bad, to train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.

Third, there was Bathsheba, the mother of Solomon. Uh-oh. Uh-oh. Sometimes a mom feels that she has sinned so badly for so long a period of time that there is just no way she will be able to succeed as a mother because she is a royal foul-up as a woman, as a mom, as a wife, as a whatever. She's just ipso dipso. Such a woman was Bathsheba, young, beautiful, and unfaithful. You remember her story. She had been the wife of Uriah, one of David's mighty men, whom,



when she committed adultery with King David, she learned she was pregnant by King David. What did she do then? Well, she further betrayed her husband by telling King David instead of telling her husband, who then arranged for Uriah to be murdered to cover up their sin. Then, instead of repenting of their sin, David hastily arranged their marriage in a foolish attempt to cover their tracks and deceive the people. However, they did not deceive God.

Because of his prominence in God's dealings with his people, King David has a much higher profile in the biblical record than Bathsheba does. However, if ever there was someone who had messed up her life as a woman, who had messed up her life as a wife, who had messed up her life as a mother, it was Bathsheba. Wow, did she mess up. Imagine, from being the sole and beloved wife of one of the bravest and most stout-hearted military heroes of all time, she became one of the many wives of King David, raising her son Solomon among David's many other children in what could only be described as a severely dysfunctional household.

Solomon's own pen recorded his mother's efforts to raise him properly. Turn to Proverbs 31:1-9, where he recounts the advice his mother gave him to prepare him to be his people's next king. This is what mama taught him: The words of king Lemuel, the prophecy that his mother taught him. What, my son? and what, the son of my womb? and what, the son of my vows? Give not thy strength unto women, nor thy ways to that which destroyeth kings. It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine; nor for princes strong drink: Lest they drink, and forget the law, and pervert the judgment of any of the afflicted. Give strong drink unto him that is ready to perish, and wine unto those that be of heavy hearts. Let him drink, and forget his poverty, and remember his misery no more. Open thy mouth for the dumb in the cause of all such as are appointed to destruction. Open thy mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy.

Her desire was for her son to be both wary of the influence of beverage alcohol, because it impairs judgment, and also to be a leader and rather than a follower of women, because women impair judgment. Both the booze and the babes impair judgment if you don't

have the right kind of relationship with them. So, how did the lad turn out? What happened to the boy whose mom and dad committed adultery, whose dad committed murder, and whose mother participated in the conspiracy to cover the whole thing up? You understand that the deck was stacked against him. However, he seemed to start out right. God blessed him with great wisdom as a young king. However, he eventually succumbed to the same temptations that overtook his father. First Kings chapter 11 tells us that Solomon ended up with 700 wives and 300 concubines, and that those women turned his heart away from God. So, it appears that Solomon did not listen to his mother as he advanced in age and was greatly tempted in his reign as Israel's king. He strayed from her instruction to give not thy strength unto women, nor thy ways to that which destroyeth kings. But he'd find out. They always find out. You give your strength to women, not only you, but everybody knows you is going to find out, because it turns out, though, as a regretful old man, he did recall that his mother was right to teach him.

Does this mean a mom who has blown it badly should just give up on her kids, that she should write them off as lost causes because of her own past wickedness or their father's sins? No, no, no, no, no, no. Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it. Bathsheba did not give up on her son. She trained him as best she could, even with her own sordid past and David's failure to cooperate as a father. To be sure, Solomon did wander off, and she no doubt bore some responsibility for the role she played in him being overwhelmed by his lusts, as she had been. However, keep in mind that the book of Proverbs and the book of Ecclesiastes, both written when Solomon was an old man, show us what his mother had taught him when he was a boy had a beneficial effect after all. And in the end, mom, it is never too late to turn things around in your own life. It is never too late to be the kind of mom you ought to be. No matter how badly you started out or how frequently you stumbled along the way, it is never too late. Solomon was without doubt damaged by his mother's past. Okay, that's true. That happened. However, God graciously recovered him in his old age, using the training his mother had given him as a child. Solomon's life is something many moms can

hold on to as, by God's grace and mercy, they recover from the sins of their own youth. Don't stop. Don't give up. Don't quit.

And finally, there was Eunice, the mother of Timothy. We learned from Acts chapter 16 and verse one that Timothy was the son of a Greek man and a Jewish mom. That must have been interesting. It is not likely that Timothy's father was a Christian, because the Apostle Paul comments about the lad's mother and grandmother in 2 Timothy 1:5 without mentioning ever his father. Let me read to you what Paul wrote to Timothy: When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and in thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also. So, from grandma, to mom, to son. Thus, Timothy was a mixed-race lad raised during a time when his mother's and grandmother's people would have been quite prejudiced against him because he was part Gentile. They would never let that go. There would always be a reminder at family gatherings: Ah, but how would you know, you're a Gentile.

So, it appears likely that we have another single mom situation, with a mixed-race child, who ends up converted and then raises her child in the nurture and admonition of the Lord with the help of her godly mother. Oh, what a blessing wise and godly grandmothers can be to godly moms. Amen. That's generational reinforcement that is so often missing in our modern culture. So, how did Timothy turn out, mom? He turned out well. Two letters in the New Testament were written to him. He was commended by Paul, who loved him like a son, cherished him as a colaborer, and trusted him to the point that Paul sent him on important missions and mentored him in his ministry as the pastor of the church at Ephesus.

Now, do you suppose Eunice and her mother Lois claimed Proverbs 22:6 as they poured their lives into that little boy named Timothy? I think it was likely: Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it. I believe they clung to that verse as they prayed to God for wisdom and for grace. Being a godly mother is extremely challenging. Being a single mom or being married to an uncooperative or unproductive man is even more difficult. However, God's grace is sufficient. And the mother whose heart is right with God will, in the end, see good results for her prayers, for her sacrifices, for

her tears, for her labors, for her efforts, for her courage to speak up when speaking up is called for, and for her devotion.

Let these women, and the many others I could have made mention of from God's word, let them be an encouragement to each and every one of you moms and each and every one of you grandmothers.

When you feel faint-hearted, don't quit. When you feel that all is lost, don't give up. Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it. Remember these women as well, remember such women as Sarah, and Rebecca, and Leah, and Rahab, and Ruth, and Abigail, among others. In each and every case, they were women who found themselves in circumstances beyond their control, while also experiencing God's faithfulness in the midst of the most difficult trials. Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it. Hang on to that promise, which may also be a warning. No matter what kind of situation you find yourself in, God's word is true. Trust in God's word. Trust in God and raise your children by his truth. Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it. Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it. Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.

Mom, grandma, I call upon you to commit yourself to God on behalf of your children and on behalf of your grandchildren. Claim God's promise and heed God's warning. Let us pray. Father, we do thank you for your goodness. Help us to embrace the Bible as true, because it is. And we know that the Bible is true because you are true, and the Lord Jesus Christ is truth, and the Holy Spirit is the spirit of truth. Hence, the Bible is true. And our eternal souls are dependent upon that unalterable reality. So, help us to demonstrate and put on display our confidence in you and in your word to know what and how children are to be mothered. What and how mothers are to conduct themselves. What and how grandmothers are to help daughters and daughters-in-law to see mothers raise their children in the nurture and the admonition of the Lord. We commit this truth to you for its application in our lives. We commit our children to you. I'm so thankful for the mom you gave to me, for the mom that my wife is, and for so

many of the moms we have in our church. Bless them, I pray, in Jesus' name. Amen.