

# Mom, You're doing Great!

## Mother's Day 2018

### Pastor Jason Dennett's Teaching Notes

A certain newspaper ran an article entitled "20 awful Mother's Day cards that you absolutely should never buy." The article is clear: Do **NOT** buy these cards, but just in case you're curious here are a few examples:

- "Mom, thanks for always checking up on me." (with a picture of a cell phone and 24 unanswered calls from "Mom")
- "Well I guess this Mother's Day card is late. Looks like I wasn't raised properly."
- "I'm awesome. You're welcome. To the luckiest Mom ever."
- "Mom I love you loads.. (A picture of a laundry basket overflowing with clothes.) **Speaking of loads ... can you do my laundry?**"
  - "Behind all your stories is always your mother's story, because hers is where yours begin. When you look at your mother, you are looking at the purest love you will ever know. — **Mitch Albom**
  - You may have tangible wealth untold; caskets of jewels and coffers of gold. Richer than I you can never be. I had a mother who read to me. — **Strickland Gillilan**
  - No man is poor who has a Godly mother. — **Abraham Lincoln**
  - My mother was the most beautiful woman I ever saw. All I am I owe to my mother. I attribute my success in life to the moral, intellectual and physical education I received from her. — **George Washington**
  - "A mother is the truest friend we have, when trials heavy and sudden fall upon us; when adversity takes the place of prosperity; when friends desert us; when trouble thickens around us, still will she cling to us, and endeavor by her kind precepts and counsels to dissipate the clouds of darkness, and cause peace to return to our hearts." — **Washington Irving**
  - A grown man, said of his mom: "My mother gave me the greatest gift anyone could give another person, **she believed in me.**"

An article in *Forbes* magazine asks, "Think you can put a price on motherhood?" A yearly survey by [Salary.com](http://Salary.com) called the annual "Mom Salary Survey" attempts to put a salary on the work of American mothers. First, they broke down motherly duties into the following ten categories: **Day Care Center Teacher, CEO, Psychologist, Cook, Housekeeper, Laundry Machine Operator, Computer Operator, Facilities Manager, Janitor, and Van Driver.** Then they studied how many hours moms work in those categories and what the family would have to pay for outsourcing that duty. According to the 2012 survey, they determined the following:

- **The average working mom should make an annual salary** (just for her "mom" role) of \$66,969 (based on 40-hours of mothering duties and 17.9 overtime hours per week).
- **The average stay-at-home mom should make an annual salary** of \$112,962 (based on a 40-hour per week base pay plus 54.7 hours a week of overtime).
- The article concludes by saying, "**The breadth of Mom's responsibilities is beyond what most workers could ever experience day-to-day.**"

**If you look up at the word "great" in the Webster's Dictionary,** the definition would be "considerably above normal, above average, or remarkable." ( 142 people)

The Lord Himself sees you mothers as **"above average, remarkable, and GREAT"** for His Heavenly Kingdom. Jesus calls godly mothers "great" for 3 reasons:

**I. Moms SERVE for GOD's Kingdom!** (Matt 20:26-28)

**II. Moms SHARE from GOD's Word!** (Matt 5:19)

**III. Moms LOVE with GOD's Heart!** (Luke 6:35)

**I. Moms SERVE for GOD's Kingdom!**

- **Matt 20:26-28NKJV** - **"..whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant...just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."**
- **"servant"** is the ancient Greek word **"διάκονος"** or **"diakonos"** which means **"one who SERVES and executes the command of their king or master, as servant, an attendant, a minister; a WAITER, who serves food and drink"**
  - **Motherly duties fall into at least 10 categories:** Day Care Teacher, CEO, Psychologist, Cook, Housekeeper, Laundry Machine Operator, Computer Operator, Facilities Manager, Janitor, and Van Driver.
- **"When I was in junior high and high school, we had a neighbor two doors down named Beard Miller.** Since his wife had died, he had lived on his own. Then he developed a nasty case of painful shingles.
- **One day my mom was praying, and she heard the Lord say to her, "Feed the hungry." She thought, How can I feed the hungry? Then she realized, I can make dinner and send it down the street for Beard.**
- **Every night, she would make an extra amount for dinner. Then about 6:00, when we were ready to sit down for dinner, she would put together a plate with Beard's dinner, a small bowl with salad, and a small plate with dessert. She would load all that into a large cardboard box lid that functioned as a serving tray, and then cover it with foil or a dishtowel to keep it warm.**
- **Then she would look at me and say, "Would you carry this down to Beard?"**
- **I would walk down the street, knock on his door, and wait while he hobbled over and opened it. Beard always got a big smile when he saw me, because he knew, This is by far the best meal of my day.**
- **My mom did that every single night. Even when she was traveling, she figured out a way for him to get a meal. For three years, until Beard's health declined and he had to go to a nursing home, she obeyed what the Lord had asked, and she fed the hungry."**
- **John 13:3-5, 12-15NKJV** - **"Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself.** After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded... So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, **"Do you know what I have done to you? You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you."**
  - **A teacher asked a boy this question:** "Suppose your mother baked a pie and there were seven of you—your parents and five children. What part of the pie would you get?"
  - "A sixth," replied the boy.
  - "I'm afraid you don't know your fractions," said the teacher. "Remember, there are seven of you."
  - "Yes, teacher," said the boy, "but you don't know my mother. Mother would say she didn't want any pie."

- **Actress Sarah Drew, from Grey's Anatomy, had this to say about her new role as a mother:** "The stay-at-home mom has the awesome and holy responsibility of raising up little boys and girls, into people who will encounter the world, through kindness and grace. I cannot think of a more important job in the world."

## II. Moms **SHARE** from GOD's Word!

- **Matt 5:19NLT** -**"..if you ignore the least commandment and teach others to do the same, you will be called the least in the Kingdom of Heaven. But anyone who obeys God's laws and teaches them will be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven."**
- **Mom's teach their children so many things:** Walk, talk, eat, go to the bathroom (the right way), brush their teeth, spell, read, and a thousand other skills and abilities...
  - **A survey from the U.K. involving 1,000 mothers found that moms may be the most quizzed people on the planet.** On average, from breakfast until afternoon the average stay-at-home mom faces one question every 2 min 36 seconds, which is over 105,000 questions per year.
 

Girls aged 4 are the most curious, asking an incredible 390 questions per day. On the other end of the spectrum, boys aged 9 ask the least amount of questions. According to the survey, the moms claimed that these were **the top five toughest questions**(in order):

    1. "Mom, why is water wet?"
    2. "Mommy, where does the sky end?"
    3. "Mom, what are shadows made of?"
    4. "Mommy, why is the sky blue?"
    5. "Mom, how do fish breathe under water?"
  - **I'm so thankful to my mother because of all the great things she taught me, as I was growing up..**
    - **My mother taught me about GOD:**When I spilled grape juice on the carpet, she instructed, "You better pray the stain will come out of the carpet."
    - **My mother taught me LOGIC:**"Because I said so, that's why."
    - **My mother taught me FORESIGHT:**"Make sure you wear clean underwear, in case you're in an accident."
    - **My mother taught me to EAT HEALTHY:**"You'll sit there 'til all that spinach is finished."
    - **My mother taught me about WEATHER:**"It looks as if a tornado swept through your room."
    - **My mother taught me THE CIRCLE OF LIFE:**"I brought you into this world, and I can take you out."
    - **My mother taught me about BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION:**"Stop acting like your father!"
    - **My mother taught me about ENVY:**"There are millions of less fortunate children in this world who don't have a wonderful Mom like you do!"
- **But greatest TEACHING MOMENT of all is when a mother introduces her children to One True God, by sharing with them the Word of God, at home.**
  - Prayer times, Evening devotions, Kid's Church, Youth Group, ....
    - **As Hannah taught little Samuel, and he became one of the greatest Judges in Israel..**
    - **As Sarah lovingly instructed little Isaac, and he became the leader of Israel..**

- **As Mary taught the child Jesus**, and God used her fulfill the eternal destiny planned for the Son of God...

- - **In a recent interview, Denzel Washington told a story of his early success:** "When I was young and started really making it as an actor, I came and talked to my mother and said, 'Mom, did you think this was going to happen? I'd be so big and I'll be able to take care of everybody and I can do this and I can do that.'"
    - **Mama Washington reprimanded me by saying:** "Boy, stop it right there, stop it right there, stop it right there! Oh, you did it all by yourself, did you I'll tell you what you can do by yourself: Go outside and get a mop and bucket and clean these windows—you can do that by yourself, superstar."
    - **My momma told me,** "If you only knew how many people been praying for you. How many prayer groups we made, how many prayers we said for you. You didn't do anything by yourself!"
  - **He is one of the most successful actors in Hollywood. Forbes magazine recently listed him at number nine for the top earning actors of 2013, with an income of \$33 million.** His latest movie grossed \$27.4 million on its opening weekend in the US...but getting to the top wasn't easy. This Oscar-winning actor recently opened up in an interview about the importance of his mother in raising him. His name?? Denzel Washington.

He stated, "I was growing up in the Bronx, New York, and I was running with the wrong crowd. Three of the guys I was hanging out with at the time did prison terms." He said he was bunking school and slowly heading towards the streets, when one of his teachers told his mother, "He is a smart kid – get him out of here." Washington's mother, Lennis Washington, managed to save enough money to enroll him to a private school and during holidays would send him to camp.

"My mother took a look at my friends and could see where I was heading," he added. "One friend eventually did 15-years in jail. Another did 10-years, and a third died through drugs." The actor's parents divorced when he was just 14-years-old. As a result, he spent more time with his mother who he described as a "go getter." "What would have happened to me had it not been for my mother? I don't know – but I would not be living this kind of life, that's for sure," he said.

Denzel eventually went to college and later enrolled for acting school. Washington believes that the two foundations played a huge role in ensuring that he has a successful career in Hollywood. He also earned a Law degree from Yale University. Thankfully, the actor who has often publicly declared his faith in Christ, had a strong and loving mother. **Washington credits his mother's swift actions and consistent discipline for keeping him off the streets. It's no surprise he acknowledges her role in his success.**

- The only reason why there was a **Charles Spurgeon**, is because the was a momma Spurgeon who faithfully taught and instructed him.
- The only reason why there was a **John Wesley**, is because his mother Susanna Wesley loved him, and prayed over him constantly.
- If your child walks with the Lord, loves Jesus, and makes a difference for His Kingdom, it will be (to a large degree) because of **your** instruction and **your** teaching of the Word of God into their hearts and minds.

### **III. Moms LOVEwith GOD's Heart!**

- **Luke 6:35NKJV** - "...**love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return;** and your reward will be **great...**"

- "love" is the Greek word "**ἀγάπη**" or "**agapē**" which is the strongest word for love in the Ancient Greek language.
  - "**Phileo**" is Greek word for the love of friendship.
  - "**Eros**" is Greek word for the love of sexuality.
  - "**Storge**" is Greek word for the love of family.
- By contrast, "agape" speaks of a love that is **SELFLESS** not thinking of what it will receive. Agape is a love that is **SACRIFICIAL**, willing to give up its own rights. Agape is a love that is a **DECISION** and a **CHOICE**, not merely based upon emotions or feelings.
  - *There was a teenager who didn't want to be seen in public with her mother, because her mother's arms were terribly disfigured.*
  - *One day when her mother took her shopping and reached out her hand, a clerk looked horrified. Later, crying, the girl told her how embarrassed she was. Understandably hurt, the mother waited an hour before going to her daughter's room to tell her, for the first time, what happened.*
  - *When you were a baby, I woke up to a burning house. Your room was an inferno. Flames were everywhere. I could have gotten out the front door, but I decided I'd rather die with you than leave you to die alone. I ran through the fire and wrapped my arms around you. Then I went back through the flames, my arms on fire. When I got outside on the lawn, the pain was agonizing but when I looked at you, all I could do was rejoice that the flames hadn't touched you.*
  - *Stunned, the girl looked at her mother through new eyes. Weeping in shame and gratitude, she kissed her mother's marred hands and arms.*
- *"There is no career more noble than that of Motherhood. There are no possibilities greater and its results affect generations to come. There is no higher height to which humanity can attain, than that occupied by a heavenly-inspired, Jesus-loving, fervently-praying mother."*