

MOTHER'S DAY
The Mother Lode
Proverbs 31:10-31

Happy Mother's Day! Today, we want to express our appreciation and love for the one that brought us into this world! I am so grateful for my mother. I know you may find this hard to believe, but growing up I was a MOMMA'S BOY! My mom was one of my best friends, and I could share anything with her. She was a source of constant COMFORT and WISDOM and FAITH. She still is! She has taught me not just by her words, but by her example. I love my momma!

I want us all to decide today to HONOR our moms. This is a CHOICE that all of us make by the ATTITUDE that we maintain toward our mom and by the ACTIONS that we take toward our mom. The scriptures give us a clear command about this.

Exodus 20:12 NASB

12 "Honor your father and mother. Then you will live a long, full life in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

This is a command for ALL of us NO MATTER what kind of relationship we may have (or had) with our mother.

- *It is the FIRST commandment given concerning human relationships.
- *It is given to the weakest/most vulnerable (initially) among us: Children.
- *It is the ONLY commandment given with a PROMISE! [Length of days]
- *It is an UNCONDITIONAL command.
 - This does NOT mean that you are BLIND to their faults/failures.
 - This is NOT about FLATTERY.
 - This IS about LOVING IMPERFECT PEOPLE.
 - *This is a CHOICE that will benefit EVERY relationship you ever have.
 - This is ALSO about learning how to HONOR AUTHORITY early in life.
- *It is a commandment that has NO TIME LIMIT! ["Keep on honoring."]
 - This is NOT just for MOTHER'S DAY!

HOW TO HONOR MOM:

Give genuine WEIGHT to her insight and counsel.

- She is NOT a DOOR MAT or a TOOL that you USE. RESPECT her WISDOM.
 - *This is a word for children AND for HUSBANDS!
- Doing so will ADD JOY to her heart and YEARS to her life!
- Failing to do so will DRAIN HER of JOY and DEPRIVE YOU of LIFE.

Express genuine APPRECIATION for her role and presence in your life.

#CALLMOM

- Praise her APPROPRIATELY. [WORDS MATTER. Watch your MOUTH!]
- CHILDREN: Are you OBEDIENT? Do you BLESS your mom?
 - Daughters: Are you working hard to speak respectfully to your mother?
- HUSBANDS: Do you EXALT your children's mom in your thoughts & words?

-How do you perceive and praise other women? **Proverbs 31: 28-29**
See other women as your SISTERS and your MOTHERS! **1 Timothy 5:2 NLT**

2 Treat older women as you would your mother, and treat younger women with all purity as you would your own sisters.

Provide for HER when she is IN NEED.

- Look for ways to BUILD HER UP when she is down. [She did it for you as a kid!]
- Meet her needs in her ADVANCING YEARS. Your PRIVILEGE & RESPONSIBILITY!
- PRAY FOR HER REGULARLY.

If you are a woman, I want this message to CHALLENGE you to BE the woman that God designed you to be. In other words, I challenge you to BE the KIND OF WOMAN that is EASY TO HONOR! This broken earth needs you to do that! If you are a man, then I want this message to CHALLENGE you to recognize and affirm the highest and best aspects of the women that God has placed in your life. Our key passage today is **Proverbs 31:10-31 NKJV**

10 Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is far above rubies. 11 The heart of her husband safely trusts her; So he will have no lack of gain. 12 She does him good and not evil all the days of her life. 13 She seeks wool and flax, And willingly works with her hands. 14 She is like the merchant ships, She brings her food from afar. 15 She also rises while it is yet night, and provides food for her household, and a portion for her maidservants. 16 She considers a field and buys it; From her profits she plants a vineyard. 17 She girds herself with strength, And strengthens her arms. 18 She perceives that her merchandise is good, and her lamp does not go out by night. 19 She stretches out her hands to the distaff, And her hand holds the spindle. 20 She extends her hand to the poor, Yes, she reaches out her hands to the needy. 21 She is not afraid of snow for her household, for all her household is clothed with scarlet. 22 She makes tapestry for herself; Her clothing is fine linen and purple. 23 Her husband is known in the gates, When he sits among the elders of the land. 24 She makes linen garments and sells them, And supplies sashes for the merchants. 25 Strength and honor are her clothing; She shall rejoice in time to come. 26 She opens her mouth with wisdom, And on her tongue is the law of kindness. 27 She watches over the ways of her household, And does not eat the bread of idleness. 28 Her children rise up and call her blessed; Her husband also, and he praises her: 29 "Many daughters have done well, but you excel them all." 30 Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, but a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised. 31 Give her of the fruit of her hands, And let her own works praise her in the gates.

Now, some women listening to me today may have cringed when they heard the passage that we would be focusing on in this message. I get that. This woman sounds AMAZING! She also sounds like someone ELSE! Right? Wrong. You CAN be a woman like this. Some of you are and simply do not KNOW it! I can list a number of women in my life and in this church that are facing awful ADVERSITY and huge

SETBACKS that would cripple the average person, but they are pushing through with GRACE and STRENGTH that overwhelms my soul! They are WOMEN of great WORTH. Today, I want to refer to women like that as the MOTHER LODE in the lives of their loved ones! I believe that almost every woman wants to BE a Mother Lode of virtue and good influence, and I think that nearly every man wants to HAVE that Mother Lode of dynamic influence in his life. **But here is the RUB: Ladies, you ALONE have the ability to CHOOSE to be a VIRTUOUS WOMAN.** Only then will you become a Mother Lode of godly influence and impact in the lives of those around you. Here are some ideas to get you started.

HOW TO BE A MOTHER LODE:

Be a SAFE PLACE. (Proverbs 31:10-12)

*Learn to bring your strengths under CONTROL.

[Virtuous=A force, power, noble strength]

- Every woman is GIFTED with ABILITY and INFLUENCE by DESIGN!
 - *You are either increasing or decreasing this by your choices and actions!
- You must learn how to be driven by your God-given purpose instead of some VAGUE SENSE OF LACK!

*EARN trust.

- The M.L. MAKES and KEEPS her COMMITMENTS for a lifetime.

*Her husband's heart/life are SAFE in her care.

[E.V. Hill's Wife: Lit candles to avoid shame.]

*She does not DISHONOR her VOWS! Contrast with **Proverbs 7:18-20 NLT**
 18 Come, let's drink our fill of love until morning. Let's enjoy each other's caresses, 19 for my husband is not home. He's away on a long trip. 20 He has taken a wallet full of money with him and won't return until later this month."

Embrace the DEMANDS and the REWARDS of LABOR. [Proverbs 31:13-22]

*ADD VALUE to your world by what you produce.

- The M.L. shows unforced initiative.
- She will let her OWN WORKS prove her worth in God's timing. [See 31:31]

*Don't be LAZY!

- The M.L. inconveniences herself in order to CARE for her own house. (Vss. 15)
 - *This means that she is not just looking out for her OWN needs!
- She PREPARES for times of hardship and difficulty. (Vs. 21)

*Be GENEROUS. (Vs. 20-22)

- The M.L. is OPEN-HANDED with her material blessings for those in need.
- The M.L. appreciates the finer things in life without being materialistic. (Vs. 22)

FEAR God. Proverbs 31:30 NASB

30 Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, But a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised.

***This will help you to BEAUTY in its proper place.**

-Physical Beauty is a BRIEF external reality.

*The M.L. does not spend huge quantities of time trying to LOOK beautiful.

*The M.L. cultivates the GREATER value of INTERNAL BEAUTY.

***This will lead you to value INFLUENCE over MANIPULATION.**

-The M.L. does not LUST for POWER.

*She does not use SEXUALITY for POWER, but for genuine INTIMACY.

-She raises children with a HIGH VIEW of feminine worth and a LOW VIEW of FEMININE SEDUCTION. [Jezebel: Painting her tired old eyes!]

***This will become your SOURCE of wisdom and strength. [Vss. 25-27]**

-God will teach you how to SHARE wisdom with GRACE.

-God will equip you to SEE the PATTERNS and DIRECTION of your household.

-So that you can SPEAK wisdom into your family.

-So that you can PRAY for your family.

Mothers: We NEED you to be at your BEST. Our prayer for all women today is that you will all choose to become a MOTHER LODE of godliness in this broken world.

Let's pray.