

THE POWER OF A MOTHER'S LOVE & INFLUENCE (MOTHER'S DAY)

Scripture Foundation: Proverbs 31:10-31 (The Virtuous Woman); Proverbs 31:1-9 (King Lemuel's Mother's Advice)

I. THE UNIQUE NATURE OF A MOTHER'S LOVE

A. A MOTHER'S LOVE: THE CLOSEST EARTHLY EXAMPLE TO GOD'S AGAPE LOVE.

B. PERSONAL ANECDOTES ILLUSTRATING A MOTHER'S PATIENCE VS. A FATHER'S APPROACH:

1. Story 1: Wife's distress over daughter's disobedience vs. father's direct discipline. Highlights a mother's desire to reason and a father's to enforce.
2. Story 2: Son's injury – bravely riding after dad's encouragement, but seeking mother's comfort upon her return.

C. ACKNOWLEDGING THE IRREPLACEABLE ROLE OF MATERNAL COMFORT AND NURTURING.

II. THE PORTRAIT OF A GODLY WOMAN/MOTHER (PROVERBS 31:10-31)

A. READING AND REFLECTION ON PROVERBS 31:10-31 (CONTEMPORARY ENGLISH VERSION).

1. Described as a "most precious treasure."
2. Dependable, good to her husband, industrious, resourceful.
3. Cares for her family and servants, works hard, wise in business.
4. Strong, graceful, cheerful, sensible words, thoughtful advice.
5. Never lazy; praised by her children and husband.

B. THE "SUPERWOMAN" IDEAL: SEEMS ALMOST UNREAL BUT SETS A HIGH STANDARD.

C. CONTEXT OF PROVERBS 31: SAYINGS OF KING LEMUEL, TAUGHT BY HIS MOTHER.

1. The identity of King Lemuel is debated (possibly Solomon).
2. "Lemuel" means "one that's got the favor of God."

III. THE CRITICAL ROLE OF MOTHERS IN SHAPING SOCIETY & MORALITY

A. WOMEN AS A WONDERFUL GIFT TO MANKIND.

B. THE DECLINE OF CHRISTIAN INFLUENCE AND MORALITY IN SOCIETY.

1. Contrast with America's founding, where biblical principles guided laws.
2. Shift to a culture of "if it feels good, do it."

C. THE HOME AS THE STARTING POINT FOR MORAL AND ETHICAL VALUES.

1. Observable differences in children raised with godly, maternal instruction.
2. Concern over "mamas not being mamas" and cultural diminishment.

D. PERSONAL TESTIMONY: THE IMPACT OF A NEGLECTFUL MOTHER VS. A CARING NEIGHBOR ("GRANNY DOUGLAS").

1. Highlights the void left by a mother's absence or failure.
2. Emphasizes that society's direction mirrors the state of motherhood.

E. THE HEARTBREAK OF GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN IN THE FAITH BECAUSE PARENTS DON'T.

F. SOCIETAL PRESSURE ON MOTHERS VS. THE BIBLICAL MODEL.

IV. QUALITIES OF THE GODLY MOTHER (DERIVED FROM PROVERBS 31 & OBSERVATION)

A. TRUSTWORTHY.

B. GIVING.

C. DEPENDABLE.

D. DILIGENT.

E. A WOMAN WHO LOVES GOD.

F. CONNECTION TO A GOOD HUSBAND AND GOOD CHILDREN AS A SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT.

G. THE IMPORTANCE OF GODLY MATERNAL FIGURES AND MENTORS.

V. THE RESPONSIBILITY OF BEARING GOOD FRUIT

A. THE "PEACH TREE" ANALOGY:

1. Trees looking right but not bearing fruit are ultimately useless.
2. After a warning, the trees began to bear fruit.
3. Application: Good mothers should bear good fruit (well-raised children).

B. THE "KROGER INCIDENT":

1. Child misbehaving; mother attempting to reason.
2. Pastor's intervention and the child's subsequent obedience.
3. Implication: Children often reflect the respect (or lack thereof) shown by parents, particularly the father towards the mother.

C. THE DANGER OF EMULATING WORLDLY BEHAVIOR AND LANGUAGE.

VI. THE ADVICE OF KING LEMUEL'S MOTHER (PROVERBS 31:1-9)

A. HER SON BORN IN ANSWER TO PRAYER – EMPHASIZING THE VALUE OF HER WORDS.

B. KEY COUNSEL GIVEN:

1. Don't waste life chasing women (lust).
2. Kings/leaders should not be drunkards; alcohol leads to neglect and mistreatment.
3. Defend the helpless, be fair, give justice to the poor and homeless.

C. CORE MESSAGE: RESIST FLESHLY DESIRES, BE KIND, TREAT PEOPLE WELL (THE GOLDEN RULE).

VII. A CALL TO RESPONSIBLE PARENTING (BOTH MOTHERS & FATHERS)

A. FATHERS HAVE "DROPPED THE BALL" IN MANY AREAS:

1. Teaching prayer, love for God, how to treat women/respect husbands.
2. Sharing household responsibilities.

B. PERSONAL EXPERIENCE LEARNING HOUSEHOLD TASKS DUE TO NECESSITY.

C. THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING A GODLY EXAMPLE TO BREAK GENERATIONAL CURSES.

D. SATAN'S STRATEGY: HE WENT TO THE WOMAN (EVE) FIRST.

1. Not solely because she was "weaker," but because the mother is often the cornerstone of the home.

2. The mother's role is critically important.

CONCLUSION: EMBRACE YOUR GOD-GIVEN ROLE

A. MOTHERS: YOUR LOVE IS THE CLOSEST REFLECTION OF GOD'S LOVE A CHILD MAY SEE.

B. YOUR ROLE IN TEACHING GOD'S WAYS AND LOVE IS VERY IMPORTANT.

C. GODLY LOVE MEANS LOVING IN SPITE OF FLAWS, NOT CONDONING WRONGDOING.

D. BE THE BEST PARENT GOD HAS CALLED YOU TO BE.