

## Mothers Day

Good Morning! Today is a day wherein we get the privilege to honor our mothers.

- If your mother is here you can honor her
- If your mother has passed on to glory we can honor her by honoring her memory.
- If your mother lives away, you can honor her by calling her and telling her.

The key here word here “Honor” comes from Ephesians 6:2 where it says: Honor your father and your mother. Did you know it also means Obey?

When we honor God we do so by being obedient to his teachings. How many of us today have learned and even today are still obedient to our mothers teachings?

- Don't touch that stove it's hot!
- Don't run with scissors in your hands
- Don't hit your brother, or anybody else for that matter

A lot of the teachings we receive as infants all the way through to adulthood comes from our parents. We learn by listening, but also as many parents seem to forget, we learn by observing.

Parents that are here today; how many of you have ever caught yourself telling your kids something that sounds exactly like what your mom said to you?

There is a joke on the Internet, but it is really effective in illustrating some of mom's teaching methods:

“My mother taught me so many Godly virtues throughout my childhood that have stayed with me even to this day. I can't imagine where I'd be without her.

She taught me to pray. I can still hear her saying, “You better pray that comes out of the carpet!”

She instilled a sense of imagination in me, “Don't do that again or else....” “Or else what?”

She taught me how to anticipate, “Just you wait until your father comes home....”

She taught me how to count...at least to three (“1, 2, 3!”).

She taught me repentance, “Don't you ever do that again....” And she taught me self-control, “Don't touch anything...” and then she'd often combine self-control with imagination, “or else....”

Almost everyone I meet; loves their own Mom. All of us quite literally would not be here without our mothers.

Remember Ephesians 6:2 we read earlier that said simply that you are to honor your father and your mother? In this one sentence Fatherhood and Motherhood have been established as a position of honor. Think about that for a minute...

- What is the value of life today?
- Do the up and coming generations still honor the sacrifices of the veterans?
- Do the TV and media programs including situation comedies and so forth reflect the role of mother in a positive or negative light?
- Has the authority and respect of the role of parent been eroded in our culture by the enemy?

I have observed the tireless battle again and again where a parent tries to help a son or daughter avoid pitfalls and finally resort to a commandment to obey. This however ceases to be a viable option when these young people become adults. At best you will have the opportunity to speak into their lives.

I have seen so many influences that are present in our lives today that tend to erode family relationships, create tensions between parents and children and video model behavior towards parents that is ungodly, that over the years of my life I have observed worsen, that I have become quite concerned for the institute of family and marriage.

So what do mom's do in this crisis? This is a hard battle, and yet, I have seldom, if ever seen a mother back down from a fight for her family and especially for her children. Each and every day she cares for them and provides for their needs. Whether she is the CEO of a major corporation or a stay at home mom she will fight with all that is in her for her family. I know because I have seen it in my mother and I see it in my wife who is modeling this to my daughter and so the legacy of love continues and battles against the erosion of the family unit. The trap here is that if not careful, career can totally consume a parent from the family unit. I know, I made this mistake when I was away on business all the time.

This will sound sexist so please understand that I love my Ezer as an equal, women are not less but essential counterparts to a family unit. That said, when I was a child I remember my Dad going to work playing music and sometimes my mom would perform as well, but 95% of the time it was my dad who worked outside the home. Afterwards when he became a minister of music it was still him who was outside the home, but he never undervalued what my mother did for us boys.

Why do I say this?

He could easily pay the bills on one salary and take care of the financial needs of the family by himself... Today almost every household is by necessity a two-income home, just to make ends meet... There are more stressors and demands on the time of parents all the time. It doesn't matter to me if the dad or the mom stays home, that is not the point, what is the point is that influential time is taken away from our family units.

It is a sad state when a stay at home mother in the propaganda of our culture is valued less than a woman who is the head of a major corporation.

Do you know why the scriptures teach us that the vocation of parent is more important than any other? The teaching and molding of our children about God and life in general is the most important thing we can do in our culture and society today.

Why do we have spiritual mothers and fathers?  
Why does the Catholic Church call its priests - fathers and its Head Nuns mother?  
Why do we have government? (Isn't its job to defend and protect our families)

Christian mothers today must by necessity be prayer warriors and advocates over their families.

They are in a constant battle to teach their children how to live well and survive in this world.

From observation I must conclude that our world tells women that Motherhood is a hindrance. Don't believe me try to take maternity leave at some companies... It tells women that they can either have a career and success or children... Wow, literally that kids will hold you back. Isn't a mother successful when she has raised healthy and beautiful, well adjusted kids? The message is if you want nice stuff, things and a glamorous life you must limit family. It is a shame that so many people fall for this lie.

So what does society offer to women to deliver them of this burden of children?

They are offered preventative drugs and the legal opportunity to exercise their right to choose. Is this really freedom of choice or are women who are constantly being convinced that children will hold them back from being successful in this life. At what point did we start to undervalue the family unit. I have known many ladies in my life who have exercised their right to choose. In one case she was no longer able to have kids anymore and was grieved over the loss of her choice to have a family at some point. I have seen so many who lived with guilt and distress over their choices. I have seen so much hurt. Some ladies have emotional problems that only peace in Jesus can fix.

Mothers this morning you are in a battle with the enemy. He would like nothing more than to destroy the family unit, because, it is instituted by God. ...And he hates God. God uses the church as a symbol of marriage. We are literally called the bride of Christ. So the adversary hates marriage.

Divorce rates are higher than ever before, the covenant of marriage is being denigrated to nothing more than a legal contract.

Understand me, I do not think that anyone should be at risk in a marriage, but the word does tell us that God hates divorce so it should be avoided if possible. He is in the restoration business, while Satan is in the destruction business.

So what has that to do with motherhood?

When a threat comes to her children nothing is more ferocious than a mom.

Don't believe me?

Get between a grizzly sow and her cubs and she will kill you...

Mom's today are fighting for their families. Some are battling the challenges of maintaining a balance between mothering and career. Some are trying battling the glass ceiling of gender prejudice. And others are battling the stereotype of: "She's just a stay at home mom" Friends today I declare to you there is no higher calling than being a mother or a father. God has literally entrusted you with the life of another human being.

Mothers today are under more pressure and stress than any generation of the past. The battle has escalated and more and more lives are ruined and families torn apart.

So why when God recognizes this institution of motherhood as a position to be honored has culture hidden its majesty? Today thousands of different careers and professions are thought of as more esteemed than motherhood.

There is a quote from Joseph Cardinal Mindszenty from his article: First Comes Love

He said:

The Most Important Person on earth is a mother: She cannot claim the honor of having built Notre Dame Cathedral. She need not. She has built something more magnificent than any cathedral – a dwelling for an immortal soul, the tiny perfection of her baby's body.

The angels have not been blessed with such a grace. They cannot share in God's creative miracle to bring new saints to heaven. Only a human mother can. Mothers are closer to God the Creator than any other creature; God joins forces with mothers in performing this act of creation....What on God's good earth is more glorious than this: to be a mother?

Powerful, yet he stops too soon.

Being a birth mother is amazing and must be honored and we do so today and yet let us also consider what of the love of a “mom” or “step mom” who has adopted or taken on another’s child. This woman’s love extends beyond her own biology to embrace completely into a motherhood relationship another’s child completely as her own.

At this point think back to your role as a mother, or think of your mother. Most mothers wear many hats. At various times she is:

- Chauffeur
- Cosmologist
- Chef
- Spiritual Director
- Moral Compass
- Philosopher
- Lawyer
- Judge
- Nurse
- Referee
- Maid
  - well it can feel like it at times...
  - I wouldn’t know as I am a dad with dishes that magically wind up from wherever I leave them in the dishwasher. I also have a cool thing happen when I put clothes in the laundry basket and a couple days later I find them in my drawer all clean and folded...
- Teacher of discernment
- Teacher of aesthetics
- Teacher of Manners
- Teacher of Modesty
- Example of faithfulness
- Example of grace and beauty
- And the list goes on...

What is really important here is that as a team of parents and as a mother specifically you are a shaper of your children. There is no higher calling.

Fathers, today I charge you to guard your hearts and to see all that is valuable in your essential counterpart and recognize it regularly. Second that you will over watch and protect your family units.

Parents: You are a support team for one another, one that is shaping the life of another person or persons. Recognize the high calling today and let us bring back recognition to our land of the value that a mother and father bring to their home.

Moms: You are essential to your family, you have value and worth and your role is held in highest esteem by the almighty. The enemy seeks to destroy. Remember to take time to love, to laugh, to embrace life. Remember you are loved and are a symbol of the bride of Jesus. You have a tough job. Culture changes, situations change, but our God changes not and He honors you. Be vigilant over your families.

How can we as servants of the almighty do any less that honor the blessings he has brought into our lives today in the persons of our wives and mothers. (Blessing)