

Real Mom's

Prayer

Good Morning! Happy Mothers Day!

By show of hands, how many people here today had a mom?
By show of hands, how many of you have moms that have passed on?
By show of Roses how many of you are moms?
By show of Roses how many of you don't have your own children but are moms to others in the church or in the community anyway?

So we can see that mothering touches all of us, either it is given or we receive it.

Today we are here to honor mothers.

Let's start off today with a reading from Proverbs 31 where we see that even kings get advice from their moms

Proverbs 31

Contemporary English Version (CEV)

What King Lemuel's Mother Taught Him

These are the sayings that King Lemuel of Massa was taught by his mother. My son Lemuel, you were born in answer to my prayers so listen carefully.

Don't waste your life chasing after women! This has ruined many kings. Kings and leaders should not get drunk or even want to drink. Drinking makes you forget your responsibilities, and you mistreat the poor.

Beer and wine are only for the dying or for those who have lost all hope. Let them drink and forget how poor and miserable they feel. But you must defend those who are helpless and have no hope. Be fair and give justice to the poor and homeless.

Guys can you see yourself here? Men did your moms ever tell you not to waste your life chasing after women? Did she tell you not to drink alcohol and get drunk? Did She tell you to do unto others and respect all people?

Ladies can you see yourself here? Ladies did your moms ever tell you not to waste your life on the wrong man? Did they ever tell you to find a nice doctor and settle down? Did they ever say nice girls don't find good men in bars? Did she tell you help others and respect all people?

Moms... have you ever said or plan to say any of these things? If so, you're not alone. The role of: Mother was created by God and the good ones follow his principles... let's take a look at what his mom said about a good wife

I'd like to point out that much of mothering applies regardless of gender...

Her advice on a Good Wife

A truly good wife is the most precious treasure a man can find! Her husband depends on her and she never lets him down. She is good to him every day of her life, and with her own hands she gladly makes clothes.

Did your mom ever tell you to cherish your wife, to treat her with respect? So many marital problems result because this one simple thing isn't done... The bible tells us in Ephesians 5:25: "Husbands love your wives as Christ so loved the Church and gave himself up for her" Just a thought; if you have a wife and she isn't a precious treasure are you giving yourself up for her are you loving her like Christ loved the Church?

Today many women don't make clothes but they may do your laundry or dishes, perhaps clean the house or help they may help you in many different ways. Are we valuing those whom God has given into our lives?

Sorry Ladies, but your not off the hook Wives are respecting your husbands? Are you encouraging him? Are you being loving and caring towards your man? Are you cherishing him? Are you taking care of him? Are you trying to be a treasure in his life?

Let's carry on...

She is like a sailing ship that brings food from across the sea. She gets up before daylight to prepare food for her family and for her servants. She knows how to buy land and how to plant a vineyard, and she always works hard. She knows when to buy or sell and she stays busy until late at night. She spins her own cloth, and she helps the poor and the needy.

Ladies do you do whatever it takes to make your home a success. Do you show love to those around you?

Her family has warm clothing and so she doesn't worry when it snows.

Do you remind your kids to wear a warm jacket in the cold? Do you

dry your husbands snow gloves when he has shoveled the driveway?
Do you mother you husband and family and nurture them?

She does her own sewing and everything she wears is beautiful.

Do you dress for your husband's approval? Do you want him to be attracted to you? Husband's do you pay attention to your wives efforts to look beautiful for you?

Her husband is a well-known and respected leader in the city. She makes clothes to sell to the shop owners. She is strong and graceful, as well as cheerful about the future.

Are you negative and critical or supportive, cheerful, hopeful and trusting? This goes both ways...

Her words are sensible and her advice is thoughtful. She takes good care of her family and is never lazy.

Does your husband listen to you?

Her children praise her and with great pride her husband says, "There are many good women but you are the best!" Charm can be deceiving and beauty fades away but a woman who honors the Lord deserves to be praised. Show her respect—praise her in public for what she has done.

Are you praising your wife for all that she does? Are you telling her daily how much you love her? Are you showing her?

Men women have and will continue to mother and care for us. It is our Job to make them feel loved and valued.

Women in this society where such anti-men sentiment resides; don't find yourself caught up in ungodly practices. Love your children, respect and support your husband, love him and value him.

Motherhood isn't 50-50 it's 100% unconditional love all the time...
Being a wife or husband isn't 50-50 either its 100% unconditional love all the time.

Men if you are living for your wife, there won't be any problem with her loving and caring for you and your children.

Wives if you are loving and respecting your husbands you won't have any problem with your husbands supporting you and helping you care for your children.

These are some lessons from King Lemuel's mom. If the king needs his mom's advice... There is an old saying, somewhat sexist, but perhaps there is a grain of truth in it... "Men rule the world! But women rule the men..." Great men from history have always looked to their wives and mothers for advice. The role of a mother is to be honored, it is not subservient or less than the role of husband and father, but rather different and equal...

Just a couple of more points before we move onto mothers in the Word of God

Lemuel was an oracle and we are told that his mother taught him. Now when I looked up an oracle in this context Webster's dictionary had this to say: "an oracle is a person giving wise or authoritative decisions or opinions" Here is a king and an oracle, in short, a very wise man. What is he doing? He is listening to his mother...

Motherly Examples from God's Word:

As illustration I have picked a half a dozen mothers from the bible to look at this morning:

Some mothers are stellar others are not so great. The bible gives us examples of both kinds of mothers.

EVE

The Original Mother — more specifically, of Cain, Abel, and Seth (and several unnamed others)

Eve is the mother of us all so, might as well start at the beginning with great great great and so on... Grandma Eve.

Here is the first mom... What does she do? She makes the most mind-numbing, monumental, stupid, hugely impactful mistake. Its affect was felt up to the cross and thanks to the cross we are back in right standing with the Father, but we are still experiencing the effects of her mistake today.

Don't kill me Julie, but maybe in one-way Eve was like my wife... Perhaps she partook of the forbidden fruit because she was the most organized in the garden and only she could remember where it was and knew where to find the tree.

She had almighty God, but I personally feel a tiny bit of sympathy for Grandma Eve, not because of her sin and its cost, but because she didn't have a mother to point out what a monumentally dumb idea it was to disobey God. Can you imagine Eve's mom dispensing advice. "Eve... Nice girls don't talk to snakes, they don't take candy or advice from them. They are truly bad guys, so don't hang with them." At least we'd know that she wouldn't have talked to the snake

until she was a teenager.

Eve had it rough; she had no motherly model to behold. She was tossed out of paradise, no Lamaze classes, no pain killer protocols for birth, no babies best chance books, no Dr. Dobson or Dr. Spock, no Freud, no Jung, no bottles, no diapers, no Orajel, no gripe water. No baby sitter...

Grandma Eve had to bury her son, because her other son killed him. Worst of all she couldn't blame the school, TV or video games. Worst of all her husband blamed her for his eating the fruit to God. "My wife gave it to me and I did eat..."

I truly believe before the end, she talked with God lots and started to compile the some truths about mothering...

SARAH **Mother of Isaac**

Sarah, it must be admitted started her venture into motherhood a wee bit on the late side. Since God made Abraham her husband the promise that he would be the father to many nations, she probably thought... I am going to be the mother to many nations in short a lot of kids. Despite their diligent practice, conception wasn't happening in a timely manner. So... not really trusting God on this one, she decided to bring in a concubine... what would be a good modern term for this? "Stunt double" She gave her handmaiden Hagar to Abraham. Hagar conceived Ismael from whom his descendants would eventually form the Islamic religion; which would deny the Godhead of the Messiah. It is interesting that God allowed him to be blessed, knowing that his descendants would turn on him. But then that's our graceful and truthful God.

There is a bit of a lesson here in God's timing. We don't want to create our own Ishmaels but then that's another sermon.

When the messenger of the Lord told Abraham that Sarah would be the mom, Sarah was pretty old and really didn't trust or believe in fact she mocked and laughed at Gods messenger and wound up in a trifle of correction over it. But despite what she believed God was faithful and just to deliver on his promise.

I bet she prayed for more energy, when little Isaac came along. She is a great example of a mother who came to realize that good things come to those who wait.

REBEKAH **Mother of Jacob and Esau**

Here is the first lesson, not going to hide it... Just going to say it: "Don't play favorites with your children or step children, treat them all equally."

Did you know that in the Hebrew culture the name given was indicative of what a parent believed their child would become. The name essentially was a pre-definition of the man. Interesting that Jacob means trickster isn't it?

For many moms, especially step moms, as in the case of Cinderella – lol, there is a temptation to play favorites. In Rebekah's case she schemed and plotted to trick her husband. It says in the scriptures that Isaac loved Esau but Rebekah loved Jacob.

When parents love one child more than another... let me just say this... there is a train wreck on the horizon. Mom and Jacob plotted to trick old dying dad and steal Esau's blessing and inheritance. This created a family division that lasted for a long time. Fortunately our God is a God of restoration.

Ladies here is the second lesson: "Don't use your maternal influence and power in the family to manipulate family circumstance."

BATHSHEBA

Mother of Solomon

Remember Bathsheba? She was bathing naked and David saw her. He lusted her. I always remember her name cause it is Bath-Sheba... Seriously though, King David had an affair with her and she became pregnant. David arranged for her husband to go into dangerous battle so that he would die on the front lines with the result that David could have his wife. Well he did die, but you can't hide secret sin from God and so Nathan confronted him. David's sin is revealed to us and the effects of attacking the marriage are long lasting.

They did have a son named Solomon who was very wise and peaceful. It is from him that we often hear of the wisdom of Solomon.

Ladies the message here is that all children are gifts from God regardless of the circumstance of conception. God is faithful and just to redeem. In sin, God is graceful with repentance.

Violence, Rape, Incest cannot steal away the preciousness of a child. They are not the violator; they are a victim with the mother and God blesses mothers who show love and care for their children.

JOCHEBED

Mother of Aaron, Moses, and Miriam

Here is a testament to a wonderful mother. She disobeyed the law for the sake of her child's life. She put her own life on the line for the sake of her son. The midwives were asked by the pharaoh why they did not kill the boy babies as was commanded, replied that the Hebrew women were "too vigorous" and popped those babies out before they could get there!

Jochebed really trusted God. I mean really trusted him. She put her baby in a basket and sent it down the river. Can you imagine what must have been in her heart? His sister worked as a lookout for him to see if he would be retrieved and he was by no less than the pharaoh's daughter... She needed a wet nurse and hired Moses' actual mom. Ain't God good to those who trust him.

Jochebed was scared and desperate, but ingenious when it came to her love for her child. With the determination of a mother's love and trust in God, she elevated her son from dead meat to prince of the nation.

MARY

Mother of Jesus

Mary is told, by an angel that she is pregnant, but she hasn't had sex... Women could be refused by men and sent back to their families for not being virginal and pure. Can you imagine what must have been going through her mind? How will Joseph ever believe me? Will they stone me for a harlot?

I am reminded of an incident several years back where a young woman who was engaged to be married and was a virgin, became pregnant. In this instance there was no angelic visitation. When she started to show and her boyfriend demanded a pregnancy test. She complied because she was a virgin, The test showed that she was indeed pregnant. He allegedly called her a slut and broke off the engagement. She constantly claimed her innocence.

Her fiancé left her and her family disowned her. She said that many of her friends called her a liar and laughed at her. Finally she went to the doctor who confirmed in writing that she was a virgin, she could not explain it. The doctor told her that he believed that she had at some point sat accidentally in someone's emissions or had come into contact with them another way. He stated they would never know.

Now this is a most highly unlikely thing to happen, calculation the odds are astronomical, but she became a mother and kept the child. She repaired the breaches with her family but her fiancé had moved on.

This type of thing is a tragedy, but the child is a gift from God. How many know that some gifts are life changing and require work?

Now Mary's circumstances are different in that she knew who was the babies Father. She was visited - by an angel of God, who told her of her blessed status. Yet can you imagine with all the family and social stigma attached to an unwed woman's pregnancy what she could have felt? In Mary's day you could be stoned to death for this. God is merciful and Joseph was told.

Yet Mary was not spared the gift of all mothers... Mary changed his diapers, she comforted him when his teeth were coming in. She helped him learn to walk. She talk our savior, the bearer of the revelation of the Word how to speak. She read to him to put him to sleep, She cooked for him and cleaned him. She made clothes for him and sowed them when they were torn.

Don't think of Mary as a mother? Try this one on for size: Jesus is missing and she is looking all over for him, where does he turn up, in the temple... Jesus tells his mom that he had to be about the Fathers business. If you were his mom, how would you swallow that one? Did she ground him?

What about when Mary and Jesus were at the wedding and they were out of wine. Can you see it? Uh son, how about doing that trick with the water, which he doesn't do, so she goes to the servants and tells them that her son is going to do something about it... lol Jesus loves his mom and does the miracle... I often wonder if he smirked at his mom, or just what transpired there...

Totally serious now, How about at the cross? The disciples are scattered, but there is his mom. A real mom doesn't desert her children when the going gets tough. She walks alongside and is afflicted right with her children.

We call Mary blessed and she is, yet from a practical standpoint she had moments of huge joy and excitement which culminates in extreme pain over the death of her son, yet comes to Joy again at his resurrection. But through everything nothing can separate a real mother from the love of their children.

Mothers are gentle and beautiful but they are also fierce when the situation calls for it. Mothers are stubborn defenders and advocates for their families. Just as nothing can separate you from the Love of God, nothing can separate the love of a mother from her children. This is one of the greatest characteristics of God and he has given it to mothers.

Why when we look at some of the mothers in the bible do we see mistakes? Because the bible reveals to us the reality and difficulty of motherhood, yet with the strength that God has given to mothers, we see that no matter what the

mistakes made, no matter what difficulties their are. Mother's have been equipped to handle it. I thank God for mothers and strong women of God, who will stand up and take their rightful place in Gods great plan. Ladies of God know that when the Going gets tough, ask God for help, bear down and deal with it.

Mom-ing doesn't require perfection, it requires commitment

Mom's you are loved; valued and appreciated.

I hope that you will all join me in this sentiment when I say; Thank you Mom!

prayer