

Subj: Motherhood

Text: Prov. 31:25-31

Meth: Topical

Titl: Motherhood, A Divine Blessing

G.Pp: Biblical survey of motherhood.

S.Pp: To show the important, esteemed Biblical role of motherhood.

Thesis Sentence: Motherhood, within marriage, is an honored and honorable role, and the supreme role that a woman of God may hold.

#### Introduction:

- A. Mother's Day, celebrated on the second Sunday in May; was first observed in Philadelphia, Pa., in 1907, based on suggestions that Julia Ward Howe and Anna Jarvis made in 1872 and 1907 respectively.
  - 1. The national observance of Mother's Day dates from 1914.
  - 2. Although Mother's Day is not a special day recognized by the New Testament, or officially observed by the church, it should serve to remind everyone of the Biblical importance and virtue of motherhood.
- B. Motherhood is a vital part of God's design in creation (Gen. 1:28a),
  - 1. A purpose that man alone, or any number of men, cannot accomplish in the absence of woman.
  - 2. Jehovah created the first family as man and woman (man and wife, Gen. 2:24), and all human beings owe their existence to that first couple who serve as the only divinely ordained and approved pattern for the most precious and intimate of human relationships.
- I. Adam recognized his wife's divine role (Gen. 3:20).
  - A. Woman has done and will do many great things as a helper comparable to man (Gen. 2:18), the divinely given privilege of motherhood remains the apex of all of her achievements.
  - B. The virtues of motherhood are seen in Biblical women:
    - 1. Jochebed (Exo. 6:20), who along with Amram, saw the potential in her son (Heb. 11:23) and spared no risk to save his life (Exo. 1:22-2:3)
    - 2. Hannah, who recognized children as a divine gift (Psa. 127:3-5) and reciprocated by dedicating her child to the Lord (1 Sam. 1:20-22)
    - 3. Elizabeth and Mary, who joyfully accepted the responsibilities of motherhood (Lk. 1:38-56) even while they were carrying their infants in their wombs - the fact that God chose a woman to bring His Son into the world raised motherhood to a place of highest honor
    - 4. Eunice, who imparted her faith to her son, Timothy (2 Tim. 1:5).
  - C. Virtue and tragedy are seen in Hagar - when God's plan for family is thwarted, there is a price to be paid (Gen. 21:9ff)

- II. Among the most tender examples of compassion and love are those between mother and child
  - A. Hagar for Ishmael - Gen. 21:16.
  - B. Jochebed for Moses - Exo. 2:2b-3.
  - C. Hannah for Samuel - 1 Sam. 2:19.
  - D. The true mother before Solomon - 1 Kng. 3:26.
  - E. The Shunamite - 2 Kng. 4:18-37, sought out Elisha for her son's well-being.
  - F. The Caananite - Mat. 15:22, sought out Jesus for her daughter's well-being.
  - G. Mary, for Jesus - (Lk. 2:25-35, 51-52) Jn. 19:25.
  
- III. The scriptures teach that mothers are worthy of the same obedience and respect as fathers (Ex. 20:12; Lev. 19:3)
  - A. Proverbs (see 1:8; 31:1) teaches that even in ancient times mothers shared responsibility with fathers in instructing and disciplining children.
  - B. Although Jesus is to be loved above parents (Mat. 10:37), He set the great example of caring for His mother for all of His disciples to follow (Jn. 19:25-27).

Conclusion:

- A. Mothers are to be loved, honored, respected, obeyed and cared for by their children.
- B. Our world today needs to relearn these valuable lessons if we would ever find a renewed respect for all human life.
- C. Without motherhood, in its esteemed Biblical sense, the heart is gone from the home and all creation suffers because of the void.

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