

MOTHERHOOD

Int.

1. Aim: To give honor to mothers and show how they should live in such a way to be worthy of honor.
2. Prov. 31:10-31 - the virtuous woman - priceless - mothers are very important to all
3. "Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is far above rubies." NKJV v. 10
4. What is the worth of a mother?
 - a. Each year an organization called Salary.com puts a price tag on what a Stay-at-home mom is worth.
 - b. This year the salary is \$122,732 for stay-at-home mothers.
 - c. The women who work outside the home should receive an extra \$76,184
 - d. That is not counting the most valuable things like love and affection
 - e. Priceless - the real value can not be placed on a godly mother
5. No one rises to any higher plane of moral accomplishment than does a godly mother.
 - a. No one selflessly sacrifices as a mother. She shares her body with the unborn, gives nourishment, protection; and shares her time, energy, talent, and her very heart as she weeps and laughs through the turbulent changes from childhood to adulthood.
 - b. No task on earth requires more dedication, commitment, and highly refined skills tempered by compassion & patience, as a mother.
6. As we look at the various functions of motherhood, let us be moved to gratitude for our mothers.

Discussion

I. GODLY MOTHERS ARE MANAGERS OF THE HOME

- A. "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:" Prov. 31:27-28 NKJV
- B. Note God's order in 1 Tim. 5:14 - marry, bear children, guide home. [Manage NKJV]
1. "Therefore I desire that the younger widows marry, bear children, manage the house, give no opportunity to the adversary to speak reproachfully." 1 Tim.5:14
 2. Keeping the home is her primary responsibility.
 3. In the past, the role of woman in the home was a "Homemakers" Tit. 2:5
 - a. Hear ladies today say, "Oh, I'm just a housewife."
 - b. Years ago, this role was no secondary role; nor is it now, though it is viewed by some as such.
 4. Woman's lib has done irreparable damage to motherhood!
 5. A few years ago, a leading woman's magazine did a survey of "today's woman;" their findings showed that many did not plan to have children stating, "I do not want the mess, noise and trouble that accompanies children."
 6. Seek and find satisfaction, fulfilling, "yourself" in motherhood.
- C. The "worthy woman" was an example of a domestic manager.
1. An efficient manager of the home - vs. 21-28
 2. Has her priorities in order. Even though she had pursuits outside of the home (v. 16, 24), her family comes first (vs.15, 18 - comes before outside interests).
 3. Such a woman complements her husband (v. 23) and contributes to a bright future for her family. (v. 25)

II. GODLY MOTHERS ARE MODELS OF OBEDIENCE.

- A. First & foremost, she is obedient to the Lord. James 4:7 "Submit yourselves therefore to God."
1. Second, to her husband. - 1 Peter 3:1 "Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives;"
 2. She becomes the role model, as well as the primary teacher, of her children.
 3. At a banquet, the mother of George Washington was sitting beside a distinguished French officer. Turning to Washington's mother, the officer asked, "How have you managed to rear such a splendid son?" She replied, "I taught him to obey."
- B. A model of obedience is seen in Mary. Luke 1:38 "And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her."
1. What greater attitude than "Let it be to me according to your word."
 2. What were her options?
 - a. She could run away, Offer excuses, Argue with the angel,
 - b. Demand answers, Simply refuse,
 - c. Or surrender in obedience.
- C. Godly mothers are examples of obedience.

III. GODLY MOTHERS ARE THE TEACHERS OF GOOD THINGS.

- A. This reflects God's original plan for the operation of the human family.
1. The book of Proverbs is full of admonitions that clearly show that mothers are to be teachers:
 - a. Prov 1:8 - "Do not forsake the law of thy mother" becomes a common expression in Proverbs. Prov. 6:20
 - b. Prov. 31:1 - King Lemuel was taught by his mother.
 - (1) "The words of king Lemuel, the prophecy that his mother taught him."
 - (2) Take note of what she is teaching her son.
 - (3) Prov. 31:3-9 - Avoid worldly living
 2. Teaching is done largely by example.
 - a. When our actions and words don't harmonize, we do our children a great disservice. They recognize us as hypocrites and the effectiveness of the teaching is destroyed.
 - b. We should never demand more of our children than we do of ourselves.
 3. A little boy was told by his mother that it was God who makes people good, he replied, "I know it is God, but mothers help a lot."
- B. Examples of good mothers:
1. Jochebed is an example of a worthy mother.
 - a. Her son was born in the midst of difficult and dangerous times (Ex. 2:1-10).
 - b. Moses' mother instilled faith in her child, because later he was able to make a wise choice. - **Heb. 11:23-26**

2. Hannah as an example of a mother who encouraged her son to excel in good things.
 - a. She prayed earnestly for a child. - 1 Sam. 1:11-18
 - b. She gave her child to the Lord as she had promised. 1 Sam. 1:24-28
 - c. She continues to provide for her child. 1 Sam. 2:18-19

3. Eunice and Lois, were the good mother and grandmother of Timothy.
 - a. Acts 16:1b
 - b. 2 Tim. 1:3-5, 3:15;

IV. MOTHERS ARE TO BE RESPECTED AND HONORED. Prov. 31:28

- A. Respect for mothers is rooted in the O.T. & sprouts in the N.T.
 1. Lev. 19:3 "Every one of you shall revere his mother and his father, and keep My Sabbaths: I am the LORD your God." (NKJV) revere = respect, worthy of great honor
 2. Prov. 23:25 "Thy father and thy mother shall be glad, and she that bare thee shall rejoice."
 3. Eph. 6:2 " Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;)"

- B. Consider what God thinks of a disrespectful child:
 1. Prov. 19:26 "He who mistreats his father and chases away his mother I s a son who causes shame and brings reproach." (NKJV)
 2. Prov. 20:20 "Whoever curses his father or his mother, His lamp will be put out in deep darkness."

C. Obedience is the way to honor

1. "Disobedience to parents" is a manifestation of worsening society -
2. 2 Tim. 3:2 "...disobedient to parents,..."
3. Rom. 1:30 "...disobedient to parents,..."

Conclusion

1. "Like mother, like daughter" is a Bible expression. Ezek. 16:44 NKJV
 - a. Most of us can trace what admirable qualities we possess to our mothers.
 - b. Have you taken the time to thank her?
2. Memories of our mothers inspire and lift us! She taught us about God and His great world. She taught us the meaning of love. She carried us before we were born. She bathed and fed us when we were helpless. She clothed us when we were naked. She rocked us when we were tired and sleepy. She sang to us like an angel. She helped us to learn to take our first steps. Through the years growing up she suffered with us in disappointments, aches and heartaches. She was a friend. We are debtors to our mothers.
3. Oh, if we could only adequately tell the worth of mothers!
4. For her worth is far above rubies. Prov. 31:10
5. Today we honor mother best when we are obedient to God's will — Mothers, be the example!