

A Proverbs Mother

Proverbs 31:26

Preface

Illus: Someone once said, "*Mothers write on the hearts of their children what the rough hand of the world cannot erase.*"

Mothers are entrusted with the responsibility of demonstrating God's love and grace in the lives of their children. Being a mother or father for that matter is the most important responsibility any of us will ever undertake. We must never lose sight of this.

Mothers and fathers deserve our respect and appreciation. Today, we honor and celebrate not only mothers, but what God's Word says about godly mothers.

We live in an age of disrespect. Youth is glorified and age is seen as something to avoid at all costs. On TV and in the movies kids are most often portrayed as the witty heroes. Parents tend to be pathetic, overbearing buffoons, especially dads. Time will teach them differently.

God's Word plainly states that we should honor our father and mother. Perhaps we all need to be reminded that the honor we give is the honor we will receive.

This morning it is my prayer that this message will bring healing to some mothers and encouragement to others.

Read Scripture

"²⁵She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come. ²⁶She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue." Proverbs 31:26 NIV

Introduction

Proverbs 31 has some important things to say about motherhood. I want to encourage you to read all of the verses in Proverbs 31 when you have the chance. It is rich with attributes of a godly mother and wife.

But first, what do I mean by a godly mother or a proverbs mother? A godly mother is one who strives to live her life under the guidance of God and His Holy Spirit. A godly mother seeks the leadership of God's Word as she faces the responsibilities of motherhood.

Being a godly mother is without a question, the most honorable and significant work in which you will ever undertake. A parent is one with whom God partners to accomplish His eternal will for His creation.

Within the character of a godly mom you will find great capacity for physical and spiritual nurture. If a godly mother raised you, you are indeed blessed.

There is absolutely no substitute for a godly mother! No father, friend or new fangled, mixed up version of a family can substitute the divine connection that God intends to exist between a mother and her child.

Let's reflect on some of the attributes of a godly mother spoken of in Proverbs 31.

Content

1. The Proverbs mother has strength and dignity

God gives strength to mothers who seek Him. Strength is needed since their work is never done.

Illus: I read a story of a woman who received a telephone call from a friend who asked, "How are you feeling?" The woman replied, "Terrible, my head is splitting, my back and legs are killing me, the house is a mess and the kids are driving me crazy." Very sympathetically, the caller said, "Listen, go and lie down, I'll come over right away and cook lunch for you, clean the house and take care of the children while you get some rest. By the way, how is Sam?"

“Sam? Who is Sam?” replied the complaining housewife. “My heavens, I must have dialed the wrong number” said the caller.

After a long pause the housewife said, “Does this mean you are not coming over?”

Illus: Someone once said, “There cannot be anything to evolution. If there was, women would have more than two hands.”

So often, mothers work themselves to death trying to keep the household running. Last week we had baby dedication. No doubt those brand new mothers already are getting a taste of the stress of motherhood.

Mothers are always making sacrifices for their children.

Illus: A school teacher asked a boy this question: “Suppose your mother baked a pie and there were six of you—your mother, your father and four children. What percentage of the pie would you get?” “One-fifth,” replied the boy. The teacher responded, “I’m afraid you don’t know your fractions. “Remember, there are six of you.” “I know said the boy, but you don’t know my mother. She would say she didn’t want any pie just so we could have more.”

2. The Proverbs mother looks to the future with optimism

Mothers are busy taking care of the really important matters of the household; matters such as insults, hurt, attitudes, dreams, feelings, talents, shortcomings, successes, failures, hope and defeat. Like physicians, they are constantly mending the brokenness.

Through the leadership and spirit of God, godly mothers know how to apply the correct measure of leadership, discipline, direction, affection and even laughter.

Mothers read to their children, pray for them and involve them in ministry. The child’s future is constantly paramount in their every action.

Illus: In meeting and working with the children of Pat McKenzie, they went to great lengths to make sure I knew about their mother’s influence. They were eager to communicate to me how their mother has instilled in them her optimism and love for life.

Godly mothers do that. They look to the future with zeal for their children.

3. The Proverbs mother speaks of wisdom and faithful instruction

Illus: I read a story about some preachers who were discussing the merits of various translation of the Bible. One remarked that he like the King James Version best because of the beauty of the old English used. Another preferred the New American Standard version because it was closer to the original Hebrew and Greek. Still another liked the contemporary style of the New International Version. The fourth preacher remarked that he liked his mother’s translation best. Surprised, the other preachers asked, “What do you mean?” “Yes, she translated it into life, and it was the most convincing translation I’ve ever heard.”

Mothers are constantly speaking wisdom and words of instruction. They impact their children with God’s answers to life challenges.

Paul recognized this in Timothy when he reminded him of his sincere faith, which first lived in his grandmother (Lois) and then in his mother (Eunice). In other words, Timothy was the kind of man he was because of the kind of mother and grandmother that he had been blessed with. Their faith and love for God shaped Timothy into being a powerful disciple of God. That is what godly mothers do; raise-up disciples.

Illus: One man realized this one day, noting that he had literally poured himself into his son’s life. He taught him to play baseball, football, basketball, took him hunting, fishing and even taught him how to drive. The boy went off to college and played ball for the college team, when the network TV cameras focused on his son, guess what the son said: “Hi Mom!”

Mothers just have a special role of communicating wisdom and instruction – seemingly always. Where would we be without the teaching of kindness and wisdom from our mothers?

Where do mothers get all of this wisdom? Verse 30 gives us the answer. They fear the Lord. In other Word’s they understand their responsibility as being from God.

Conclusion

I would like to conclude by reading you a letter.

Dear Mom,

I don't recall ever writing you a letter for Mother's Day but this year I just feel it is what I need to do. My words can never express what you mean to me and how grateful I am to you. However, I must express it the best I can.

More than anything Mom, I want to say thank you.

Thank you for taking care of me, my brother and sisters when life was so extremely difficult for you.

Thank you for never throwing in the towel and giving up.

Thank you for spanking me when I broke your new lamp with my kick-ball after you had already warned me to stop playing ball in the house.

Thank you for letting my friend Gary Holliman come over and spend the night so many times when you were tired and exhausted from work. Oh, and thanks for rounding up enough money to buy chips and coke for us to have a snack.

And, mom, remember the year you warned me not to expect a birthday gift because we had absolutely no money? Thank you for remembering your green stamps and surprising me with a rod & reel. You always found a way.

Thank you for fixing something to eat for all of my teenage friends whenever they came over. I now understand what it means to have your children bring their friends home.

Thank you for always loving me even when I failed and when I was good or bad.

Thank you for being proud of me even when I did things to disappoint you.

Thank you for convincing me I could do anything even when you knew I had limitations.

Thank you for carefully mending my heart each time it was broken.

Thank you for showing love, grace and forgiveness to me. I now understand where that comes from.

Thank you for praying for me, even today.

I thank God for having such a wonderful mother who did so much for me at such a high price. I thank Him for a mother who gave up so much of her life for her children. I want you to know I can truly say, "I am blessed."

With all my love,

Your son,

Bobby

I will deliver that letter to my mother this afternoon. God has laid it upon my heart to share it with you. I don't know why but I trust Him to use it.

Invitation

I realize there are dozens of different circumstances in our service today. There are mothers who know in their heart that they have been the mother God wants them to be. There are others who have neglected their responsibilities perhaps for pleasure or profession. There are those here who have poor relationships with their parents and others who's mother is now with the Lord.

I am not here to judge you. It is my responsibility to communicate to you what God wants of you. Perhaps God is stirring in your heart today. Don't let this moment pass. Respond to God's calling today. Step out on faith into forgiveness and hope. Receive God's love and grace.