

Three Tenets of Motherhood

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 1:46-49

INTRODUCTION.

- A. In this lesson, we will consider three tenets of motherhood as seen in the example of Mary, the mother of Jesus.

I. MOTHERHOOD AND A RESPECT FOR THE LORD.

- A. Mary respected the Lord.
 - 1. Consider Mary's response to the angel's message. (Luke 1:26-38)
 - a. The angel said, *"Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you;"* (vs 28)
 - b. The angel said, *"Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God."* (vs 30)
 - c. Mary said, *"Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word."* (vs 38)
 - 2. Mary willingly accepted God's will for her.
- B. Mothers should accept God's will for them as seen in His word.
 - 1. God's word gives instructions regarding being a wife and a mother.
 - a. Mothers recognize the role of the husbands.
 - b. Mothers accept and honor their role as wives.
 - c. Mothers understand the importance of teaching their children to be obedient to the Lord and to the parents.
 - 2. God's word helps the mother keep her heart right before Him.
 - a. There are many challenges that come with being a wife and a mother.
 - 1) These challenges have been known to cause doubt, resentment, and a desire to quit at times. However, keeping her heart right

with God helps a mother overcome these challenges. Keeping one's heart right will bring comfort, joy, and contentment.

- 2) Proverbs 4:23 reads, "**Keep** your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life." (NKJV)
 - a) "**Watch** over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life." (NASB)
 - b) "**Guard** your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life." (LSB)
- 3) Consider the illustration of a wellspring that provides water to a community. If the wellspring is polluted, then the pollutant spreads to everyone downstream. However, if the water is pure and clean, then it gives life to those downstream.
- 4) In a similar fashion, a mother's heart should be a wellspring of faithful service to the Lord and nurturing love and compassion towards her family. She should guard her heart against feelings of resentment, jealousy, hatred, and discontentment.
- 5) When a mother guards her heart, keeping it established in the Lord and His Word, then her actions and decisions will have a foundation of love and care.
- 6) Solomon said, "*The wise woman builds her house, but the foolish pulls it down with her hands.*" (Proverbs 14:1)
3. By accepting God's will and instructions, the mother is helping to lay up treasures in heaven for both her and her family. (Matthew 6:19-21)
4. When we respect God's will, we stop seeing children as a burden to be managed and start seeing them as a blessing to be celebrated.
- C. Respect for the Lord is crucial to helping shape our children's lives toward serving the Lord.

II. MOTHERHOOD AND GRATEFUL TO THE LORD.

- A. Mary saw her child as a blessing from the Lord.

1. Mary acknowledged what God had done for her. (Luke 1:46-49)
2. Mary recalled God's mercy and grace shown to His people. (Luke 1:50-55)
- B. Mothers are grateful to the Lord. Here's why...
 1. Children are a heritage (gift) from God.
 - a. *"Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb is a reward."* (Psalm 127:3)
 - b. It is a heritage that we are to nurture and care for and teach to serve the Lord.
 - c. It is a heritage that can bring joy and sorrow, excitement and anxiety, and hope and heartache.
 2. Children are a gift of life.
 - a. Solomon wrote, *"Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it."* (Ecclesiastes 12:7)
 - b. Let us be thankful for the precious little lives given to us by God.
- C. Motherhood will bring both joy and sorrow into your life.
 1. Even during the most trying of times, mothers can still offer gratitude while finding comfort in prayer.
 - a. Some prayers will cry out for guidance, encouragement, and strength.
 - b. Some prayers will be passionate petitions on behalf of their children.
 2. Yet in every season, mothers continually offer up the *"sacrifice of praise to God...the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name."* (Hebrews 13:15)
- D. Let all mothers be grateful for their children.

III. MOTHERHOOD AND SPIRITUAL RESPONSIBILITIES.

- A. Mary took her child to worship Jehovah God. (Luke 2:41-50)
- B. Mothers bear the same spiritual responsibilities.
 1. Raise up children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. (cf. Ephesians 6:4)
 - a. *"And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord."*

2. Diligently teach children in the way of the Lord. (Deuteronomy 6:6-9)
 3. Be loving and consistent with discipline. (Proverbs 23:13-14; 29:15)
 - a. *“Do not withhold correction from a child, for if you beat him with a rod, he will not die. You shall beat him with a rod, and deliver his soul from hell.”* (Proverbs 23:13-14)
 - b. *“The rod and rebuke give wisdom, but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother.”* (Proverbs 29:15)
 4. Set the right example in prayer, in Bible study, in worship, in behavior, etc.
- C. When mothers fulfill their spiritual responsibilities, they will raise up their children in the way of the Lord.

CONCLUSION.

- A. Motherhood . . .
 1. Begins with a respect for God.
 2. Produces gratitude towards God.
 3. Involves spiritual responsibilities.
- B. Children: Thank the Lord for your mothers who are raising you and helping to shape you into the person you will be tomorrow.
- C. Mothers: Love your children and do your best to follow God’s instructions.
- D. Fathers: Stand with the mother of your children, leading your family in the way of the Lord.

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