

Honoring Mothers

Honor Your Mother

Bringing Honor to Your Mother

Exodus 20:12

“Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

This is a Mothers’ Day sermon.

I’m preaching without apology and with appreciation for that time—honored institution without the benefit of which we wouldn’t be here!

- for some, motherhood is an accident, and not always a welcome one.
- for some, biological motherhood isn’t possible.
- for some, mothers weren’t all that nice.
- for some, motherhood under the very best of circumstances is still less than a bed of roses and a primrose path.

For all its stumbling blocks, pitfalls and broken dreams, for all the soiled diapers, soiled wallpaper and spoiled plans, we’re talking about a beautiful ideal, a natural part of God’s creative plan to bring love and caring to light. Motherhood is a constant demand for the gift of love and caring.

I am fortunate in that my mom is one of my heroes.

Three mom’s that are heroes.

1. Jochebed
2. Hannah
3. Lois

Illustration

We wear a lot of hats...

Talk about hats you wear.

1. Household CEO
2. Masters & PhD in Patience
3. Familial Law Enforcer
4. Playground Medic
5. Fast Food Chef
6. Tantrum & Meltdown Negotiator
7. Backyard Safety Commissioner
8. Anger Management Specialist

9. Playdate Social Secretary
10. Manners Expert
11. Personal Shopper
12. Sleep Scientist (work mostly night shifts)
13. Captain, Soccer Mom Cheerleading Squad
14. Dental Hygienist
15. Tooth Brushing Instructor
16. Personal Chauffeur & Expert Driver
17. Hairstylist (specializing in pigtails and wiggly clients)
18. Birthday Party Planner

In 1900 A. E. Winship did a study of Jonathan and Sarah Edwards descendants...
Here is what he found.

- 100 lawyers and a dean of a law school
- 80 holders of public office
- 66 physicians and a dean of a medical school
- 65 professors of colleges and universities
- 30 judges
- 13 college presidents
- 3 mayors of large cities
- 3 governors of states
- 3 United States senators
- 1 controller of the United States Treasury
- 1 Vice President of the United States

READ "Things moms teach us".

* Mothers teach us about foresight: "Make sure you wear clean underwear in case you're in an accident."

* Mothers teach us about logic: "If you fall out of that tree and break your neck, don't come crying to me."

* Mothers teach us about maturity: "Eat your vegetables or you'll never grow up."

* Mothers teach us about religion: "You better pray that comes out of the carpet."

* Mothers teach us about time travel: "If you don't straighten up, I'm going to knock you into the middle of next week!"

* Mothers teach us about contradictions: "Shut your mouth and eat your dinner!"

* Mothers teach us about contortionism: "Will you look at the dirt on the back of your neck?"

* Mothers teach us about perseverance: "You are going to sit here until you eat every last piece of that broccoli."

- * Mothers teach us about genetics: "You're just like your father."
- * Mothers teach us about the weather: "It looks like a tornado swept through your room."
- * Mothers teach us about the circle of life: "I brought you into this world, and I can take you out."

First Lady Laura Bush recalls one overnight visit with her husband in the home of his parents, the former President and Mrs. Bush.

"George woke up at 6 A.M. as usual and went downstairs to get a cup of coffee," Laura says. "And he sat down on the sofa with his parents and put his feet up. And all of a sudden, Barbara Bush yelled, 'Put your feet down!'"

"George's dad replied, 'For goodness' sake, Barbara, he's the President of the United States.'

"And Barbara said, 'I don't care. I don't want his feet on my table.'"

The president promptly did as he was told, for as Mrs. Bush observes, "Even Presidents have to listen to their mothers."

George E. Bergman.

1. Honor her with a good reputation.
2. Honor her with how you live your life.
3. Honor her by elevating her status by how you live your life.
4. Honor her by obeying her rules.
5. Honor her by serving her.
6. Honor her by loving her.
7. The reward of honoring goes to the children...

"When a man succeeds, he does so by climbing a ladder steadied by a woman who believes in him" (E. Stanley Jones).

I. **Teach them their spiritual identity.**

Ground your children in their identity.

Raise your children to remember who they are.

Do not forget who they are.

Know who they are.

(Jochebed)

Exodus 2:1-3

¹⁻³ A man from the family of Levi married a Levite woman. The woman became pregnant and had a son. She saw there was something special about him and hid him. She hid him for three months. When she couldn't hide him any longer she got a little basket-boat made of papyrus, waterproofed it with tar and pitch, and placed the child in it. Then she set it afloat in the reeds at the edge of the Nile.

A. Moses was born in a dangerous time. - explain

1. Pharaoh's edict

Exodus 1:16-17

"When you are helping the Hebrew women during childbirth on the delivery stool, if you see that the baby is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, let her live."

¹⁷ The midwives, however, feared God and did not do what the king of Egypt had told them to do; they let the boys live.

Exodus 1:22

Then Pharaoh gave this order to all his people: "Every Hebrew boy that is born you must throw into the Nile, but let every girl live."

B. Moses mother risk everything to keep him safe and help him fulfill his destiny.

1. Unpack story

C. Moses mother finally had to release him.

1. To God's sovereign will.

2. To grow up in Pharaoh's court.

a. He grew up in the shadows of false God's.

b. He grew up surrounded with **injustice**, and **arrogance** and **godlessness**, **idol worship**, **sexual immorality**,

D. Moses' mother was chosen to be his wet nurse by pharaoh's daughter.

E. Moses never forgot who he was.

Hebrews 11:24-28

²⁴ By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. ²⁵ He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. ²⁶ He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward. ²⁷ By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible. ²⁸ By faith he kept the Passover and the application of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel.

Application

- **Jochebed obeyed God**
- **Jochebed did not waste her motherhood**

Proverbs 22:6

Point your kids in the right direction—
when they're old they won't be lost. (Message Bible)

1. Moses did not forget who he was.
2. Young mom's – you have a short window – take advantage of it.
3. Pray for your children.
4. Tell them who they are.
5. Teach them what it means to be godly.
6. Model for them I Corinthians 6:19-20

12 Bible verses about your identity in Christ**I Corinthians 6:19-20**

¹⁹ Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; ²⁰ you were bought at a price...

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

Romans 6:6

For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

1 Peter 2:9

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Ephesians 2:10

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

2 Timothy 1:7

For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

John 1:12

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,

Colossians 3:3

For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

2 Corinthians 5:21

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

John 1:11-13

"He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

1 Corinthians 12:26-27

"If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it."

Children honor your mother by not forgetting who you are.

Teach them their spiritual identity.

II. Develop their spiritual voice.

Hannah gave birth to Samuel.

- A. Explain Hannah's story.
1. Could not have children.
 2. Felt shame and embarrassment.
 3. That is all she wanted.
 4. God had to get her into a position where she was willing to do anything.
 5. If I have a son I will give him to you.
 6. She meant... serve under the priest in the temple.
- B. She saw her son as a gift from the Lord.
1. When she saw her son as a gift from the Lord it was easier to put him in the Lord's hands.
 2. Trust the Lord with her son.

I Samuel 2:19

Each year his mother made him a little robe and took it to him when she went up with her husband to offer the annual sacrifice.

- C. There were some very unusual times coming and God needed an extraordinary son to do something extraordinary.**

I Samuel 2:17-18

¹⁷ This sin of the young men was very great in the LORD's sight, for they were treating the LORD's offering with contempt.

¹⁸ But Samuel was ministering before the LORD—a boy wearing a linen ephod.

I Samuel 2:21

²¹ And the LORD was gracious to Hannah; she gave birth to three sons and two daughters.

Meanwhile, the boy Samuel grew up in the presence of the LORD.

I Samuel 2:26

And the boy Samuel continued to grow in stature and in favor with the LORD and with people.

I Samuel 3:1

The boy Samuel ministered before the LORD under Eli. ~~In those days the word of the LORD was rare; there were not many visions.~~

I Samuel 3:19-20; 4:1

¹⁹ The LORD was with Samuel as he grew up, and he let none of Samuel's words fall to the ground. ²⁰ And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba recognized that Samuel was attested as a prophet of the LORD.

1 Samuel 4:1

And Samuel's word came to all Israel.

Illustration

- Illustration of giving your child to the Lord
- Zack – he feels a call to unreached Muslim people groups in the middle east.

Application

1. See your children as a gift from the Lord.
2. Treat your children as they are the Lords.
3. I can just see Hannah...
 - Praying over her child.
 - Singing over her baby.
 - Weeping over her gift.
4. Your responsibility is to prepare them for what God has for them.
5. We live in unusual times and God is needing some unusual commitments to get his will accomplished.
6. This is difficult sometimes.
7. Honestly it is exhausting.
 - Samuel became a great voice.
 - Samuel became a prophetic voice.
8. Children honor your mother by letting your voice be heard.

Illustration

Media Watch, calls Ellen Goodman the most widely syndicated progressive columnist in the country. She is a liberal feminist but in this article of the Boston Globe makes great sense.

“Americans once expected parents to raise their children in accordance with the dominant cultural messages. Today they are expected to raise their children **in opposition to them**. Once the chorus of cultural values was full of **ministers, teachers, neighbors, leaders**. They demanded more conformity, but offered more support. Now the messengers are violent cartoon characters, rappers and celebrities selling sneakers.

Parents are considered "responsible" only if they are successful in their resistance.

That's what makes child-raising harder. It's not just that American families have less time with their kids; it's that we have to spend more of this time doing battle with our own culture.”

Application

1. Asdf
2. Asdf
3. Asfdsa

Emphasize their spiritual identity.**Develop their spiritual voice.****III. Share your sincere faith.**

Faith that is inspiring.

II Timothy 1:5

⁵ I am reminded of your **sincere faith**, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.

II Timothy 1:3-7

“...I constantly remember you in my prayers. ⁴Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. ⁵I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also. ⁶For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. ⁷For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.

- A. Explain Paul and Timothy relationship.
- B. Timothy’s two great influences.
 1. Lois was his grandmother.
 2. Eunice was his mother.
 3. No mention of his father’s name just that he was a Greek or a non-Jew. (Acts. 16:1)
- C. Explain the Jewish educational system.
 1. Timothy’s father was Greek - until the age of seven a Roman boy’s mother was his main formative influence.
 2. Jewish fathers were primarily responsible for their son’s instruction in the law, but Timothy’s father was a Gentile.

- D. Timothy's mother and grandmother were responsible to make sure they did everything to teach him.
- E. Timothy's family tree.
 - 1. His mother Lois and grandmother Eunice was a Christ following Jewess.
 - 2. Timothy's Father was ungodly.
 - 3. Paul has never married and Timothy was like a spiritual son to him.
- F. Lois and Eunice were known for their sincere faith.
- G. Timothy learned from his mother and grandmother.
- H. Timothy was taught scripture from infancy.
- I. Their sincere faith convinced Timothy.

II Timothy 3:14-15

¹⁴But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, ¹⁵and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

Illustration

Story of a person who was influenced by the faith of their mother.

What it must have been like for Lois and Eunice to pour into Timothy without dad's help.

Application

1. What is the most valuable thing you can pass down to you children?
 - For Lois and Eunice it was their sincere faith.
2. If you are a single mom be encouraged.
3. If you are here today without your husband be encouraged.
4. Teach scripture.
5. Model a sincere faith.
6. Honor your mother by your sincere faith.

Application

1. Make sure your children are taught the Word of God.
2. Find out what is being taught in Sunday School and children's church and reinforce it.
3. Find out what Pastor John is trying to instill in your teenager and work with he and his team.
4. Mothers step up
5. Single mothers and mothers of children whose fathers are not involved in their spiritual growth – follow the example of Timothy's mother and grandmother.
6. If dad is not around or will not participate then bring other family members into the mix.

7. If they are grown up then continue

Conclusion

- Mother's you are super-heroes.
- You can do it.
- You can make it.
- It is worth it.

Illustration

CLOSE: Max Lucado has intriguing explanation of this truth in "A Gentle Thunder. p. 46ff (given with some modification)

Moms: WHY do you love your newborn child?

I know, I know; it's a silly question, but indulge me. Why do you?

For months this baby has brought you pain.

They've made you break out in pimples and waddle like a duck.

Because of them you craved sardines and crackers and threw up in the morning.

They punched you in the tummy.

They occupied a space that wasn't theirs and ate food they didn't fix.

You kept them warm. You kept them safe. You kept them fed.

But did she say thank you?

Are you kidding?

She's no more out of the womb than she starts to cry!

The room is too cold, the blanket is too rough, the nurse is too mean.

And who does she want? Mom.

Don't you ever get a break? I mean, who has been doing the work the last nine months?

Why can't Dad take over? But no, Dad won't do. The baby wants Mom.

She didn't even tell you she was coming.

She just came.

And what a coming!

She rendered you a barbarian. You screamed. You swore. You bit bullets and tore the sheets.

And now look at you. Your back aches. Your head pounds. Your body is drenched in sweat.

Every muscle strained and stretched.

You should be angry, but are you?

Far from it.

On your face is a longer-than-forever love.

They've done nothing for you; yet you love them.
They've brought pain to your body and nausea to your morning, yet you treasure them.
Their face is wrinkled and their eyes are dim, yet all you can talk about are her good looks and bright future.

She's going to wake you up every night for the next 6 weeks, but that doesn't matter.
I can see it on your face. You're crazy about her.

Why? Why does a mother love her newborn?
Because the baby is hers?
Even more. Because the baby is her.
Her blood. Her flesh. Her sinew and spine. Her hope. Her legacy.

It bothers her not that the baby gives nothing.
She knows a newborn is helpless, weak.
She knows babies don't ask to come into this world.

And God knows we didn't either.
We are his idea. We are his. His face. His eyes. His hands. His touch. We are Him.
(end of Lucado's comments)