

“Behold, Your Mother”

Introduction:

- A. Proverbs 31:10-31– A worthy woman.
- B. No one rises to any higher plane of moral accomplishment than does a godly mother.
- C. It has been suggested there is no human obligation less adaptable to substitution than motherhood.
- D. As we look at the various functions of motherhood, let us be moved to gratitude.

I. Mothers Are to Be Managers of the Home.

- A. Texts: Prov.31:27,28; 1 Tim.5:14,15.
- B. The most important realm of service is in the home.
 - 1. Keeping the home, not advancing a career, is a wife and mothers primary responsibility.
- C. A “*worthy woman*” is an example of a domestic manager:
 - 1. An efficient manager of the home – Prov.31:21.
 - 2. Has her priorities in order.
 - a. Even though she had pursuits outside of the home (Prov.31:16,24) her family comes first (Prov.31:15,18).

II. Mothers Should Be Models of Obedience.

- A. Texts: Titus 2:5; 1 Pet.3:1,5.
- B. Mothers should be examples of submissive obedience:
 - 1. First and foremost to the Lord – Js.4:7; Gal.2:20.
 - 2. Second to her husband – cf.1 Pet.3:1,5.
 - 3. Third to men in general – 1 Cor.11:3.
 - 4. Not only are they to be examples of submissive obedience, they are to teach younger women to do the same – cf.Titus 2:4,5.
- C. Seen in Mary – Lk.1:38.

III. Mothers Are to Be Teachers of Good Things.

- A. Texts: Prov.22:6; 2 Tim.1:5; 3:15; Js.3:1.
- B. 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 mother’s are to be teachers: Prov.1:8; 6:20; 31:1.
 - 2. Teaching is done largely by example.
 - a. When we demand of our children what we don’t demand of ourself, we violate the principle of Matt.7:5.
- C. Examples of mothers as teachers:
 - 1. Jochebed did a fine job of training Moses – Ex.2; Heb.11:24-26.
 - 2. Timothy’s mother and grandmother – Acts 16:1b; 2 Tim.1:5; 3:15.

IV. Mothers Are Helpers & Lovers of the Helpless & Unlovely.

- A. By virtue of what they are called upon to do, mothers are agents of grace and mercy.
 - 1. Is there anything more helpless than an infant?
 - 2. Mothers have a wonderful ability to love their children regardless of how ungrateful or hurtful they may be at times – cf.Prov.15:20; 10:1.
- B. Jochebed is an example of such a mother:
 - 1. Her son was born in the midst of difficult and perilous times – cf.Ex.2:1,2.
 - 2. What difficulty they faced protecting their helpless little boy.

V. Mothers Are Encouragers of the Fainthearted.

- A. Texts: Prov.1:8,9; 14:1.
- B. Through her teaching of good things, the godly mother “builds” her house.
- C. Mothers are able to encourage their sons and daughters into great things.

VI. Mothers Are to Be Respected and Honored.

- A. Text: Prov.31:28.
- B. Respect for mothers is rooted in the O.T. and sprouts in the N.T. – Lev.19:3; Prov.23:25; Eph.6:2.
 - 1. Consider what God thinks of a disrespectful child – Prov.19:26; 20:20; 30:17; Deut.21:18,19.
 - a. It is a sign of a worsening society – 2 Tim.3:2.
- C. Example of honoring mother – Prov.31:28.
 - 1. Respect, like love, needs to be expressed in deeds – cf. 1 Jn.3:18.

Conclusion:

- A. Ezek.16:44 – *“Behold, every one that useth proverbs shall use [this] proverb against thee, saying, As is the mother, so is her daughter.”*
- B. Let each of us thank God for His wisdom as expressed in His plan for the human family.