

Honor Your Mother

Leviticus 19:3 (New American Standard Bible)

³*Every one of you shall revere his mother and his father, and you shall keep My Sabbaths; I am the Lord your God.*

Introduction

Happy Mother's Day!

This year Mother's Day is different for me. I no longer have my own mother to call and appreciate. She's gone to be with the Lord last year. I am sure you understand what I am saying. My brother used to remind me to do good to our mother while she was alive. How true it is! Do good to your mother while you have her with you.

For my curiosity, I checked out what the Bible says about mothers. Scores of stories of mother are recorded in all different situations. Joys and sorrows. Triumphs and failures. But all in all, God was with them. Here's a quick glance.

Mothers in the Bible: Eve, the mother of all the living, shed her first tears over the loss of her second son to murder by her oldest son. God understands the mother's sorrow. My heart goes out to the mothers who lost their children likewise. How about Rebekah the mother of Jacob and Esau who witnessed the sibling rivalry between her twin sons? I also see an example of a terrible mother as well: Herodias directed her daughter to ask for John the Baptist's head on a platter (Mark 6:28).

Some mothers were comforted by God. There was a widow whose only son died young. In the funeral procession, Jesus resurrected the young man and gave him back to her (Luke 7:15). What a great joy!

I love some examples of godly mothers: Lois and Eunice (mother and grandmother of Timothy---2 Timothy 1:5). We salute those godly mothers in our church. Our families and church appreciate all you do. How can we forget the mothers' prayers for their children? Remember a Phoenician mother who pleaded for her sick daughter and Jesus cured the daughter? E.g., A young soldier fought bravely because of his mother's prayer.

Some mothers died during the birth (Rachel the mother of Benjamin). We thank God for the medical advancement today. There were mothers who finally received their long-awaited children like Samuel's mother (1 Samuel 2:1). The mother of John the Baptist as well. Then, some mothers were separated from their children against their wishes (Moses' mother had to throw her son into the river). How about some mothers who showed their love for their adopted children (the Egyptian princess adopted Moses)? We thank God for them as well. We also have mothers in Christ. Although they are not our blood-related

mothers, we can adopt mothers in faith in the Church. Listen to Jesus. *And extending His hand toward His disciples, He said, "Behold: My **mother** and My brothers!* (Matthew 12:49). John adopted Mary as his mother and took her into his own household (John 19:27). We are commanded to treat the older women as mothers (1 Timothy 5:2).

We also pray that the Lord would comfort the mothers whose children are no more. How about Mary the mother of Jesus who witnessed her son publicly executed? Mothers who lost their children to natural disasters (Job's wife), man-made disasters, war, sickness, addiction, violence,...and mothers of the incarcerated. The list goes on. Our hearts are with them.

One thing I noticed is this: mothers in the Bible were no different from our own mothers. They too had daily struggles and challenges. Heart breaks and joys. Through it all, though, God had been with them. Today, we sincerely appreciate our mother's love, tears, hugs, care, support, counsel, sacrifice, devotion.... Thank you, mothers. In our congregation, we have many mothers and grandmothers. Our hats are off to them all. Mothers in the congregation, please arise. Let's give them a heart-felt applause.

This morning, we are going to think about God's command to honor, revere, and respect our mothers.

Content

Honor your father and mother (Exodus 20:12), God commands us. *Every one of you shall revere his mother and his father* (Leviticus 19:3). When we honor our mothers and fathers, God blesses us with long life and prosperity. **Honor your father and your mother, just as the Lord your God has commanded you, so that *your days may be prolonged* and that *it may go well* for you on the land which the Lord your God is giving you** (Deuteronomy 5:16).

Who will honor mothers? Although anyone can honor their mothers, not everyone makes that choice. There's one group of people who always will. They are those who are 'near the Lord.' *The Lord spoke, saying, 'By those who come near Me I will be treated as holy, And before all the people I will be honored.'* (Leviticus 10:3). Those who love the Lord and those whose heart is near Him will honor their mothers, because they want to please the Lord by obeying His voice. Without the fear of the Lord (no accountability), and none can truly honor their mothers. Therefore, I can safely say this: the more our society becomes godly, the more people will honor their mothers. And vice versa. Let's check out our reality.

Times we are living in: We are living in the last days. God's Word speaks about people in the end times. *But realize this, that in the last days **difficult times** will come. ²For people will be **lovers of self**, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, slanderers, **disobedient to parents**, ungrateful, unholy, ³unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, (2 Timothy 3:1-3). "... law is not made for a righteous person but for*

those who are lawless and rebellious, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and worldly, for those who **kill their fathers or mothers**, for murderers,..." (1 Timothy 1:9).

Whoa?! Did I hear correctly? Murderers of parents? Isn't it shocking to hear that? It is. Disobedience and murder of their parents is nothing new, though. I bet it happened before, is happening, and will happen as we wait for Christ's coming. *Come Christ, come quickly. There is a kind of person who curses his father and does **not bless his mother*** (Proverbs 30:11). *They have treated father and **mother** with contempt among you* (Ezekiel 22:7). Why such indecent, immoral, and inconceivable act against mothers and fathers happen? I believe it is rooted in self-love. No fear of God. No appreciation, no respect for parents. No honor for mothers and fathers.

By the way, God is not kind to those who mistreat and dishonor their mothers. In fact, God's Word is very harsh against them. *He who assaults his father and drives his **mother** away is a shameful and disgraceful son* (Proverbs 19:26). *He who curses his father or his **mother**, His lamp will go out in time of darkness* (Proverbs 20:20). *He who robs his father or his **mother** and says, "There is no wrong done," is the companion of a person who destroys* (Proverbs 28:24). *The eye that mocks a father and scorns a **mother**, the ravens of the valley will pick it out, and the young eagles will eat it* (Proverbs 30:17). Even Jesus says, 'The one who speaks evil of father or mother is to be put to death' (Matthew 15:4). And one who curses his father, or his **mother** shall certainly be put to death (Exodus 21:17). 'Cursed is one who treats his father or **mother** contemptuously.' And all the people shall say, 'Amen' (Deuteronomy 27:16).

How to Honor our mothers: three ways.

First, we can honor our mothers through 'riches and honor' (Proverbs 3:16, 2 Chronicles 32:27). When we do well in the world, our mothers are honored. Surely, crown, glory, fame, power, success, and status bring honor to our mothers. By sharing riches with our mothers (Proverbs 3:9), we honor them. E.g., Don't visit your mother empty handed.

What if we had none of those worldly success? Can we still honor our mothers? **Yes.**

Next, we can honor our mothers by simply stop being a fool. *A foolish man despises his **mother*** (Proverbs 15:20). Fools bring disgrace and shame to their mothers. Stop despising your mother. Start listening to her.

Finally, we honor our mothers by respecting them in our words and attitudes. God's Word commands us *not to despise your mother when she is old* (Proverbs 23:22). (E.g., My own story of honoring mom. Calling her once a week and listening to her stories each week made her happy and proud). *Let your father and your mother be glad, and **let her rejoice who gave birth to you*** (Proverbs 23:25). We can make our mothers happy with words of appreciation and kindness.

Conclusion

Happy Mother's Day again! If it's been a while, call her. Visit her. Send a card to her on a regular basis. Listen to her stories. The Lord will bless those who honor their mothers with longevity and prosperity.

Amen.