

Precious Mothers

Proverbs 31:10-31

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Have you ever written any proverbs?
1. Solomon did.
 - a. According to 1 Kings 4:32, he spoke 3,000 proverbs and 1,005 songs.
 - b. According to **Ecclesiastes 12:9**, “He pondered, searched out and arranged many proverbs.”
 - c. Only about 800 of his 3,000 proverbs are included in the Book of Proverbs.
 2. Some young people were asked for some proverbs, and this is what they came up with.
 - a. Patrick, age 10, said “Never trust a dog to watch your food.”
 - b. Michael, age 14, said “When your dad is mad and asks you, “Do I look stupid? Don’t answer him.” Michael also said, “Never tell your mom her diet’s not working.”
 - c. Randy, age 9 years of age said, “Stay away from prunes.”
 - d. Naomi, age 15, said, “If you want a kitten, start out by asking for a horse.”
 - e. Lauren, age 9, said, “Felt markers are not good to use as lipstick.”
 - f. Joel, age 10 years old, said, “Don’t lick on your sister when she’s holding a baseball bat.”
 - g. Eileen, age 8, said, “Never try to baptize a cat.”
 3. I believe I will stick with the ones penned in the Book of Proverbs. King Lemuel’s section of the book provides a beautiful description of an ideal wife and mother. Let’s read the New Living Translation rendering of it.
- B. **Proverbs 31:10 - 31** - Who can find a virtuous and capable wife? She is worth more than precious rubies.
- 11 Her husband can trust her, and she will greatly enrich his life.
 - 12 She will not hinder him but help him all her life.
 - 13 She finds wool and flax and busily spins it.
 - 14 She is like a merchant's ship; she brings her food from afar.
 - 15 She gets up before dawn to prepare breakfast for her household and plan the day's work for her servant girls.
 - 16 She goes out to inspect a field and buys it; with her earnings she plants a vineyard.
 - 17 She is energetic and strong, a hard worker.
 - 18 She watches for bargains; her lights burn late into the night.
 - 19 Her hands are busy spinning thread, her fingers twisting fiber.

20 She extends a helping hand to the poor and opens her arms to the needy.

21 She has no fear of winter for her household because all of them have warm clothes.

22 She quilts her own bedspreads. She dresses like royalty in gowns of finest cloth.

23 Her husband is well known, for he sits in the council meeting with the other civic leaders.

24 She makes belted linen garments and sashes to sell to the merchants.

25 She is clothed with strength and dignity, and she laughs with no fear of the future.

26 When she speaks, her words are wise, and kindness is the rule when she gives instructions.

27 She carefully watches all that goes on in her household and does not have to bear the consequences of laziness.

28 Her children stand and bless her. Her husband praises her:

29 "There are many virtuous and capable women in the world, but you surpass them all!"

30 Charm is deceptive, and beauty does not last; but a woman who fears the LORD will be greatly praised.

31 Reward her for all she has done. Let her deeds publicly declare her praise.

C. The Book of Proverbs has a lot to say about women.

1. How fitting that the book ends with a picture of a woman of:
 - a. Strong character.
 - b. Great character.
 - c. Great wisdom.
 - d. Great compassion.
2. Some people have the mistaken idea that the ideal woman in the Bible is:
 - a. Retiring.
 - b. Servile.
 - c. Entirely domestic.
3. Not so . . . This woman is:
 - a. An excellent wife and mother.
 - b. A manufacturer.
 - c. Importer
 - d. Manager
 - e. Realtor
 - f. Farmer
 - g. Seamstress
 - h. Upholsterer
 - i. Merchant

4. Her strength and dignity do not come from her amazing achievements, however. They are a result of her reverence for God. What a wonderful composite of womanhood she is.

BIBLICAL STATEMENTS ABOUT MOTHERS

- A. The Bible has much to say about womanhood and motherhood. In fact, the word “mother” appears 320 times in the Bible.
 1. 227 times in the Old Testament.
 2. 93 times in the New Testament.
- B. **Judges 5:7** – “Village life ceased, it ceased in Israel, Until I, Deborah, arose, Arose a mother in Israel.”
 1. Every nation needs good mothers.
 2. The United States of America needs good mothers.
 3. God’s Israel today, the church, needs good mothers.
 4. Every son and daughter needs a good mother.
 5. There is no substitute for a good, godly mother.
- C. **2 Chronicles 22:3** – “He (Ahaziah) also walked in the ways of the house of Ahab, for his mother advised him to do wickedly.”
 1. What a tragedy when a mother leads her children astray.
 2. Ahaziah would have been better off had his mother stayed out of his life than to be present and advise him wickedly.
- D. **John 19:27** – “Then He said to the disciple, ‘Behold your mother!’”
 1. One-seventh of the recorded words of our Lord on the cross dealt with His mother.
 2. Even in dying Jesus provided for the care of His mother.

WHAT MOTHERS DO

- A. Mothers teach:
 1. Mothers teach many things:
 - a. Mothers teach **LOGIC** . . . “If you fall of that swing and break your neck, you can’t go to the store with me.” . . . Or, If everyone jumped off a cliff would you do it too?”
 - b. Mothers teach **MEDICINE** . . . “If you don’t stop crossing your eyes, they’re going to freeze that way.”
 - c. Mothers teach you **TO MEET A CHALLENGE** . . . “What are you thinking? Answer me when I talk to you . . . Don’t talk back to me.”
 - d. Mothers teach you **HOW TO BECOME AN ADULT** . . . “If you don’t eat your vegetables, you’ll never grow up.”
 - e. Mothers teach a whole lot about **GENETICS** . . . “You are just like your father.”
 - f. Mothers teach about the **WISDOM OF AGE** . . . “When you get to be my age, you will understand.” . . . Or, I will explain it all when you get older.”

- g. Mothers teach about **ANTICIPATION** . . . “Just wait until your father gets home.”
 - h. Mothers teach about **ANTICIPATED RECEIVING** . . . “You are going to get it when I get home.”
 - i. Mothers teach about **JUSTICE** . . . “One day you will have children of your own, and I hope they turn out just like you . . . Then you will see what it is like . . . I can't wait.”
2. Mothers teach important things.
- a. Mothers teach **LOVE** by loving.
 - b. Mothers teach **FAITH** by practicing it.
 - c. Mothers teach **COMPASSION** by showing it.
 - d. Mothers teach the **BIBLE** by living it.
 - e. Mothers teach **PERSEVERENCE** by not giving up
 - f. Mothers teach **THE WAY TO HEAVEN** by walking that way themselves.
- B. Mothers sacrifice for their children.
- 1. They sacrifice many things
 - a. They sacrifice their **TIME**.
 - b. They sacrifice their **HEALTH**.
 - c. They sacrifice their **RESOURCES**.
 - d. They sacrifice their **INDIVIDUALITY**.
 - e. They sacrifice **WHATEVER IS NECESSARY** for the good of their family members.
 - 2. Good mothers probably know sacrifice better than any other family member.
- C. Mothers are indispensable in God's plan for the home and family/

CONCLUSION:

A. **When God Made Moms** . . . By Erma Bombeck

When the good Lord was creating mothers!!!!!!

He was into His sixth day of "overtime when the angel appeared and said, "You're doing a lot of fiddling around on this one."

AND THE LORD SAID....."Have you read the specs on this order?

She has to be completely washable, but not plastic.

Have 180 moveable parts... all replaceable.

Run on black coffee and leftovers.

Have a lap that disappears when she stands up,

a kiss that can cure anything from a broken leg to a disappointed love affair, and six pairs of hands."

And the angel shook her head slowly and said,

"Six pairs of hands...no way."

"It is not the hands that are causing me problems," said the Lord,

"It's the three pairs of eyes that mothers have to have."

"That's on the standard model?" asked the angel.
 THE LORD NODDED....One pair that sees through closed doors when she asks
 "What are you kids doing in there?" when she already knows.
 Another here in the back of her head that sees what she shouldn't,
 but what she has to know;
 and of course the ones here in front that can look at a child when he goofs up
 and say,
 "I understand and I love you", without so much as uttering a word."
 "Lord", said the angel touching his sleeve gently, "go to bed, tomorrow...."
 "I can't", said the Lord, "I'm so close to creating something so close to myself.
 Already I have one who heals herself when she is sick....
 can feed a family of six on one pound of hamburger,
 and can get a nine year old to stand under a shower."
 The angel circled the model of a mother very slowly.
 "It's too soft", she sighed.
 "But tough!" said the Lord excitedly.
 You cannot imagine what this mother can do or endure."
 "Can it think?"
 "Not only can it think, but it can reason and compromise", said the Creator.
 Finally the angel bent over and ran her finger across the cheek.
 "There's a leak", she pronounced.
 "I told you, you were trying to put too much into this model."
 "It's not a leak", said the Lord. "It's a tear".
 "What's it for?"
 "It's for joy, sadness, disappointment, pain, loneliness and pride."
 "You're a genius", said the angel.
 THE LORD LOOKED SOMBER.....
 "BUT I DIDN'T PUT IT THERE".

By Erma Bombeck

B. Mom's Love

Love is scaring away monsters in the middle of the night,
 then again at 1:00 a.m., 2:00 a.m., 3:00 a.m. ...
 Love is reading the same bedtime story for the 999th time.
 Love is a hug around the knees.
 Love is watching Mr. Rogers instead of All My Children
 Love is a refrigerator covered with creative works of art.
 Love is standing in line for 2 hours for Raffi tickets.
 Love is not grimacing through the dirtiest of diapers.
 Love is trading in the Camero for a station wagon.
 Love is the magic kiss that heals all "owies."

Love is a cuddly kid in a blanket sleeper.
 Love is the first kick, first smile, first laugh, first step,
 first anything.
 Love is your child pointing to a picture of Christie Brinkley and saying
 “mama.”
 Love is your child sound asleep, any child sound asleep.
 Love is a macaroni necklace.
 Love is wearing the macaroni necklace to church with pride.
 Love is a peanut butter kiss, a syrup kiss, a chocolate kiss, any kind of kiss.
 Love is a bouquet of dandelions.
 Love is the smell of a baby’s neck.
 Love is saying “no” at the right times when it’s easier to say “yes.”
 Love is saying “yes” at the right times when it’s easier to say “no.”

C. What is a Mother?

A mother is someone to shelter and guide us,
 To love us, whatever we do,
 With a warm understanding and infinite patience
 And wonderful gentleness, too.
 How often a mother means swift reassurance
 In soothing our small, childish fears,
 How tenderly mothers watch over their children
 And treasure them all through the years!
 The heart of a mother is full of forgiveness
 For any mistake, big or small,
 And generous always in helping her family,
 Whose needs she has placed above all.
 A mother can utter a word of compassion
 And make all our cares fall away,
 She can brighten a home with the sound of her laughter
 And make life delightful and gay.
 A mother possesses incredible wisdom
 And wonderful insight and skill -
 In each human heart is that one special corner
 Which only a mother can fill!

By Katherine Nelson Davis

- D. **Proverbs 31:30** – “Charm is deceptive, and beauty does not last; but a woman who fears the LORD will be greatly praised.”
- E. Listening Friends . . .
1. Every Mother should want their children to enter Heaven!

2. Every Child should want their mother to enter Heaven!
 3. What have you done . . . Or, what are you doing to make that a reality?
 4. God Has a plan for that . . . But you must accept it and obey it
 5. Will you obey the gospel today?
- E. **God's Plan for Man's Salvation**