

Mother's Day 2020

Thank God for Mothers.

At every age we feel something different for our mothers, but by and large they always feel the same about us. It is a lifecycle of love. We start feeling great love for moms and end feeling the same. But in between, we have an array of emotions about our moms.



Today, we salute Mothers... Mothers who are experiencing their very first Mother's Day.

...mothers who are going through difficult times right now. This may mean unemployment, furlough, or the illness of your children.

...the mom who knows the anguish that no mother should ever have to experience in the death of a child.

...moms who have children but cannot be near their children because of distance or circumstance

...single moms, who are the only gaurdian because of death or separation.

...perfectionist moms... they drive their kids crazy because they want to get it right for their kids... but atleast their kids have at least one mom who wants to get it right!

...moms who are our best friends. Many people were asked if they could count even one best friend. Many said no. I think that perhaps they forgot about the one who brought them into this world.

...the helper mom, who right now is homeschooling her child.

...the soccer mom, who loads up the van on countless occasions to go to the next recital, sporting match, school play, PTA meeting, and so much more!

...the observer mom, who knows instinctively when her kids are not okay. She's the first one to sit on the bed and ask her children what's wrong.

...the challenger mom... she's the bad guy when her kids want to do the wrong thing. She's got enough insight, possibly from making her own historical mistakes, that she does what's best for her children, sometimes to her momentary discomfort.

PAUSE

In Proverbs 31, King Lemuel celebrates his mother. It begins in v. 2 and 3 with Lemuel's mother saying,

² Listen, my son! Listen, son of my womb!

Listen, my son, the answer to my prayers!

³ Do not spend your strength^[a] on women,
your vigor on those who ruin kings.

⁸ Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves,
for the rights of all who are destitute.

⁹ Speak up and judge fairly;
defend the rights of the poor and needy.

She sets the stage. She mentors her son for which she could not be prouder. Then beginning in v. 10, he returns the favor as he realizes what he's got in his mother:

¹⁰ A wife of noble character who can find?

She is worth far more than rubies.

¹¹ Her husband has full confidence in her
and lacks nothing of value.

¹² She brings him good, not harm,
all the days of her life.

- ²⁵ She is clothed with strength and dignity;
she can laugh at the days to come.
- ²⁶ She speaks with wisdom,
and faithful instruction is on her tongue.
- ²⁷ She watches over the affairs of her household
and does not eat the bread of idleness.
- ²⁸ Her children arise and call her blessed;
her husband also, and he praises her:
- ²⁹ “Many women do noble things,
but you surpass them all.”
- ³⁰ Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting;
but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.
- ³¹ Honor her for all that her hands have done,
and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.

PAUSE

Who is Lamuel and who is Lamuel’s mother?

Here’s a bit of side note trivia for you today. Scholars believe that King Lamuel is Solomon and his mother was Bathsheba. How about that for a turn of events! This most likely was the same woman that was caught up in David’s affair and her son was the one tasked with rebuilding the temple. It reminds me that even though sin very present in the story of David, Bathsheba, and Solomon, God is also a God of forgiveness and grace. It should remind us today as well that even though mom may not be perfect, with a little grace and love, we can celebrate our mothers for their many praise worthy attributes.

In today’s Scripture, Lamuel defines the virtues we should praise in his mother. In fact, that’s why many call the woman of Proverbs 31 “The Virtuous Woman”.

Among the many virtues included are:

v. 25 where she is clothed with strength and dignity, she is able to laugh at the days to come

We all need someone to show us those virtues right now, don’t we? I believe strength and dignity are the hallmarks of someone whose circumstances may not be ideal, but they are able to continue to be a person of character... v. 25 goes on

to talk about the importance of laughter... even way back then, laughter was important! That reminds me that this is a mom who knows how to be serious when needs be and someone who can laugh even in the most trying of times. As a friend said one time, “Someone who knows how to laugh to keep from crying!”

Conversely, maybe you know those people in your life that are overly serious. We get tired of being around them, don’t we?! Lamuel’s mom embodied strength and dignity, and she was able to laugh at herself and the circumstances of life.

v. 26 says that she speaks with wisdom and faithful instruction is on her tongue

I grew up in a world where church attendance was not optional. When Sundays came, it was understood that church would be a part of our lives. We built everything else around the faith days. We were not the most active on Wednesdays, but that was fine too. As it says later in v. 30, a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Did you know that the faith of a child is most often correlated to the faith of their mother? Not that dads are unimportant, but that moms are extra important!

Thank God for moms who give faithful instruction not only in the affairs of life, but also in bringing their children to a deeper faith journey in Jesus. My mom, along with my grandmother, aunts, and other Cairo relatives modeled what it meant to be people of the Christian faith. The Davis family (my grandad’s two sisters and their family) would walk the two blocks to the church... my Uncle Henry and my Aunt Catherine hand in hand, every Sunday without fail. It was one of the most awesome pictures I’ve still got in my mind to this day of how they loved each other. They sat on the second or third pew, on the right side of the Cairo church. Myrtle Allen, my mom’s mom, would come with my granddaddy in the big old Oldsmobile 88. That car was like a tank. And then, my mom and dad would take us two boys.

Saint Augustine once said, “Witness at all times; if necessary, use words.” That’s the kin of wisdom and faithful instruction the moms in my family gave growing up, and that’s the kind of faithful instruction I believe God wants moms of faith to continue to model in the present day. God wants women who fear the Lord and speak with wisdom and faithful instruction... these women are to be praised!

v. 27 says that Lamuel’s mom watched over the affairs of her household and did not eat the bread of idleness. Why, thousands of years ago, would Solomon mention idleness as it pertained to what was going on in the home? I believe it is for a very simple reason: Idleness is the devil’s workshop.

2 Thessalonians 3:10 reinforces this point when it says, “For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat.”

Ooooh! That’s one of those that is hard to hear. I believe that not being idle is talking about finding balance in all things. Yes, we need to rest so our bodies can recharge. Yes, we need Sabbath so that we can rest and invite the presence of God to speak to us.

But idleness? Idleness defined is a state of inaction, laziness or inactivity. It comes with purposeful intent. Ecclesiastes 10:18 says, “Through sloth the roof sinks in, and through indolence the house leaks.” I like that image of a roof leaking, because if we see a leak, we’re supposed to jump into action as we stop it. Idleness occurs when we know the roof is leaking, and yet through inaction we do nothing about it. It only gets worse. Lamuel is saying that part of his mom’s job was to make sure she created in him a desire to pursue purpose in his life and for him to never give in to feelings of slothfulness, inactivity, or laziness, even though it may be tempting to do sometimes.

v. 28 goes on to say that her family calls her blessed v. 29 says, “But you surpass them all!”

We should celebrate our moms like no one else! They are indeed the glue that hold everything together. The blessing should go in both directions. Here’s what I mean by that. Mom blesses her family, which is pretty straight forward. On the flip side, the family needs to remind mom of how special she is.

I encourage us all to make frequent gratitude for our moms a part of our everyday lives. Granted, there are situations of abandonment and where mom is not present. (PAUSE and REFLECT) In those situations, I invite you to think about who is like a mom to you. Make sure that they know how much you appreciate what they mean in your life. And, let them know that they are the best!

v. 30 reminds us that mom’s Christian faith is above any other quality in all the world. Not only is that a praise of moms who share faith, but it is a reminder to moms of the importance of nurturing the faith in your children and others that are like your children.

PAUSE

PAUSE

As I think about how special the moms are in my own life, one of the top questions that comes to mind is, “Who else can give birth?” It’s always been said of me that based on the way I acted as a small child, if I had come first, there wouldn’t have been a second child. I was in the delivery room for the birth of all three of my kids, Maddux, Paxton, and Lennox. Thank God it was Erin that gave birth to our children and not me. I think God inherently knows that we men would be too weak to handle it!

In v. 31, King Lamuel concludes, “Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.”

Today is a day that we honor our mothers.

We normally honor you with flowers, taking you out to eat, and spending the afternoon off from church activities so that we can spend the day with you.

Today is a bit different. Maybe instead of those things, we can go pick up your favorite fast food at the drive through window so that you do not have to cook.

I do not normally give a shout out, but for all the men out there, Rich Mascaro at Company Supply is open and ready to deliver. Rich, you made the sermon today! Pause the sermon and call now! Just kidding. Please wait til we’re done.

We can thank you for the ways in which you nurture your household and provide for us day in and day out.

We can give you the day off from doing the laundry and load the dishwasher as we serve you.

Your kids might even pamper you with a massage. Kids, maybe today is the day that you do what mom wants you to do the first time. Maybe you can make mommy a card this year instead of buying one in the store.

I read one article that said the biggest compliment of all can be advancing mom’s legacy. That means like Lamuel wrote about his mom, we can make sure that the things that mean so much to us about our moms are the things that we allow to live on in us and through us everyday. Our thoughts. Our actions. Our spoken words.

Biological moms and ladies who are like a mom, it is my honor to say to you today as Solomon surely said to Bathsheba so long ago, “We love you” and “Happy Mother’s Day!”