

Mom's Lasting Impression

Proverbs 31:26-28

Introduction: Mother's Day is the 2nd largest gift giving day of the year and the third largest day for greeting cards. An estimated 31.7 billion dollars will be spent on Mother's Day gifts this year. Obviously, children appreciate their mothers because mothers leave a lasting impression on their children.

I. We should honor our mothers (Eph. 6:2-3).

A. "You may live long on the earth" is not a subliminal threat that mom can take your life as quickly as it was given. ☺

B. Rather, a mother can provide protection; nurturing and rearing that will likely translate into a good and long life for a child raised in a Christian home.

II. What mother would not give her life for her child?

A. A news story was related where two boys had swum too far out into the ocean. Their mother swam out and saved her eight-year-old son. Tired and hurting she returned to save her nine-year-old son only to give her life trying.

B. Honorable mothers will sacrifice their lives for their children (John 15:13).

C. Honorable mothers will even sacrifice their happiness in the best interest of their children (1 Kings 3:16-27). Solomon knew mothers possess the greatest of love for their children.

D. "Years ago, a young mother was making her way across the hills of South Wales, carrying her tiny baby in her arms, when she was overtaken by a blinding blizzard. She never reached her destination and when the blizzard had subsided her body was found by searchers beneath a mound of snow. But they discovered that before her death, she had taken off all her outer clothing and wrapped it about her baby. When they unwrapped the child, to their great surprise and joy, they found he was alive and well. She had mounded her body over his and given her life for her child, proving the depths of her mother love. Years later that child, David Lloyd George, grown to manhood, became prime minister of Great Britain, and, without doubt, one of England's greatest statesman." [James S. Hewett, Illustrations Unlimited, Tyndale, 1972, p. 375.]

III. An excellent example of motherhood (2 Tim. 1:5).

A. A mother's example of faith translated through three generations.

B. Timothy's mother taught her son to believe in Christ (Acts 16:1-2).

C. Timothy was taught early in life and learned those things that bring salvation from his mother (2 Tim. 3:14-15).

D. "Dr. G. Campbell Morgan had 4 sons and they were all preachers. Someone once came into the drawing room when all the family was there. They thought they would see what Howard, one of the sons, was made of so they asked him this question: "Howard, who is the greatest preacher in your family?" Howard had a great admiration for his father and he looked straight across at him and then without a moments hesitation he answered, "Mother." [A. Edersheim, Sketches of Jewish Social Life, Eerdmans, p. 139.]

IV. A poor example of motherhood (Matt. 14:1-12).

A. This mother taught infidelity was all right. How many mothers teach the same today by their example (Heb. 13:4; Rom. 7:3; Matt. 19:9)?

B. This mother taught immodesty (1 Tim. 2:9-10).

C. This mother taught immorality.

1. Lewdness via dancing (Eph. 4:17-20)

2. Revenge even if it meant using immoral means (dancing) to get what is immorally wanted (murder).

V. Honorable mothers teach their children things which are proper (Titus 2:1, 3-8).

A. Mothers know they get one chance at raising their children.

B. Poem (author and title unknown).

I took a piece of plastic clay
And idly fashioned it one day,
And as my fingers pressed it still
It moved and yielded to my will.

I came again when days were past -
The bit of clay was hard at last;
The form I gave it, still it bore,
But I could change that form no more.

I took a piece of living clay
And gently formed it day by day,
And moulded with my power and art
A young child's soft and yielding heart.

I came again when years were gone -
It was a man I looked upon;
He still that early impress bore,
And I could change him nevermore.

Conclusion: The impression a mother leaves on a child is eternal. It is only appropriate that we honor them, especially those who raised us in the Lord.