

Mothers are Important to God

A four-year-old and a six-year-old presented their Mom with a house plant. They had used their own money and she was thrilled. The older of them said with a sad face, "There was a bouquet that we wanted to give you at the flower shop. It was real pretty, but it was too expensive. It had a ribbon on it that said, 'Rest In Peace,' and we thought it would be just perfect since you are always asking for a little peace so that you can rest."

A little boy forgot his lines in a Sunday school presentation. His mother was in the front row to prompt him. She gestured and formed the words silently with her lips, but it did not help. Her son's memory was blank. Finally, she leaned forward and whispered the cue, "I am the light of the world." The child beamed and with great feeling and a loud clear voice said, "My mother is the light of the world."

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.

Exodus 20: 12 "Honour your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you."

Although this command is to honour both our fathers and mothers I will be looking at the importance of mothers in God's sight. Fatherhood is often looked at in teachings such as "The Father heart of God", etc. yet motherhood is often overlooked in our generally male oriented society. As we focus on mothers we will see how God sees mothers.

1) How does God see women?

- Jesus always treated women as equal to men
 - The Samaritan woman in John 4
 - Women travelled with him in public
 - He allowed a "sinful" woman to wet his feet with his tears and wipe them with her hair.
- It wasn't only in the New Testament that we find equality of men and women.
 - Children are not only to honour their fathers but their mothers as well – equal honour is due to both

2) Why should we honour our mothers?

- Because God commands us to
- Because they gave carried us in their wombs, gave birth to us, nursed us, raised us and nurtured us. - She gave us our physical life

3) When should we honour our mothers?

- At all times – in childhood and in adulthood.

4) How do we honour our mothers?

- Listen to her counsel - "Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching" (Proverbs 1: 8)
- Show respect (Leviticus 19: 3)
- Being obedient even when we don't like her instructions – Jesus at the wedding in Cana (John 2: 1 – 11); Luke 2: 51
 - A wise mother, however, will know when not to push her demands onto her children, especially after they are married
 - A married man must leave his father and mother and cling to his wife (Genesis 2: 24)
 - Often men still listen to their mothers before their wives. And often mothers try and dominate the new family. Both are wrong.
 - A man must stand with his wife yet still honour his mother.
 - Mothers can give advice but should not push her ideas and opinions on the new family
- Take care of her when she is widowed and in her old age – Jesus on the cross (John 19: 26 – 27)