

Scriptural Truths

E-Mail Meditations

The Lord Will Come . . . Perhaps Today . . . Behold, I Come Quickly . . . Rev. 22:7

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Mothers

Introduction

It is a very sad situation in the home life when one child is favoured over another or a child favours one parent. The scriptures give a very real illustration of such a happening. Isaac and Rebekah had two sons, and while we are told why Isaac loved Esau we are not told why Rebekah loved Jacob. The scriptures record the division in the family due to the parent's favouritism. It is recorded, "And Isaac loved Esau, because he did eat of *his* venison: but Rebekah loved Jacob" (Gen. 25:28). Later in this paper there will be consideration to the finality of this split in the family, but I am sure many a night and day was spent living in regret afterwards.

Today there are many homes where a mother or father has spent hours weeping bitter tears because of a wrong decision made and the favouritism of one child or parent to the other.

Many years ago I was with one of my children and I said, "You are a great child". The response from the 16-17 year old was, "I am not a child, I am a young lady". I then said, "Love, when you are married and have children of your own, I will still be your old dad and you will still be my child". Our children are always our children, but mum, she is special and no one can ever take her place.

Sixty years ago when we had a family gathering my Aunt Myrtle sang a little song. The words have never left me. She had a lovely voice and sweetly sang a song made famous just a few years previous by Don Cornell.

My mother's pearls were her boys and girls,
No greater treasure had she,
Hands worn with care
I can still see her there,
Kind and content as can be.
When we would say she'd be rich someday
She'd smile at us tenderly,
Her boys and her girls were my mother's pearls
And no greater treasure had she.

It appears to me that there is a very deep connection between a mother and son, perhaps it is because so much responsibility falls on his shoulders. Recently on a television show the question was asked of 100 men, "Who do you go to when your heart is breaking or a dark storm has entered your life?" A vast number responded saying "mum" and

second was, “my wife”. When dad dies there is an emptiness, but when mum is no longer with the family, life is never the same. Many a young man would sing the old song of 1911, “I want a girl just like the girl that married dear old dad”.

Sadly, because of today’s society, many mums have to work to make ends meet. There are mums who are divorced or bereaved that have to work, at times two jobs to try to keep a roof over her children’s head and food on the table. When many of us were brought up in the 40s, 50s, and 60s, dad went to work and mum was at home caring for the home, her children and her husband. It was a very honourable work entrusted to her by God for no one ought to have a greater influence on the children than their mum.

Mothers In History

In reviewing mothers and characteristics it is discovered that motherhood demands self sacrifice and the avoidance of various characteristics. A good mother will never be dismissive, having virtually no time for the child’s achievements or abilities. She will not be a controlling mother, curtailing the developing of the child and doing all for them. It carries the reasoning, “It’s for their own good”. Other very serious flaws are not being available for the child, or the parent seeking to live their own lives aims through their children. There is the mother that treats her child both as an adult and a child. The child is expected to obey instantly what mother says, but then the child is left with adult responsibilities.

I wonder what it would have been like to have Marie Curie (1867—1934) as “mom”. This lady was a Nobel Prize winner but after her husband died in 1906, she raised her two children on her own. One daughter, Irène Joliot-Curie, also won the Noble Prize when she and her husband worked with radioactivity. Of her mother she said, “She instilled into us girls hard work and flexibility saying that one must do some work seriously, must be independent, and not merely amuse oneself in life.” I think of tonight (29th October, 2020) in Washington, Amy Coney Barrett’s inauguration to the Supreme Court of the USA, this lady is a mother to five of her own children and two adopted ones. From all accounts she is exceedingly successful in both worlds.



In contrast there was Zerelda Elizabeth Cole, the mother of James and Jesse James. She had a very bad and tragic upbringing and it resulted in her being a poor example to her boys. Her dad died when she was quite young. The little tot lived with her grandfather who owned a saloon. At sixteen she married, but her husband died and she remarried to a man who was very cruel to her sons. He was thrown from a horse and died. Two other husbands later came into the family. Because of the boy’s wickedness, the government sent detectives to the family farm on January 25th 1875. The detectives threw an explosive device into the home which killed her little eight year old son and blew off one of her arms. In time her two boys were killed and having no one to care for her, she turned her home into a tourist stop and sold old guns to tourists as if it was one her boys had had. She had bought the guns in second hand stores.



Then There are Biblical Mothers

When I speak of good or bad mothers, I am referring to those who, by example, teaching and provision, prepare their children for life in this world and as far as possible for the hereafter.

- a) I am sure Rebekah was a very good mother in caring for her boys Jacob and Esau. However, whither it was her habit or a one time happening, she taught her son to deceive his father because she was bias to her son Jacob (Gen. 25:28). God had determined to bless Jacob (Gen. 25:23) but Rebekah either did not believe God or could not wait for His purposes to be fulfilled. As a result of the deception, she had to send her son whom she loved away, and it is questionable if she ever saw him again. I wonder, did she ever afterward wonder if it was worth while.
- b) By contrast, one can consider Hannah. With a breaking heart she prayed to the Lord and made a vow (1 Sam. 1:11). If God would give her a son she would give him to the Lord. There was no promise of a second son. In time she had a little baby called Samuel and her care and love for her son was very great. When the child was weaned she brought him to the temple to give to the Lord. This was not a dedication, giving to the Lord and bringing the child home again, this was bringing him to the temple and leaving him with Eli the Priest. What sorrow must have filled her heart every step of the way to that temple knowing she would be leaving her little boy there. Then the time came for the parting. I am sure mother and child cried, but a vow to God must be fulfilled. There have been many parents who have prayed for their children to be used of God and then there came a time when the individual left the homeland to be a missionary in some far away land, perhaps never to see mother for many years. Many a mother and son have shed tears at a quay or airport, departing due to God taking seriously the pledge of the mother or parents years before. It is a major lesson, promises made to God must be kept.

- c) What material could be said about Jocabed, the mother of Moses; Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist; Mary, the mother of our Lord; or Timothy's mother and grandmother. Marvelous mothers. What a responsibility motherhood is, but there is no telling what the full results are of a praying God fearing mother.

[A Mother's Instruction To Her Son](#)

The last chapter of Proverbs contains words of a mother to her son. Before coming to chapter thirty-one the writer had spoken of the young man's "mother" thirteen times. Twice over he is warned to, "forsake not the law of thy mother" (Prov. 1:8; 6:20). The wise King wrote, "A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother" (Prov. 10:1).

In reading Proverbs 31:2, one can feel the burden of a mother's heart. This may be one of the last times she and he can have a deep talk together. Three times over she says, "What". "What my son? and what, the son of my womb? and what, the son of my vows?". A thousand questions flow like a fast flowing river, "What lies ahead of him, what can I say to direct him, what sort of a young lady will he marry?" Then she begins to speak.

What guidance there is for all young mothers who have the primary role in the rearing of their children. Would to God that all were mothers who feared the Lord and lived with eternity's value in view.

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