

# It's Not Easy Being A Mother

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First off, I would like to say happy Mother's Day to all our mothers here today.

Today we are here to worship the Lord and honor our mothers.

Not only are we commanded to honor our mothers; it's also the sensible and loving thing to do.

Many of us here today wish we still had our mothers living so we could honor them, remember them and love them.

Our world is full of mothers, but we have only one mother who is special. Should be. Must always be.

There is no one like our mothers. And no one can take the place of our mothers.

Someone sent me questions that were answered by second graders. There's nothing as sweet as children.

**Slide - Question: Why did God make Moms?**

Slide - Answer: Because she's the only one who knows where the Scotch Tape is.

Slide - Another answer was, mostly to clean the house.

There you go. WHAT'S THAT OLD SAYING? "Man works from sun to sun, but woman's work is never done."

Slide - But a more thoughtful answer, to help us out when we were getting born.

**Slide - Question: How did God make mothers?**

Slide - Answer: I like this one. He made my mom just like He made me but he used bigger parts.

**Slide - Question: Why did God give you the mother you have and not someone else's mom?**

Slide - Answer: because we're related;

Slide - because He knows she'd love me more than any other person's mom.

**Slide - Question: What did your mom know about your dad to marry him?**

Slide - Answer: His last name!

**Or how about this one:** A six-year-old boy, separated from his mother in a supermarket, began to call frantically for "Martha! Martha! Martha!"

That was his mother's name and she came running to him quickly. "But, honey," she admonished, "you shouldn't call me 'Martha', I'm 'Mother' to you." "Yes, I know," he answered, "but this store is full of mothers."

**A teacher at school put this question to little James in math class,** "James, suppose your mother made a cherry pie, and there were ten of you at the table: your mother and father and eight children. How much of the pie would you get?"

"A ninth," was his answer.

"No, no, James. Now pay attention. There are ten of you in the home. "Don't you know your fractions?"

"Yes, ma'am," he replied, "I know my fractions, but I know my mother even better, AND SHE'D SAY THAT SHE DIDN'T WANT ANY PIE."

**Someone wrote: You've Turned Into A Mom When:**

- You automatically double-knot everything you tie.

You spend a half hour searching for your sunglasses only to have your teenager say, "Mom, why don't you wear the ones you pushed up on your head?"

You are out for a nice romantic meal with your husband, enjoying some real adult conversation, when suddenly you realize that you've reached over and started to cut up his steak!

From my past a little insight as to things my Mother taught me and maybe you

My mother taught me about RELIGION. "You better pray that will come out of the carpet."

My mother taught me about TIME TRAVEL. "If you don't straighten up, I'm going to knock you into the middle of next week!"

My mother taught me LOGIC. "Because I said so, that's why."

My mother taught me FORESIGHT. "Make sure you wear clean underwear, in case you're in an accident."

My mother taught me IRONY. "Keep crying, and I'll give you something to cry about."

My mother taught me about STAMINA. "You'll sit there until all that spinach is gone."

My mother taught me about WEATHER. "This room of yours looks as if a tornado went through it."

My mother taught me the CIRCLE OF LIFE. "I brought you into this world, and I can take you out."

My mother taught me about ANTICIPATION. "Just wait until we get home"

My mother taught me about RECEIVING. "You are going to get it when you get home!"

My mother taught me HOW TO BECOME AN ADULT. "If you don't eat your vegetables, you'll never grow up."

My mother taught me about my ROOTS. "Shut that door behind you. Do you think you were born in a barn?"

My mother taught me WISDOM. "When you get to be my age, you'll understand."

My mother taught me about JUSTICE. "One day you'll have kids, and I hope they turn out just like you!"

How did this holiday come about?

More importantly, what do our mothers deserve from us, not just on Mother's Day, but every day?

First, a little history.

## **I. HISTORY OF MOTHER'S DAY**

### **A. IT'S ORIGIN...**

**Slide - 1.** In 1907, Anna Jarvis of Philadelphia started the campaign to honor mothers, two years after her own mother died

**Slide - 2.** In 1910, West Virginia became the first state to recognize Mother's Day

3. A year later, nearly every state officially marked the day

**Slide - 4.** In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson officially proclaimed Mother's Day a national holiday for the second Sunday of May

### **B. IT'S COMMERCIALIZATION...**

1. Anna Jarvis' accomplishment soon became a bitter disappointment

2. She became enraged by its commercialization
3. She filed a lawsuit to stop a Mother's Day celebration in 1923
4. She was arrested for disturbing the peace at a war mother's convention where white carnations (her symbol for mothers) were being sold to raise money
5. Her complaint: "I wanted it to be a day of sentiment, not profit!"

A good example of this sort of thing is Christmas: The birth of Jesus is a documented fact in the Bible but the world has created a festival out of it

We have made it the engine that drives the economy of ½ the businesses in the world.

This honors commerce more than Christ actually.

Today, many mothers are happy to receive flowers, cards, gifts, etc.

It's interesting to note that we live in an age where we have established a day where we honor mothers.

We have taken something that is basically a religious concept, put a date on it and commercialized it for the purpose of profit.

Today we will look at why mothers deserve honor not only on Mother's Day but every day for their special role in God's plan for life.

**Slide** - But mothers certainly deserve more than that, especially from a biblical perspective.

### **1. Slide - Mothers Deserve Obedience**

**Slide** - Ephesians 6:1-3 "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise: "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth."

Mother's Day is the same: To honor one's mother is a commandment from God found in the O.T.

**Slide** - Exodus 20:12 "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you."

And as well Jesus mentions in the New Testament this command in Matthew, Mark and Luke; Paul in [Eph. 6:2]).

Society has picked up this theme and turned it into a profitable day of cards and gifts.

I'm not against the idea of a special day for Mom's, absolutely not,

I just want you to realize that it wasn't man's idea, man only figured out a way to make money with God's idea.

### **2. Slide - Mothers Deserve Respect**

Solomon warned of grave consequences for those who cursed their parents

**Slide** - Proverbs 20:20 "Whoever curses his father or his mother, His lamp will be put out in deep darkness."

A Chinese proverb says, "Respect for one's parents is the highest duty of civil life"

Common decency demands that we respect our parents, especially mothers

### **3. Slide - Mothers Deserve Affection**

Elisha demonstrated the affection properly due parents

**Slide** - 1 Kings 19:20 "And he left the oxen and ran after Elijah, and said, "Please let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you."

And why not, when they gave us so much affection as children?

#### **4. Slide - Mothers Deserve Wisdom**

**Slide** - Proverbs 10:1 "The proverbs of Solomon: A wise son makes a glad father, But a foolish son is the grief of his mother"

**Slide** - Proverbs 17:25 "A foolish son is a grief to his father, And bitterness to her who bore him."

Mothers worry enough for their children, we should not give them unnecessary grief

Much wisdom can come from the advice mothers themselves give us.

#### **5. Slide - Mothers Deserve Righteousness**

The righteous bring joy and gladness to their parents

**Slide** - Proverbs 23:24–25 "The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice, And he who begets a wise child will delight in him. Let your father and your mother be glad, And let her who bore you rejoice."

More important than any other achievement, is that of a righteous character

Nothing makes a mother prouder than to have a good (righteous) son or daughter

#### **Did you ever wonder what God says a mother does?**

In Proverbs 31, we see that mothers do all kinds of work.

**Slide** - She sews v. 13, 19, 22 "She seeks wool and flax, And willingly works with her hands."

**Slide** - She shops v. 14 "She brings her food from afar."

**Slide** - She cooks v. 15 "She also rises while it is yet night, And provides food for her household."

**Slide** - She gardens v. 16 "She considers a field and buys it; From her profits she plants a vineyard."

**Slide** - v. 27 "She watches over the ways of her household, And does not eat the bread of idleness."

**Slide** - Did you ever wonder why God gave this command to honor Mothers in the first place?

He said to do so would bring blessings on the children but why was the command needed anyways?

I believe He did it because of His mercy.

He knew that after Adam's sin, it wasn't going to be easy being a mother.

Here's why.

#### **1. Slide - Giving Birth Was Not Going To Be Easy**

In the perfect world of the Garden of Eden giving birth would have, if we can imagine, been natural, joyful and relatively easy.

After the sin of Adam, however, God declared that this process would become very difficult and painful

**Slide** - Genesis 3:16 "To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you."

Woman has been designed by God to conceive and bear children.

Regardless of any other gift or talent a woman may have and develop,  
the ability to bear children is primary for her as an individual  
her biological and psychological make-up are directly tied to this fact regardless of the career she may choose.  
Whatever ways science can develop to engineer human conception and development –  
a woman conceiving and giving birth to a child is and will always be a far superior method for human reproduction and social order.

Now for various reasons it does not work out that way of course

I suspect that all women who desire to have children would much prefer having their own children.

This basic role as life-giver has been, from the beginning, a painful process.

Carrying children, bringing them into this world, nursing them to the point of independence is filled with pain and discomfort.

Thousands of years and thousands of medical advances later, childbearing remains painful and many times dangerous.

If for no other reason the commandment to honor one's mother was established to acknowledge her pain in giving us life.

Now that's just one reason and it could be the only reason and it would justify honoring our mothers.

It's not easy being a mom because being a mother meant being a wife and...

## **2. Slide - Being a Wife Would Mean Submission To a Man**

The sin of Adam not only separated man from God but also destroyed the balance in the relationship that existed between man and woman.

Before the Fall, God appointed that both the man and the woman rule in cooperation over the creation.

Their natures were different but their positions were the same.

However, after their sin, the weakness of their flesh would cause them to use their different gifts in sinful ways:

Man would use his natural strength to dominate, to obtain with force what was once granted freely.

Woman would use her natural complexity to usurp the position once equally granted to her.

For this reason, God assigned the role of submission to the woman and the role of struggle to the man –

**Slide -** Genesis 3:16b-19 “Your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you.” Then to Adam He said, “Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat of it’:

**Slide -** “Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life.

**Slide -** Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field.

**Slide -** In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return.”

It would never be easy being a mother because this role would be tied to the difficult task of submitting one's will to another imperfect human being in order to demonstrate faith in God,

in order to establish peace in the home and in order to guarantee social order.

We need to honor mothers because they've given their bodies up in order to produce ours and humbled their wills in order to produce what we call family.

### **3. Slide - Mothers Have to Watch Their Children Suffer and Sometimes Die**

It's bad enough that there is great pain necessary to bring a child into the world but mothers also have to experience the pain that their children feel in their lives as well.

One thing I've learned there is no medicine or counseling technique that can neutralize that thing inside a mother that enables her to feel what her child feels (sometimes long before and after the child feels it).

From the beginning mothers have had to suffer because of what their children did and

From the beginning mothers have had to suffer because of what was done to their children.

#### **For example:**

Eve agonized over the murder of one of her sons, Abel, by the other one of her sons, Cain.

Sarah suffered a lifetime because she watched another woman bear the child she wanted and died without seeing a wife for the son, Isaac, she finally had.

Hagar wept over the danger of death that threatened her only son Ishmael as they were banished from Abraham's household.

Leah witnessed the rape of her daughter, Dinah, by Shechem.

Moses' mother had to abandon her child to save his life.

Samuel's mother gave him up because of an oath.

Bathsheba watched her child die because of her sin.

Job's wife experienced the death of all of her children at once.

And Mary observed her eldest son, Jesus humiliated, tortured and publicly executed by the very people He had loved, helped and healed.

There is no greater pain imaginable than for the one who gave you life,

to watch you waste the life she gave you or see someone else take that life from you.

Mothers deserve honor because no one experiences the pain and hurts that life brings longer or more deeply than those who bring us into this world

and who sometimes experience the heartbreak of having to see us leave as well during their own lifetimes. –

Children, honor your mother indeed for this is right in the Lord because:

Giving birth is difficult

Being a wife is humbling

Seeing children suffer is always painful.

Some Mother's this will not be a happy day. Ron and Carol Adrick.

God is so wise in that He created life in such a way that a woman was originally taken out a man and from then on all men were taken out of woman.

This beautiful cycle repeats itself in so many ways in our lives.

The experience of caring for our children and then having them honor and care for us in old age is good and right in God's sight.

Slide - 1 Timothy 5:3 - "Honor widows who are really widows. But if any widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show piety at home and to repay their parents; for this is good and acceptable before God."

Notice God says children and grandchildren, two generations down.

Today we've tried to demonstrate why mothers deserve honor not only on this day but every day for their special role in God's plan for life.

I would like to close our service by offering an invitation to those who see a need in their lives to be right with God.

If you've not confessed Jesus and been baptized, please come now and receive forgiveness in the waters of baptism.

If you need to be restored because of sin or unfaithfulness come now for prayer.

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