

A Mother's Opportunity

Proverbs 31:10-31

Introduction:

- 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."
- I am glad we have a holiday where we take time to honor the moms in our lives. But, as Christians we are called to honor our moms and dads all the time 24/7 365!
- I still appreciate this holiday for many reasons. For one, Americans are sort of forced to honor and reflect upon family values, and the importance of the family unit
- This morning I'll mainly be addressing those ladies who have the privilege to be married with children. But please note: If you don't fall in those categories- our identity is hidden in Jesus Christ! Paul said I am what I am by the grace of God. So things like marriage, motherhood, fatherhood are not the main things which define us or unite us- it should be Christ! My emphasis today is to simply challenge those who are mothers to take their role seriously and rely upon God to enable them!
- Any woman who fears the Lord is to be praised!
- This description of the virtuous woman is designed to show what wives women should aspire to be and what wives the men should choose. It consists of twenty-two verses, each beginning with a letter of the Hebrew alphabet in order, as some of the Psalms
- A virtuous woman is a woman who is resolute and determined, who, having embraced godly principles, is firm and steady in them!
- V. 30- Beauty has deceived many a man who has made his choice of a wife by it. There may be an impure deformed soul lodged in a comely and beautiful body. It is a fading thing at the best, and therefore vain and deceitful

- V. 10 Who can find her? This means that good women are very scarce, so if you have one- she is a treasure to be valued and honored! Her price is far above rubies!

I. A Mother's High Calling- Prov. 31:10

- a. What I want to honor in this message is the holy calling on a woman's life to weave a beautiful fabric/tapestry of family life which is committed to her husband, committed to her children and their training, and committed to Christ and his glory. In other words, I want to honor the biblical calling that makes marriage, motherhood, and home-management, the central, core, dominant commitments of a woman's life. That's very clear when we study the word of God!
 - i. The feminists don't like this. Our culture is drifting further and further away from this. But God's word still stands true!
 - ii. Some ask, "Do you think a woman's main responsibility and commitment should be her home?" It's not just what I think, it's what God said! Look at how many times "household" is mentioned in our text (v. 15, 21, 27). This woman does a lot- but it is all focused on helping her home.
 - iii. The truth is that, years ago, before this generation of mothers was even born, our society decided where children rank in the list of important things. When abortion was legalized, we wrote it into law.
 - iv. Question: Is motherhood a rock-bottom job for those who can't do more, or those who are satisfied with less? Feminists: Oh, you're "just" a mom?
 - v. Molding the minds of the next generation, raising the next leaders of our nation, the next medical professionals, builders and designers, the next great evangelist, the next wave of missionaries, pastors and church planters! This is not a lowly task at all! This is a wonderful, high calling from God!
 - vi. Now, many of our mothers here find it needful to work outside of the home- just make sure you don't neglect the higher calling of God!

- vii. We are getting away from this and that's why I think America is in big trouble with God.
- b. God's design- when we think of this calling and role, we must consider how did God intend for this role to be fulfilled? Am I fulfilling it the way God envisioned?
 - i. Consider the centrality of the family unit in God's design, and the mother's role in that
 - ii. Motherhood is implied in God's mandate to Adam and Eve to subdue the earth and have dominion over it. He said be fruitful and multiply.
 - iii. **The obligation of God's people is not merely to fill the earth with babies, but to multiply faithful image bearers through procreation and discipleship—to make disciples of the nations.**
 - iv. After the curse, there was a birth- and that birth carried with it hope for redemption!
 - v. Eventually, Christ himself would come, "born of woman." Motherhood is a great vehicle for discipleship!
 - vi. Have you come to Christ for your salvation?
- c. What is the highest calling on your life? Discipleship, family
 - i. Motherhood is not a hobby- illustr sports, collect items, etc.
 - ii. It is not something to do if you can squeeze the time in. It is what God gave you time for.
 - iii. Be committed to your calling!
- d. Matthew Henry: It is the duty of mothers, as well as fathers, to teach their children what is good, that they may do it, and what is evil, that they may avoid it; when they are young and tender they are most under the mother's eye, and she has then an opportunity of moulding and fashioning their minds well, which she ought not to let slip.
- e. If you are a mom, I want you to consider that God chose you for your children. He knew what type of guidance they would need to become men and women

who would one day be used by Him... and He knew the mom they would need to make that happen. You are the woman God made to influence their hearts!

- II. A Mother's Responsibility- Titus 2:3-5, Prov 31:27,
 - a. When Christians don't live in a Biblical, godly manner it means that the word of God may be blasphemed among the ungodly.
 - b. What should be the greatest work a mom does: Instilling biblical principles in her kids:
 - i. Fear of God (know God)- v. 30
 - ii. Inward beauty rather than outward
 - iii. Responsibility, steadfast and committed, kind, strong and honorable, trustworthy, etc.
 - iv. She excels in all her labor- but the purpose is the benefit of her household- v. 27
 - c. This responsibility is being usurped- Big Brother is becoming Big Momma- seeking to ever increase its reach on our children
 - d. Before Government, even before the church, there was the family. Parents hold the primary responsibility of teaching and raising their kids.
 - e. Nowadays we outsource much of that- many send their kids to the public school for their education
 - f. Folks, the reality there is that world has many of our kids for 7 hours a day 5 days a week, what is mom and dad doing to counteract that?
 - i. Parental involvement- Inspect, Correct, Reject! Sex-ed (Christian foundation and worldview?), worldly activities like school dances/proms- Opt-out! We can't just send them off blindly and hope for the best!
 - ii. Don't allow brainwashing!- California has become the first state in the union to mandate the use of LGBT-inclusive textbooks in elementary schools and have given parents no way to opt out. The choice has been made for them. It's the law. That law requires a "fair, accurate, inclusive,

and respectful” treatment of homosexual, bisexual, transgender, and lesbian Americans despite the historical insignificance.

- g. Parents are losing their God-given authority over their kids
 - h. “Best interests of the child...” Alfie Evans/Charlie Gard, and Ohio Judge orders transgender teen placed in grandparents' custody after parents refuse hormone treatments!
 - i. Parenthood God-given, not state-given
 - j. V. 27- By God’s grace
 - k. Grandma, on a winter's day, milked the cows and fed them hay, hitched the mule, drove kids to school...did a washing, mopped the floors, washed the windows and did some chores...Cooked a dish of home-dried fruit, pressed her husband's Sunday suit...swept the parlor, made the bed, baked a dozen loaves of bread...split some firewood and lugged it in, enough to fill the kitchen bin...Cleaned the lamps and put in oil, stewed some apples before they spoiled...churned the butter, baked a cake, then exclaimed, "For goodness sake!" when the calves ran from the pen, and chased them all back in again...Gathered eggs and locked the stable, back to the house and set the table...cooked a supper that was delicious, then washed and dried all dirty dishes...fed the cat and sprinkled clothes, mended a basketful of hose...then opened the organ and began to play: "When You Come to the End of a Perfect Day..."
- III. A mother’s blessing- Proverbs 31:28
- a. They are themselves a commendation to her, and they are ready to give great commendations of her; they pray for her, and bless God that they had such a good mother. It is a debt which they owe her, a part of that honour which the fifth commandment requires to be paid to father and mother
 - b. Proverbs 30:11- There is a generation that curseth their father, and doth not bless their mother.
 - c. See Hebrews 6:10- Your labor is not in vain in the Lord

Conclusion:

- I said earlier that you were chosen for your children. God also chose your children for you- they will teach you to be sacrificial, have child-like faith, and how to cry out and depend upon God.
- Thank the Lord for godly moms!
- Be grateful for important lessons your mother taught you. Determine to follow the higher call of God upon your life
- When Robert Ingersoll, the notorious skeptic, was in his heyday, two college students went to hear him lecture. As they walked down the street after the lecture, one said to the other, "Well, I guess he knocked the props out from under Christianity, didn't he?" The other said, "No, I don't think he did. Ingersoll did not explain my mother's life, and until he can explain my mother's life I will stand by my mother's God."