

5/8/11

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Ephesians 4:1-4

Lay Minister: Christ is Risen!

People: He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Lay Minister: 1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

People: 2 "Honor your father and mother"-- which is the first commandment with a promise--3 "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth."

Lay Minister: 4 Fathers, do not exasperate your children;

People: instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

Lay Minister: We begin our worship on Mother's Day, thankful for our heavenly Father, and our earthly mothers.

People: We begin in the name of God the Father, and in the name of God the Son, and in the name of God the Holy Spirit. Amen.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY Almighty God, our heavenly Father, you set the solitary in families. We commend to your care all the homes where your people live. Fill them with faith, virtue, knowledge, moderation, patience, and godliness. Knit together in enduring affection those who have become one in marriage. Let children and parents have full respect for one another; and light the fire of love in your family the church, that we may show love for one another as you have loved us. Finally, Lord, as we give you thanks for your Son, we thank you today also for our mothers. We pray through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Proverbs 31 (*King Lemuel's Mother teaches Him a valuable lesson.*)

1 The sayings of King Lemuel-- an oracle his mother taught him: 2 "O my son, O son of my womb, O son of my vows, 3 do not spend your strength on women, your vigor on those who ruin kings. 4 "It is not for kings, O Lemuel-- not for kings to drink wine, not for rulers to crave beer, 5 lest they drink and forget what the law decrees, and deprive all the oppressed of their rights. 6 Give beer to those who are perishing, wine to those who are in anguish; 7 let them drink and forget their poverty and remember their misery no more. 8 "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. 9 Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy."

10 A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies. 11 Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value. 12 She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life. 13 She selects wool and flax and works with eager hands. 14 She is like the merchant ships, bringing her food from afar. 15 She gets up while it is still dark; she provides food for her family and portions for her servant girls. 16 She considers a field and buys it; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard. 17 She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks. 18 She sees that her trading is profitable, and her lamp does not go out at night. 19 In her hand she holds the distaff and grasps the spindle with her fingers. 20 She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy. 21 When it snows, she has no fear for her household; for all of them are clothed in scarlet. 22 She makes coverings for her bed; she is clothed in fine linen and purple. 23 Her husband is respected at the city gate, where he takes his seat among the elders of the land. 24 She makes linen garments and sells them, and supplies the merchants with sashes. 25 She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come. 26 She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue.

27 She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. 28 Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: 29 "Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all."

30 Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. 31 Give her the reward she has earned, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.

THE NEW TESTAMENT LESSON 1 Peter 1:17-25 (*Peter outlines the Good News of salvation.*)

17 Since you call on a Father who judges each man's work impartially, live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear. 18 For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. 20 He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. 21 Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God. 22 Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart. 23 For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. 24 For, "All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, 25 but the word of the Lord stands forever." And this is the word that was preached to you.

THE SERMON "Mothers' Teach"

Proverbs 31

INTRO - G. Campbell Morgan, a famous pastor in England in the first half of the 20th century also had 4 sons who were all preachers. When the whole family was together a visitor once one of the sons a 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."

For many the greatest teacher of the faith can be mother because, in many cases, a mother does not just teach with words, but also with actions that share faith and love.

- I. With that in mind I ask you to consider today's Bible reading from Proverbs 31.
 - A. This is a well known writing about the blessings of a faithful wife. It is often used on Mothers Day. But, some might ask note, "It is MOTHERS' Day, isn't it. Why on mothers day read about a faithful WIFE?"
 1. But, even though this Proverb gets most attention because of the long teaching about a wife, look with me at verse 1. **1 The sayings of King Lemuel-- an oracle his mother taught him:**
 2. These saying were taught to King Lemuel by his mom.
 3. You see, one of the main jobs that God has given to Mothers is that mothers are to teach.
 - B. In Lemuel's case his mom was teaching him some important lessons of life.
 1. She taught her son about seeking a wife who would be a blessing.
 2. But she taught more than just the practical lessons of a blessed wife.
 3. Verse 30 says, **30 Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.** Lemuel's mom taught Lemuel that the most important character trait of a good wife, in fact the most important possession in life is faith, or fearing the Lord.
 - C. Moms are still called to teach.
 1. The teach manners and right an wrong. They teach how to dress and how to eat. A mother may teach a daughter to sew, or a son to listen to a Father or Father figure.
 2. But the most important thing a mother still can teach is faith. Do you see what Ephesians 6 says about Fathers and parents, therefore also moms.
 - a. **4 Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.**
 - b. Teaching about the Lord and training to live as a child of God is the most important thing any parent can do. In fact, it is the main job of a parent.
 - c. When we teach about God's righteousness and power, we teach about our sin, God's forgiveness, and our call to live for God.
 3. All of this is part of the job of mothers we see in Proverbs 31. Mothers teach, and teach primarily about faith.
- II. Even though Lemuel's mom described a seemingly perfect wife, a super woman we might say, please don't think being a mom can be described as an easy task.
 - A. The story is told of a little girl is sitting and watching her mother do the dishes at the kitchen sink. She suddenly notices that her mother has several strands of white hair sticking out in contrast on her brunette head. "Why are some of your hairs white, Mom?" she asks. Her mother replies, "Well, every time you do something wrong and make me cry or unhappy, one of my hairs turns white." The little girl thinks about this awhile, then asks, "So how come ALL of Grandma's hairs are white?" Let's just say there were some truth to this story about gray hair.

Who was at fault, the little girl who gave her mother a few gray hairs, or the mother, who had given her mom even more gray hair.

1. This humorous story tells us that being a mother is difficult because children do not always obey, as the 4th commandment or Ephesians 6 calls us to do.

That's tough on parents. I know what I put my parents through.

2. But, even more than adults giving gray hairs to their moms, it is just tough to be a mom, or a parent. When should I teach forgiveness with mercy, and when should I teach discipline with consequences. What do I do when my child strays. What if I don't have the answers. What if my own life doesn't always set the example I want my children to follow?

3. My wife has many times asked me the question, "What did I do to have YOUR children?" There are no perfect parents and no perfect children

B. Do you see even more how important not just teaching, and teaching the Lord, but knowing the Lord is? Being a good mother or parent is really a bigger job than anyone can handle on their own, in part because of our own failings.

1. God not only gives us guidance, and shows us our mistakes and faults and sins.

2. God gives mercy, and moves us by His love and forgiveness to want to serve Him.

III. The other night about 25 - 30 St. John members went to a play. In some ways it was a bawdy look at the troubles men have with aging that included some laughs and some tears. But the mother figure in this play said something that actually fits today's sermon. She said, "There are two things you need to know. There is a God, and your mother loves you." Faith and love, that is the call of God to Mothers and parents.

A. For mothers who taught faith and love, God calls for children who honor and obey.

Ephesians 6 reminds us of the 4th commandment, **1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 "Honor your father and mother"**

1. Honor first means to love, and to respect.

2. A day to celebrate the gift of moms can be a way to honor

B. So thanking our moms is good. Thanking God is good.

C. But, we can't ever repay our moms for all they have done to teach and love. The best thing we can do is follow their example.

1. We can teach our children, our grand children, our nephews and nieces, the children of our friends.

2. We can teach them about life. This means we have to admit to failings and sin.

3. We teach about God, which means we teach them about God's sacrificial love and the forgiveness he offers us in Jesus.

4. We can teach them about love, and in many ways, one of the best examples, if not THE best example we have is that of our mothers.

CONCLUSION Today did not start so well. First I had a couple of calls about people who are ill, or worse off. But, as I was getting ready for church, walking in the garage, I tore the pants of my suit, my best suit, on a nail. The word that came out of my mouth was not a word of faith or love. The flowers on the altar were put there by Kathy in memory of her mom and mine. I know what my mom would have said, "Joni, come here and let me wash out your mouth with soap." And she would have done it. Then, as I hung my head, she would have hugged me. Faith and love.

Mom's teach faith and love. That is God's plan for moms today too.

THANKS

Mary Olson
June Bryant

GRIEF

ILL

- Bryce Jacobson
- Joseph Maddry
- Sharon Kern
- **LeRoy Jenson**
- Anna Mae Shackelford
- Others . . . on our hearts and minds

FAMILIES

College kids traveling

COUNTRY

Serving in Harm's Way
Garon Bishop
Tyler Svedin
Cole Jacobson
Andrea Falkenburg

CHURCH

Faith