

The Life of Calvary

Which Mom Are You? - 1 Kings 3:16-28

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Tim Arthur, Editor

by John W. Davis

Our passage takes us into the throne room of King Solomon where we find two harlot mothers standing before him with a problem for him to judge. The passage reveals to us these women lived in the same home and each gave birth to a son within three days of each other.

On one evening as one of the mothers awoke, she found her son dead. The Bible says she "overlaid it" which most believe that she fell asleep and rolled over on her child and it suffocated. When she saw what had happened she devised a plan to switch the babies claiming the other baby to be her own.

As the second mom awoke, she found the baby dead, but something was not right. This was not her son. It has been said that moms have an instinct as to their children. As the accusation came from the second mother to the first, it was not long that they would be before the king in this

matter.

As Solomon heard this case, he made a strange request of the guards. He commanded the baby to be cut in half and each half would be given away to each mother. Of course the real mother (second mother) cried out to spare the child and Solomon knew the child was hers.

As we look at these two mothers, we find some rather striking differences between them and the results of those differences. So as you read, which mother are you? Read before you answer this question.

1. Care

As I begin this point, I want you to know by no means do I think the first mother killed her baby on purpose. I have heard pastors preach that, but I do not agree. She was surprised at midnight to find her son dead.

Personally, I do believe that it was because of the first mother's carelessness that the baby died. As you read the passage you

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THIS MONTH'S VERSE:
"Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates."
—Proverbs 31:30-31



MAY

Mothers

Author unknown

The young mother set her foot on the path of life. "Is this the long way?" she asked.

And the guide said: "Yes, and the way is hard. And you will be old before you reach the end of it. But the end will be better than the beginning."

But the young mother was happy and she would not believe that anything could be better than these years. So she played with her children, and gathered flowers for them along the way, and bathed them in the clear streams; and the sun shone on them, and the young Mother cried, "Nothing will ever be lovelier than this."

Then the night came, and the storm, and the path was dark, and the children shook with fear and cold, and the mother drew them close and covered them with her mantle, and the children said, "Mother, we are not afraid, for you are near, and no harm can come."

And the morning came, and there was

a hill ahead, and the children climbed and grew weary, and the mother was weary. But at all times she said to the children, "A little patience and we are there." So the children climbed and when they reached the top, they said, "Mother, we would not have done it without you." And the mother, when she lay down at night looked up at the stars and said, "This is a better day than the last, for my children have learned fortitude in the face of hardness. Yesterday I gave them courage. Today, I have given them strength."

And with the next day came strange clouds which darkened the earth, clouds of war and hate and evil, and the children groped and stumbled, and the mother said: "Look up. Lift your eyes to the light." And the children looked and saw above the clouds an everlasting glory, and it guided them beyond the darkness. And that night the Mother said, "This is the best day of all,

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MAYTIME

"Tis Maytime's bright season
With blossoms and bloom,
When winter has ended
It's cold and its gloom.
The fields are responsive
This beautiful spring
To showers and to sunshine,
Which clothe them with green.
The birds hold spring concerts
A down in the dell; —
Casting o'er their audience
A sweet magic spell!
The noise of the tractor
Resounds from the field,
And over-turned soddings
Bring fowls a good yield.
Along the green pastures
The calves run and play;
The lambs, white and fleecy,
Go skipping so gay;
While hens with their biddies,
Cluck proudly all day; —
By all these true tokens
You know it is MAY!
—E. Wesley Woodruff

Mothers

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for I have shown my children God."

And the days went on, and the weeks and the months and the years, and the mother grew old and she was little and bent. But her children were tall and strong, and walked with courage. And when the way was rough, they lifted her, for she was as light as a feather; and at last they came to a hill, and beyond they could see a shining road and golden gates flung wide. And mother said: "I have reached the end of my journey. And now I know the end is better than the beginning, for my children can walk alone, and their children after them."

And the children said, "You will always walk with us, Mother, even when you have gone through the gates." And they stood and watched her as she went on alone, and the gates closed after her. And they said: "We cannot see her, but she is with us still. A Mother like ours is more than a memory. She is a living presence."

Your Mother is always with you. She's the whisper of the leaves as you walk down the street, she's the smell of bleach in your freshly laundered socks; she's the cool hand on your brow when you're not well. Your Mother lives inside your laughter. And she's crystallized in every tear drop. She's the place you came from, your first home; and she's the map you follow with every step you take. She's your first love and your first heartbreak, and nothing on earth can separate you. Not time, not space...not even death! †

A Mother's Prayer

By Phyllis Didriksen

I do not ask for riches for my children,
Nor even recognition for their skill;
I only ask that Thou wilt give them
A heart completely yielded to Thy will.
I do not ask for wisdom for my children
Beyond discernment of Thy grace;
I only ask that Thou wilt use them
In Thine own appointed place.

I do not ask for favors for my children
To seat them on Thy left hand or Thy right;
But may they join the throng in heaven
That sings before Thy throne so bright.
I do not seek perfection in my children,
For then my own faults I would hide;
I only ask that we might walk together
And serve our Savior side by side. †

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see that it says "she overlaid it". It was because of her carelessness that it happened.

My family and I went to the zoo the other day and we came upon the Rhino exhibit, but as we looked something rather important was missing. It was the rhino. As I read about this first mother, I find something remarkably missing. With most mothers it is something they would have at the moment of finding their child dead. It is grief. No where do we see the mourning or grief of the first mother after finding her son dead. In fact, she was satisfied with someone else's son and even satisfied to have that son cut in half.

I truly wonder if she cared about her son. Someone may say to me "how can you say that about a mother?" My answer is "because I have witnessed it personally in other mothers." Allow me to share with you two examples. In my previous ministry, I led an afterschool ministry in which we would pick up kids from public schools and bring them to the church for the program. At the end of the day, the parents would come and pick up their child(ren). On one occasion a mom came and picked up her son. She had had a bad day and was frustrated to have to come by the church to pick him up. As the boy exited the church with his mom, I noticed that a folder had fallen out of his backpack and so I picked it up and followed them to the car. As I followed I could hear the conversation between the mother and the son. The boy began telling his mom about the great time he had at the program and how that he was the winner of one of the games we played. Her reply "I hate you and I wish you were never born. You have been nothing but a problem since you were born."

I was taken aback by those words and I quickly looked at the eyes and demeanor of that boy. It went from excitement to worthlessness in just seconds. I interrupted her to give the boy his folder and he seemed to wait for the next round of ammunition from his mother for dropping his folder. As he got into the car, I praised him for being the winner of the game and for his great behavior, but I wondered as they drove off, how much more will he hear tonight, this week, or the rest of his life. After all of the children were gone, I went back to my office and wept and prayed for that boy.

The second took place in Chattanooga, Tennessee, when I was in col-

lege. I helped in a bus ministry in which our route went into the downtown region. Each Saturday we would go and visit the people on our route.

On one stop as we approached the house, we found something remarkable. The boys, one aged 7 and the other 5, were drunk. They were jumping off of a dangerously high porch. I was greatly worried about the safety of these boys, but mom and dad were on the porch and amazingly as we walked up the porch, two police officers walked out of the house and nothing was said or done. The dad bragged that the boys could drink a pint straight down.

I made our visit a quick one, but of course, one of the boys hurt himself and was bleeding pretty bad. He climbed slowly on the porch and his mom said, "Don't come to me with your crying. You did it so take of it yourself." The police officers then went and helped the boy, but I wondered how often does this happen. Mother, are you a caring mother? I know you may take good care of your children concerning their meals, clothes, safety and shelter, but what about the care of their souls. Do you take your child to church? Do you teach them the Bible? Do you pray with your child? Are your children saved?

Most mothers are not intentionally being careless about their child's soul, but regardless of intention are you caring for their souls? Just as the first mother found, her carelessness led to a dead son. When a mother is careless about their child's soul, they will find their child spiritually dead and eventually in hell because they were careless about the Bible and the gospel. Dear mother, care for the soul of your child and tell them about Jesus so they may find salvation and live eternally.

2. Truth

Another comparison comes in the matter of the truth. In this case, we find that both mothers knew the truth, but the first mother was lying. Of course, it would be through the wisdom of Solomon that the truth would be revealed. The first mother was willing to lie even if it meant the death of the second mother's son as well. She stood before Solomon and lied about the baby. He then requested the baby to be cut in half and her response was satisfaction. How could anyone lie and be satisfied when it meant the death of a baby? Well, we see it today concerning abortion. "Let's not call it murder, let's call it choice" and a baby dies.

Mother, what do you do with the truth of the gospel of Jesus? Once again,

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Discipline?

By Craig Stevens

The biggest problem of parents today is that they are afraid of their children! That's right! They are afraid that if they tell their children "No" or spank or discipline them in some way, their children won't love them.

Little Johnny says, "I want to go outside and play."

Mommy replies, "No, son, it is too cool outside."

Little Johnny says, "I want to go outside and play!" a little bit louder and a little bit worse.

Mommy responds with "No, son!"

Little Johnny says, "I want to go outside and play!!!" again a little bit louder and a little bit worse.

Mommy responds with "No, son! It's too cool outside!" a little bit firmer and a little bit louder.

Little Johnny gets that tear in his eye and screams, "I want to go outside and play!"

Mommy then tries to explain that it is in Johnny's best interest to remain indoors and suggests he play with his cars or watch T.V.

Little Johnny throws a fit and cries the more, "I want to go outside and play!" It is usually at this point that Mommy decides it is easier to let him go outside and play rather than put up with his crying and screaming. After all, we don't want to emotionally hurt our children and make them cry, do we?

Solomon, the wisest man that ever lived, had this to say concerning the instruction of children: *"He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes: Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying. Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him. Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die. Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell. The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame. Correct the son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul. Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."* (Proverbs 13:24; 19:18; 22:15; 23:13,14; 29:15,17; 22:6.)

I've heard more than one child or teenager say, "I don't think my parents love me; they let me do anything I want and never tell me no. I just don't think they care about me!" One teenage girl wanted to come over and stay all night with my teenage daughter. Knowing that she did pretty much anything she wanted

to do, I told her that if she came to my house she'd have to do what I told her to do and go to bed and go to sleep when I said. She said, "Sure! I love it!"



She so desired discipline in her life that she would seek it from other sources since her parents did not give it to her.

One of the most tender and loving moments comes after a child has been disciplined. There is nothing more touching than after spanking a child, to put your arms around each other, telling them you love them, and having them tell you that they are sorry for what they did and that they love you, too.

Does disciplining a child make them hate you? NO! If anything, it makes them love you more. †



Portrait of a Mother

Author unknown

A mother can be almost any size or age, but she won't admit to anything over thirty. She has soft hands and smells good. A mother likes new dresses, music, a clean house, her children's kisses, an automatic washer, and Daddy.

A mother doesn't like having her children sick, muddy feet, temper tantrums, loud noise, or bad report cards. She can read a thermometer (much to the amazement of Daddy) and like magic, can kiss a hurt away. She can also bake good cakes and pies, but likes to see her children eat vegetables.

A mother can stuff a fat baby into a snowsuit in seconds and can kiss little faces and make them smile. She is underpaid, has long hours, and gets very little rest. She worries too much about

her children. And no matter how old they are, she still likes to think of them as her little babies.

A mother is the guardian angel of the family, the queen, the tender hand of love. She is the best friend anyone ever has.

A mother is love. †



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do you share the truth of God's Word and about what Jesus did for you and your child? Or do you not talk about it at all to the detriment of your child's soul?

Mom's (and Dad's) are excusing the Bible away in their homes. They hear sermons and state "That is his opinion" or "That was a good sermon for someone else" or "I think it was meant for another time period in the past". One by one the excuses (lies) come and the Bible sits on the shelf and the child grows without knowing God.

Dear Mom, give the truth!!! Your kids need the truth!!!

3. Pleading

As we study our passage, we find the second mother pleading for the life of her child after the order was given to kill her son. She would gladly give the son in order for him to live.

Mom, do you go before God and plead for your child(ren)? Do you realize the importance of prayer before God for your children? If you have a child in need of Jesus Christ, you should be pleading for God to save your child's soul. His/her life depends on it!

So as we look at these two mothers, which one looks like you? One who is careless with the soul of your child; one who knows the truth, but denies it or refuses to give it; and one who does not plead before the throne for your child? Or are you a mother who cares deeply for the soul of your child and gives the truth of the gospel to your child and pleads daily for your child's soul?

Mom, if you have a lost son or daughter, your child desperately needs you to be like the second mother! †

Family Building Ideas

by Pastor Jesse Waggoner

With the pace of family life today, quality time together has to be planned, it seldom just happens. This has led our family to collect a number of ideas designed for building a strong family with life centered around our Lord. Here is a quick rundown of several favorite ideas. These are just ideas, so feel free to change and adapt to your specific needs. But read over the list, pick your favorites and give them a try. Above all, have fun!

1. Family Time Capsule

The Old Testament is filled with examples of memorials such as the stones which were a memorial to the crossing of the Jordan River in Joshua 4:7. The yearly feasts were likewise memorials to the Lord's place in their lives. We should also build some yearly observances. Likewise we must remember the Lord's goodness. As part of our New Year's Day observance, we as a family pick goals for personal development. These are written and placed in a sealed envelope. This envelope is put away until next January first. These goals become a year long focus of prayer and effort. The following New Year's Day, this is opened with a time of evaluation, thanksgiving and a making of a new time capsule. These become times of remembrance of God's faithfulness in the year past and an expression of faith for the year ahead.

2. Take Home Paper resource

We must be good stewards of all that the Lord gives us. 1 Corinthians 4:4 indicates that we as good stewards are to be faithful. One however wonders how much of the resources of the church are unused or wasted. One idea is to recycle those Sunday School take home papers. If your church's Sunday School material includes weekly papers then it is possible to accumulate quite a few. Gather these into a folder or notebook. Then when looking for a change for family devotions allow children to select one to be the story for family devotions. Most of these have biblical lessons or Bible stories included. These can prove a valuable resource for family devotions.

3. Missionary Supper

We must remember our missionaries in prayer. We can pray most effectively if we know not only the missionary family and their ministry but something of the field of service. Why not have a missionary supper? Try to plan a menu that would match the location of a missionary known to you or your church supports.

This could be Spaghetti for Italy or Tacos for Mexico etc.. Have children collect facts about the country from reference books or books borrowed from a local library. This information could be put on large pieces of paper and used as place-mats. After the meal read prayer letters from the missionary family, have picture prayer cards on hand if possible. Conclude the meal with a time of family prayer for the missionary family.

4. Guest of Honor

We are told in Hebrews 13:7 to remember them that minister to us. Part of this should be to find ways to honor those who minister to us. One way of doing this is to have a meal in honor of this person. Have the children prepare a special invitation for your pastor and family. Find out a favorite food and dessert. Set a time and have the Pastor's family for a meal. After the meal the guest of honor will make a short speech (arranged in advance). The guest of honor can share a testimony of God's work in his life. What better way to keep positive role models before our children.

5. Highway Help

Time is one of our most valuable assets. Ephesians. 5:16 instructs us to be "Redeeming the time." In the midst of breakneck pace of life we must find ways to buy up opportunities for spiritual instruction. Whenever going on trips by car the family is confined to a small metal box for an extended period of time that easily may be redeemed. Why not redeem this time for teaching Christian values by playing Christian tapes on your car's or on a small portable cassette player? The "Patch the Pirate" series from Majesty Music, is one that we use regularly for children. Many Christian books for adults are also available on cassette. Check with a local Christian book store for more ideas.

6. Chore trading.

Galatians 6:2 tells us that we are to bear one another's burdens. Within the family we must have an appreciation and spirit of cooperation with the work we all must do to keep the family going. How about a having a day or a week where everyone does someone else's work. Have the kids trade chores or have the kids do some of Dad and Mom's work and the parents do the kids chores. Or if you are really brave give Mom a day off. After this exercise have a family meeting and discuss what you learned about the work other family members are doing.

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Express your appreciation for the work that each family member does.

7. Become a Ministry Team.

A good motto for the family would be Psalm 100:2 "Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing." To get your family involved with serving why not select a ministry to adopt. It could be some physical work at your church or a program of visiting. Folks confined to nursing home are always in great need of some loving attention. After the idea is agreed on follow these steps.

1. Schedule a definite time to serve. If time isn't reserved it will not get done.
2. Make sure there is something for every member of the family to do.
3. Make this a matter of constant family prayer.
5. Get started right away!

8. The Creation Week

Genesis chapters one and two teach us that God created all that is in six days. Why not set aside a week to study the creation week with your family. Start on a Sunday and each day read the appropriate section of scripture for that day. Have children make pictures to represent each day and display them in your home. After reading and discussing the scripture, have a prayer of thanksgiving for God's creation. Stress His power in creation. With a little preparation some object can be used for each day. Soil, rock, water, a prism to display the colors of sunlight, a few minutes to look at the stars, house plants and pets could all be used as visual aids.

9. Feasts of Israel

Leviticus 23 details the feasts of Israel. God intended for each of these to teach something about Himself to His people and to insure that God would be included in their lives. We can teach our families these same lessons by studying these feasts. With the help of a study Bible, Bible commentary and a calendar that shows Jewish holidays you can plan meaningful times for your family. Mark these times on your calendar and make them times that you look forward to. At the appropriate time read the particular Bible passage that apply as a family. Perhaps your family can decide to reenact some of each feast. Perhaps during tabernacles you could create your own booth.

10. Box of Fun

Christians, above all people, should know how to enjoy life. God desires for us to have times away from the stress of work. Too often each member of the family seek fun in a different place and in a different way. We need to create opportunities for the family to have fun together.

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Of First Importance!

by Dick Hester

Whatever you're facing today, hold on to this glorious truth that is "of first importance". Christ died, Christ was buried, and Christ was raised to life forevermore. Acts 2:32 says, "This Jesus God has raised up, of which we all are witnesses." 1 Corinthians 15:3,4: "For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures."

Many of us will gather on Resurrection Sunday with other believers to corporately declare the glorious truth of our Resurrected Savior. This will be the 1,98th Resurrection Day based on the traditional date of the Crucifixion, April 3, A.D. 33. I enjoy very much the song "In Christ Alone", for the lyrics by Stuart Townend express the great truths of the atoning death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. I particularly enjoy the stanza that says, "There in the ground His Body lay; Light of the World by darkness slain. Then bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave He rose again. And as He stands in victory, Sin's curse has lost its grip on me. For I am His and He is mine, bought with the precious blood of Christ." Another hymn I love is, "Hymn for Easter Day", written by Charles Wesley in 1739 for the inaugural service at the Foundry Meeting House, London's First Wesleyan Chapel. We know the hymn as, "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today". He wrote it one year after his conversion. What a privilege to join the host of believers through the past, declaring biblical truth, not only in Scripture reading, but also in worship musically!

I never weary of the old message that never expires, is never out of date, and certainly never needs to be revised. I pray that I will always be like "those who know it best, seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest." ("I Love to Tell the Story", lyrics by Arabella Hankey) I also pray that we and our churches will faithfully proclaim the message of Christ. We have a commission stated in Jude 3: We are to "contend for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints". Far too many are abandoning the biblical faith. They are caught up in current fads and attempts to appeal to the masses and seem embarrassed by the gospel and redemptive truths of the cross, the shed blood, and the literal, bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ. The text I used from 1 Corinthians 15:3,4 in the ESV uses the phrase, "as of first importance".

Paul is summarizing the gospel. He himself had received it, and he himself had passed it on; this has been the God-ordained manner to transmit this truth for nearly 2,000 years. Christ died. He was buried. He was raised on the third day, according to the Scriptures. We who are earnest believers must continue to pass on this sacred message to our present day. Having received it, will you pass it on? This is "of first importance", from the beginning of the church age and indeed, through eternity. This is based on the authority of the Scriptures— "according to the Scriptures".

Whatever you face today, hold on to this glorious truth that is "of first importance". At times it can all feel overwhelming. But, my colleagues and friends, there is good news! Thank God for the cross and the empty tomb. Thank God for the good news of Christ's resurrection! In it, we have confidence. No matter what happens, we have confidence in a caring Creator rather than the chaos. We have confidence in a glorious future rather than the finality of a grave. This confidence sustains us in times of trial, tribulation, and in times like these. We have confidence because "It Is Finished"! Christ's atoning work on the cross is done, and we are saved. On Easter morning we do not gather to remember a martyr or a mere man who lived and died. We come together to worship the risen Son of God!

He is risen! He is risen, indeed! That's of first importance!

First We Pray! †

Advice for Grads

Cultivate your own capabilities. Your own style. Appreciate the members of your family for who they are, even though their outlook or style may be miles different from yours. Rabbits don't fly. Eagles don't swim. Ducks look funny trying to climb. Squirrels don't have feathers. Stop comparing! There's plenty of room in the forest. — Chuck Swindoll

If God is not in your computer as well as your hymn book, there is something wrong with your religion. If your God does not enter your kitchen, there is something wrong with your kitchen. If you can't take God into your recreation, there is something wrong with the way you play. If God, for you, does not smile, there is something wrong with your idea of God. We all believe in the God of the heroic. What we need most these days is the God of the humdrum, the commonplace, the everyday. — Peter Marshall

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Family Building Ideas

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One idea for accomplishing times of family fun is make a box of fun. Allow each family member to write down their ideas for fun family activities on slips of paper. These are then gathered and placed in a box (or other container). During a weekly "family night" or on a Saturday, a slip is taken from the box of fun and this becomes the activity for family togetherness. This idea is a guaranteed winner!

11. Adopt a Missionary

The Apostle Paul was not shy in asking for believers to pray for him, see 1 Thessalonians 5:25. Those who serve as missionaries are in special need of our prayers. Praying for missionaries is something we must build into our families. Have your family "adopt" a missionary. This one missionary that you will faithfully pray for and support. Make sure your missionary is remembered in prayer often. Have their picture or prayer card prominently displayed in your home. Send letters and care packages to your missionary. If the opportunity exists, have the missionary visit in your home. This relationship will be one of lasting blessing both to your missionary and to your family.

12. Sermon Surprise

Romans 10:17 tells us that faith comes by hearing the Word of God. We could all improve our "hearing" of the preaching of the Word of God. We especially need to train young people in the art of listening to the preaching of God's Word. Design a contest for family members based on listening to the Pastor's message. During the message gather information on what is preached. If you ask you may get a copy of the pastor's sermon notes to help you. After the service gather around for a "Sermon Surprise quiz." Ask questions based on what was preached. Rather than having only one prize for a "winner" have several small prizes so everyone's effort will be rewarded. This used occasionally will amaze you as to how much hearing can occur when we set our minds to it.

13. Know Thy Neighbor

Jesus used the parable of the good Samaritan to teach the need for us to love our neighbors. However in our society we tend to withdraw behind the doors of our home and seldom know our neighbors well. Take a moment and reflect on how many of your neighbors you know on a first name basis and what do you know about their spiritual condition? As part of your Christmas tradition, a fruit

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Mother's Day Musings

To Mother — On Mother's Day

For all the things you've been to me,
My guardian and my guide;
For truths you have so gently taught
And all the tears you dried;
For faith and understanding
When I faltered on my way,
I owe you more thanks, Mother,
Than words can ever say.

So on this day that's set aside
Especially for you,
I send a wish for happiness
In everything you do.
May each hour bring you pleasure
Every day of every year —
For all the things you've been to me,
I love you, Mother dear.

- Author unknown

A Wise Decision

I might have been a Broadway star
Or a witty talk-show hostess,
Or come up with a cure for colds
Or led a "No Nuke" protest.
I might have played at Wimbledon,
In front of kings and queens,
Or made it big in fashion —
With my own designer jeans.
I might have written novels
Or led a world crusade,
Or climbed the corporate ladder
Or dealt in foreign trade.
I pondered the above and yet
I opted for another,
No salary, but the job's secure —
I chose to be a Mother!

- Maxine Schneiderman

A mother is the only person on earth
who can divide her love among ten chil-
dren and each child still have all her
love.

A Mother

God used His finest workmanship in
fashioning a Mother's face; her heart
He caused to overflow with His pure
love and truth and grace. Her hands
with tender care He made, and gave
to them a special power to soothe
small hurts, and by their touch bring
comfort sweet in sorrow's hour. †



A Memorial Day Prayer

by Helen Steiner Rice

They served and fought and died so that
we might be safe and free,
Grant them, O Lord, eternal peace and
give them "The Victory!"
And in these days of unrest,
filled with grave uncer-
tainty,

Let's not forget the price
they paid to keep our
country free . . .



And so, on this Memorial Day, we offer
up a prayer —

May the people of all nations be united in
Thy care,

And grant us understanding and teach us
how to live

So we may lose our selfish pride and
learn to love and give,

And keep us ever mindful of the fighting
men who sleep

In Arlington and foreign lands so we may
ever keep

The "light of freedom" burning in their
honor through the years

And hear their cry for peace on earth
resounding in our ears —

Forgive us our transgressions and "Oh,
God, be with us yet"

Lest in our pride and arrogance we heed-
lessly forget. †

The Mother's Beatitudes

Blessed is the mother who makes
peace with spilled milk and mud, for
of such is the realm of childhood.

Blessed is the mother who refuses to
compare her children with others, for
precious unto each is the rhythm of his
own growth.

Blessed is the mother who has
learned to laugh, for it is the music of
the child's world.

Blessed is the mother who can say no
without anger, for comforting to the
child is the security of a firm decision.

Blessed is the mother who treats her
child consistently, for this makes chil-
dren secure.

Blessed is the mother who is teach-
able, for knowledge brings under-
standing and understanding brings love.

Blessed is the mother who loves her
children in the midst of a hostile
world, for love is the greatest of all gifts.

—The Fountain via Pulpit Helps

The Life of Calvary ~ Page 6

Graduation Symbols

A cap, a gown, a diploma —
What meaning do they convey?
Twelve years of profound learning
And your graduation day.

Math and English you've mastered,
Science and many more,
Other lessons, too, you have learned,
Not creditable to book lore.

You've realized hours of hard work,
Yet many occasions of fun,
You are left with mixed emotions,
Now that high school days are done.

A cap, a gown, a diploma —
What do these mean?
One act of life's drama is finished,
Now you commence a new scene.

This accumulated knowledge
Must now be put to use,
New doors and paths confront you,
Take heed which ones you choose.

Elect Christ as your Counselor,
He is the Teacher of them all,
He can solve all of life's problems,
Whether they are large or small.

A cap, a gown, a diploma —
All worthy of congratulation.
May success and happiness be
The goals of your graduation!

Selected

[Please see "Advice for Grads"
bottom middle on Page 5—editor]

Family Building Ideas

(Continued from page 5)

basket or plate of candy can be the tool
to break the ice with your unknown
neighbors. Package with Christmas trim-
mings and include a Christian tract. See
what the Lord can do in the life of your
neighbors. A variation on this idea is to
have an open-house or backyard get to-
gether for the families in your nei-
ghorhood. The goal is the same but your
neighbors are coming to your home.
Send them home with a small gift and
witness for the Lord Jesus.

The ideas shared here are not all
original. Our family has collected these
over a period of years and in most cases
I do not know to whom to give credit. We
are none the less thankful for the input of
others into our lives. May these ideas be
a blessing to you.

Jesse Waggoner
Pastor, Calvary Baptist Church †

Just a thought....

Mother of the Prodigal Son

Where was the mother of the prodigal son

On that day so long ago?

What were her thoughts

And what were her fears

As she watched him turn to go?

How many times in the dark of night

Did the tears slide down her face?

Did she get out of bed

And fall on her knees,

Just to pray that her boy was safe?

How were the days when she did not know

Was he alive? Was he warm? Was he well?

Who were his friends?

And where did he sleep?

Was there anyone there she could tell?

But, oh, on that day when she looked down the road

As she had looked since her son went away,

Did love unspeakable flood her soul?

Did she cry?

What did she say?

I think when the father had welcomed their son

And the boy had greeted his brother, That the servants made a path

For him to enter the door

And the waiting arms of his mother.

This poem is dedicated to all the mothers who have lost wayward children. Don't lose your faith in God who can bring them back to the fold.

Author unknown via *Pulpit Helps*

Mothers today have a lot of influence in their children's lives. The role of a mother is so very important. It is her duty to teach her children right from wrong and to teach them the ways of the Lord. One of the biggest problems in today's society is children are not taught properly in the home. They are not being disciplined as they should and they are "doing their own thing" without regards to the feelings of others.

Lord, we pray for every mother. May they read and study your Word so they may know how to properly teach their children. May they be good examples for their children and may they love their children as You love us each and every day. In Jesus Name, Amen. †



Bible Quiz

~ Answers on Page 8 ~

1. How many days was Jesus on the earth after He rose from the dead? _____
2. Who said, "Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up to heaven"?

3. When Jesus ascended to heaven, what took Him out of the sight of the disciples? _____
4. Who was selected as an apostle by prayer and the drawing of lots?

5. How many people assembled in an upper room after the ascension of Jesus? _____
6. Where were the disciples to be a witness unto Jesus? _____

7. Who spoke to the disciples about Judas the traitor and his death in the field called Aceldama? _____
8. From what mountain did Jesus ascend to heaven? _____

9. What does the name Aceldama, the field where Judas died, mean? _____
10. In what place were the disciples told to go and wait for the coming of the Holy Spirit? _____

11. According to the book of Acts what were the cloven tongues at Pentecost like? _____
12. Which apostle answered those who mocked the disciples as being full of new wine at Pentecost? _____

13. What great king of Israel was quoted at Pentecost as saying "I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on

my right hand, that I should not be moved"?

14. What kind of sound, according to Acts, filled all the house at Pentecost?

15. What did all those in the house who were filled with the Holy Spirit begin to do as the Spirit gave them utterance?

16. As Peter was preaching at Pentecost he said his listeners should do what—'Go and sin no more'; 'Preach the Word'; 'Repent, and be baptized'; or 'Sell all your possessions and follow Christ'? _____

17. After Pentecost what group of people "had all things common; and sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need"?

18. Of what language group were all the disciples that were in the house at Pentecost—Medes; Galileans; Persians; Cretes; or Arameans? _____

19. What Old Testament prophet did Peter quote in his defense at Pentecost?

20. About how many people were converted at Pentecost? _____

21. True or False—Mary, the mother of Jesus, was with the disciples in the house at Pentecost? _____

22. When the disciples were speaking in other languages and all the people heard them speaking in their own tongue, what, according to Acts 2:11, were they saying? _____

Mentoring Mothers

by Mrs. Carol Gregory

There are many discussion books and Bible studies involving women mentoring women and this is important in our day. We should note however, that the first mentoring that God ordained for women is the mother's relationship with her children. This is a particular privilege and responsibility that mothers have been challenged to enjoy as they faithfully attempt to raise their children to be Godly adults. One of the special blessings of motherhood is to have children grow up and be your friends.

Titus 2 says that we should be concerned about what the scriptures say, be sober, honorable, reverent, temperate,



sound in faith, in love, in patience, not slanderers and, most importantly, teaching our daughters to love their husbands unconditionally. What a beautiful standard this is for us to follow as we attempt to mentor our children.

Will we fail at times? Yes. However, we can use our failure to show God's grace in our lives further mentoring those precious ones we have been called to mother.

No spoken words will ever teach our children how to love as powerfully as love filled lives of mothers. †



NAOMI RUTH 1-4

by Tim Arthur

WORD LIST

AGAINST	JUDGES
BARLEY	KINSMAN
BETHLEHEM	KISSED
BITTER	LEAVE
BOAZ	LODGE
BREAD	MAHLON
CLAVE	MARA
CHILION	MOAB
DAMSEL	MOTHER
DAUGHTERS	MOVED
DEATH	NURSE
DIED	OBED
ELIMELECH	ORPAH
EMPTY	PARCEL
FAMILY	PEOPLE
FAMINE	REDEEM
FIELD	REST
FULL	RETURN
GATHER	RUTH
GLEAN	SONS
HARVEST	TARRY
HOPE	TURN
HOUSE	WEALTH
HUSBAND	WEPT
JUDAH	WIFE

Bible Quiz Answers

1. 40 days (Acts 1:3)
2. Two men in white apparel (Acts 1:10)
3. A cloud (Acts 1:9)
4. Matthias (Acts 1:26)
5. About 120 disciples (Acts 1:15)
6. Unto the uttermost part of the earth (Acts 1:8)
7. Peter (Acts 1:15-19)
8. Mount Olivet (Acts 1:12)
9. The field of blood (Acts 1:19)
10. In Jerusalem (Acts 1:4)
11. Like fire (Acts 2:3)
12. Peter (Acts 2:14)
13. King David (Acts 2:25)
14. Like a rushing mighty wind (Acts 2:2)
15. Began to speak with other tongues or languages (Acts 2:4-11)
16. Repent, and be baptized (Acts 2:38)
17. "All that believed" (Acts 2:44-45)
18. Galileans (Acts 2:7)
19. Joel (Acts 2:16)
20. 3000 (Acts 2:41)
21. True (Acts 1:14)
22. "The wonderful works of God" (Acts 2:11)

Quotes

Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, and today is a gift: that's why they call it the present.
—Eleanor Roosevelt

If there are a thousand steps between us and God, He will take all but one. He will leave the final one for us. The choice is ours. —Max Lucado

Of all human acts, repentance is the most divine. —Thomas Carlyle

If you have to be reasoned into Christianity, some wise fellow can reason you out of it! If you come to Christ by a flash of the Holy Spirit so that by intuition you know that you are God's child, you know it by the text but you also know it by the inner light, the inner illumination of the Spirit, and no one can ever reason you out of it.
—A.W. Tozer

God will accept a broken heart, but He must have all the pieces.

The Life of Calvary ~ Page 8

AFTER EDEN

by Dan Uelha



Not only was Eve "mother of ALL the living", there were many, many days she certainly FELT like it!

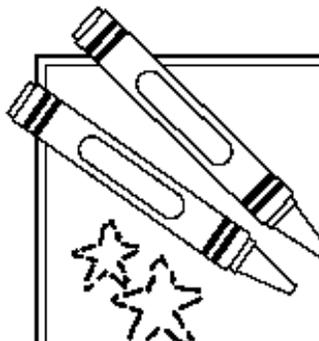
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Thanks to Kathy
DOES THIS MAKE ME LOOK FAT?

03-09-2005

K i d s P a g e



Just for KIDS

God's Creation

In the spring we see God's creation coming alive again!
Fill in the blanks below with the names of things that God created. Use the Scripture references to help if needed.

<u>G</u> _ _ _ _ _	where vegetables grow <i>(Deuteronomy 11:10)</i>
<u>O</u> _ _	a tree to rest under <i>(1 Kings 13:14)</i>
<u>D</u> _ _ _	when Mary went to the tomb <i>(Matthew 28:1)</i>
<u>'S</u> _ _ _ _	lights in the night sky <i>(Genesis 1:16)</i>
<u>C</u> _ _ _ _	provided clothing for John the Baptist <i>(Matthew 3:4)</i>
<u>R</u> _ _ _ _	flowing water <i>(Matthew 3:6)</i>
<u>E</u> _ _ _	name of a garden <i>(Genesis 2:8)</i>
<u>A</u> _ _ _	the first man <i>(Genesis 2:20b)</i>
<u>T</u> _ _ _ _ _	sound made by lightning <i>(Exodus 19:16)</i>
<u>I</u> _ _ _ _ _	hopping, flying, crawling creatures <i>(Leviticus 11:20)</i>
<u>O</u> _ _	a "wise" bird <i>(Psalm 102:6)</i>
<u>N</u> _ _ _ _	begins at sunset <i>(Genesis 28:11)</i>

Answers: garden; oak; dawn; slat; camel; river; Eden; Adam; thunder; insects; owl; night.



Play "God's Creation" Game

The goal of the game is to find things all around you that God has created. You can play alone, with friends or in teams.

You will need:

- ✿ Friends or family members
- ✿ God's creations

How to play:

- ✿ Go outdoors – to a park, in your back yard or on a hike.
- ✿ The first person says the name of something he sees or thinks of that begins with the letter A, such as an ant or an apple. The next person says something he sees beginning with the letter B. Continue in order through the entire alphabet.

A variation:

Each player says the name of each thing that has been found so far, and then adds a new one to the list.



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will not deliver
mail without
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