

Making Mom Glad
Proverbs 23:22–26

May 8, 2005

SERMON NOTES

A. The Text:

Proverbs 23:22–26 (NAS):

²² Listen to your father who begot you, And do not despise your mother when she is old. ²³ Buy truth, and do not sell *it*, Get wisdom and instruction and understanding. ²⁴ The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice, And he who begets a wise son will be glad in him. ²⁵ Let your father and your mother be glad, And let her rejoice who gave birth to you. ²⁶ Give me your heart, my son, And let your eyes delight in my ways.

B. Comments on the Text

1. place of parents in God's social order (verses 22, 25)
 - a. Exodus 20:12
 - b. but, remember about the law, Romans 3:20, that
 - c. Ephesians 6:1–3
 - d. Deuteronomy 11:18–21
2. place of fathers (verses 22, 24, 25)
 - a. reasons this fails to happen
3. place of mothers (verse 25)

C. The First Necessity

1. from the text, verse 26
2. God's intention for the family – natural guidance
3. spiritual guidance (verse 26)
 - a. Matthew 11:28-30)
 - b. prerequisite; John 14:6
4. prerequisite to a mom-pleasing life

D. Making Mom Glad

1. Showing Respect Despite Shortcomings – verse 22
 - a. ways of doing this
2. Be Honest – verse 23
 - a. ways of doing this
3. Be Wise in a Wicked World – verse 23
 - a. ways of doing this
 - (A) Psalm 119:9
 - (B) Proverbs 3:5–6
 - (C) Proverbs 9:10

A. Introduction

1. in my reading this past week, on this subject of Mother's day, I came across a number of items about mothers: two of these particularly tickled me:
 - a. A teacher gave her class of second-graders a lesson on the magnet and what it does. The next day, in a written test, she included this question: "My name has six letters. The first one is 'm.' I pick up things. What am I?" When the test papers were turned in, the teacher was astonished to find that almost 50 percent of the students answered the question with the word "mother". —^{2}.
 - b. the other was entitled "What my Mother Taught Me" —^{3}.
 - (A) to Appreciate a Job Well Done – "If you're going to kill each other, do it outside – I just finished cleaning!"
 - (B) Religion – "You better pray that will come out of the carpet."
 - (C) Time Travel – "If you don't straighten up, I'm going to knock you into the middle of next week!"
 - (D) Logic – "Because I said so, that's why."
 - (E) Contortions – "Will you just look at the dirt on the back of your neck!"
 - (F) the Circle of Life – "I brought you into this world, and I can take you out."
 - (G) and, Behaviour Modification – "Stop acting like your father!"
2. but, all humour aside, for many Mother's Day can be difficult
 - a. for various reasons: —^{4}. because, for some
 - (A) motherhood is an accident, not always a welcome one;
 - (B) biological motherhood isn't possible;
 - (C) mothers weren't all that nice;
 - (D) and, motherhood under the very best of circumstances is still less than a bed of roses and a primrose path.
 - b. I noticed that one pastor (Rev. John Piper?) took a poll and discovered that nearly all of the mothers would be quite happy if he omitted having a special Mother's day sermon
 - c. since, mothers are often quite aware and sensitive to their apparent shortcomings and failures as mothers

- d. some regret that we cannot now make up for our failures in the past to show appreciation as we should have done
- e. yet, with all this being said, let us honour mom this day, and I think our passage has something to say to all of us

B. Exposition of Passage

1. place of parents in God's social order

- a. now, did you notice as we read this passage from Proverbs, that mother and father are linked together as worthy of the attention of their children
 - (A) v. 22: [listen to your father ... do not despise your mother](#)
 - (B) v. 25: [Let your father and your mother be glad](#)
 - (C) and this linkage is not just by chance ...
- b. Exodus 20:12 (NAS): [Honour your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the Lord your God gives you.](#)
- c. Now that is an Old Testament verse, one of the ten words or ten commandments; and we know that no one has ever, can ever, be saved by simply keeping the commandments; Romans 3:20 (NAS): [because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin.](#)
- d. but this doesn't mean that we can simply ignore this verse for Paul speaks to Christians in Ephesians 6:1–3 (NAS): [Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honour your father and mother \(which is the first commandment with a promise\), that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth. \(in the land\).](#)
- e. God's purpose was that as the parents "walk with Him"
 - (A) OT phrase expressing believers' life style and devotion
 - (B) they in turn to model to their children
 - (C) Deuteronomy 11:18–21 (NAS): [18 You shall therefore impress these words of mine on your heart and on your soul; and you shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. 19 And you shall teach them to your sons, talking of them when you sit in your house and when you walk along the road and when you lie down and when you rise up. 20 And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates, 21 so that your days and](#)

the days of your sons may be multiplied on the land which the Lord swore to your fathers to give them, as long as the heavens remain above the earth.

- f. in Carlos' devotions at our Deacons' and Leaders' meeting this past week, he spoke on that difficult qualification for leaders which is that they exemplify Christian parenthood which shows just how fundamental is this teaching

2. place of fathers

- a. also, in those verses we read from Proverbs, there is a certain emphasis on the spiritual leadership of the father

- (A) v. 22: Listen to your father ...
- (B) v. 24: The father of the righteous ... he who begets
- (C) v. 25: Let your father and your mother be glad
- (D) this emphasis is found through the book of Proverb

- b. many reasons why this doesn't seem to take place today

- (A) work and other responsibilities of parents intervene
- (B) families are separated; parents are divorced
- (C) society relegates the spiritual to children and women
- (D) or, just disinterest: ^{—{5}}.

(1) A woman remarked to her neighbour that in the early days of their marriage, her husband had always pinched her household money when he was short for cash. However, for the last seventeen years, she had hid it in a place where he had never found it.

(2) "Where did you hide it?" asked her neighbour.

(3) The woman replied: "I hide it in the family Bible."

(4) and this, unfortunately, can be all too true

- c. so, much too frequently a greater part , if not the full, spiritual responsibility is left to mom

3. but, today is mothers' day

- a. and in those verses we read from Proverbs, it is mother who gets the last word: Let her rejoice who gave birth to you

- b. so, today in particular, we want to commend the spiritual direction that our moms have given to us

- c. and to encourage those mothers among us to keep it up
- d. in particular, that we learn how we may make mom glad
- e. because, as Henry Ward Beecher has expressed it, "The mother's heart is the child's schoolroom." —{6}.

C. The First Necessity

- 1. in the last verse that we read from that passage in Proverbs
 - a. we found the attitude and actions that would make any mother — or, for that matter, any father — glad
 - (A) that would "let her rejoice who gave birth to you"
 - (B) "Give me your heart, my son, and let your eyes delight in my ways"
 - b. now, while it is the father who is speaking these words, the same reasons for following them apply to mom
 - (A) and more, for it is she who bore you in increasing discomfort over many months
 - (B) with considerable pain bringing you into the world
 - (C) to say nothing of the aches, weariness, and tears shed in nurturing you in your first months of life
 - (D) which didn't stop them but has gone on as you have grown older
 - c. to such a one then — our mom —
 - (A) we owe our esteem and gratitude
 - (B) to give her our heart;
 - (C) to delight in her ways;
 - (D) to pay attention to her wisdom and guidance
 - (E) knowing her interest will be in our own best interest
- 2. God's intention in making the family the fundamental unit of society
 - a. was that the parents by their wisdom and experience
 - b. could give guidance to their children from these
 - c. and particularly, as we read from Deuteronomy, in the spiritual sphere: making God's revelation known
 - d. and for this, the son or daughter is called upon to give to the parent honour and respect as we read
 - e. which presumes that the person guiding knows the way; that they have the experience to give proper directions

3. let's turn that thought for the moment from this temporal, material world to the eternal, spiritual world
 - a. because those words in Proverbs 23:26
 - (A) "Give me your heart, my son, and let your eyes delight in my ways"
 - (B) can equally well be attributed to the heavenly Father
 - (C) to the God who has given life to all mankind
 - (D) who calls upon each one through the words of His Son, Jesus Christ, (Matthew 11:28–30, NAS):
Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and you shall find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My load is light.
 - b. if you are here this morning as a mom — or as a dad — never having accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as your own personal Saviour, that then will present you with a problem as you seek to give spiritual guidance to your children
 - (A) how can you lead to where you have never been?
 - (B) you need to know the Way!
 - (C) and the Way is not
 - (1) a route on a road map;
 - (2) someone's 10 steps to holiness & enlightenment;
 - (3) living by the golden rule; or some such thing
 - (D) the Way is a Person: John 14:6 (NAS): Jesus said to him, "I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me."
 - (E) so, then that is the first necessity, that as a mom, you may lead your child into the way everlasting
4. but perhaps it is today, that as a child of your mom, that I need to speak to you about this first necessity
 - a. if your desire is that you would make mom glad
 - (A) that you would truly honour her as a parent
 - (B) that your life would be one in which she takes pleasure rather than suffers heartaches
 - b. and you have not already done so
 - c. then, in like fashion, you need to accept the Lord Jesus Christ as your own personal Saviour
 - d. that you may have the grace in your life that will enable you to live it in a fashion pleasing to God and

to mom

5. let's look at some of the instructions in these verses that will help us in Making Mom Glad (and, by the way, they will also help us when it comes to Father's Day!)

D. Making Mom Glad

1. Showing Respect Despite Shortcomings

a. "Do not despise your mother when she is old"

b. children are not always patient when their parents do not seem to be able to keep up any longer with their children's brilliance in speech and knowledge

c. when from time to time Maureen and I show a certain hardness of hearing or start to repeat ourselves, there has been debate around us, all in good fun, of course, as to which would be the best nursing home for us, and when we should be moved into it

d. and, as times goes on I suspect that there will be more in the way of failings on our part

e. so I can say with some authority that if, as this happens, you treat your mother with dignity, understanding and respect, appreciating her worth as an independent human being (though maybe increasingly dependent upon you), you will make her heart to rejoice, make mom glad

2. Be Honest

a. "Buy truth, and do not sell it." – that is, hang onto it

b. to really do this justice, of course, you need Jesus Christ to rule your life, because truth is not an abstract idea, but it is a Person; remember, *Jesus said, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life."*?

c. one thing that will give joy to your mother is if your live a life that is characterized by integrity

(A) you mean what you say

(B) you refrain from lying (even when the truth hurts you)

(C) you can be trusted to act in a fashion that honours her — even when there is no written or spoken rule

(D) you abstain from deceitfulness

d. this will make mom glad

3. Be Wise in a Wicked World

a. "Get wisdom and instruction and understanding"

b. this is not talking about completing high school, or college, or post-graduate studies — as worthwhile as such efforts and endeavours may be

c. it is not intellectual prowess; or intelligence quotient (IQ); or scoring 98% in your final examinations — all of which may be nice to have

d. it is understanding from a spiritual perspective the tests, trials and pitfalls of life so that you may avoid them and thereby spare yourself — and your mom — the heartaches and sufferings that result

e. whence does this understanding, instruction and wisdom come? ... a few passages from the Bible

(A) How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Thy word. (Psalms 119:9 NAS)

(B) Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight. (Proverbs 3:5-6 NAS)

(C) The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. (Proverbs 9:10 NAS)

E. Conclusion

1. I hope that every one of us who is able may bless and honour their mother this day, and that each of us will give thanks to God for the one who gave us entrance into this life

2. for you moms here this morning, we salute and honour you in a very special way; may God be with you; may "your children rise up and call you blessed"

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Various English versions of the Holy Bible are used in this sermon. Some (for example, the AV, ASV, and NAS) seek to be strictly translations, while others (and especially PHIL) contain paraphrasing which involves a certain amount of subjective interpretation. Nevertheless, there is little material difference in meaning among these. Some prove slightly clearer on some verses than others. Looking at more than one version sometimes sheds additional light on any particular verse. Explanatory additions to the Bible text are shown in [square brackets]. The versions are identified as:

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| ASV | American Standard Version of 1901 |
| AV | Authorized (King James) Version |
| NAS | New American Standard version © 1975 The Lockman Foundation |
| NIV | New International Version © 1984 by the International Bible Society |
| NKJV | New King James Version © 1979 Thomas Nelson Inc., Publishers |
| PHIL | New Testament Translation © 1972 by J. B. Phillips |
| RSV | Revised Standard Version © 1946, 1952 by the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U. S. A. |
| WEY | The New Testament in Modern Speech © 1902, 1912 R. F. Weymouth |

Further sermons and illustrations may be found at the web-site, www.holwick.com. Materials in this sermon from Rev. David Holwick's database are identified by “Kerux” followed by a sermon or illustration number.

2. “Magnets and Mothers” by Dr. Paul Brand, Kerux Illustrations #18279
3. “What my Mother Taught Me” submitted by Diane Thompson – Kerux illustrations #19125
4. Extracts from Kerux illustration #7075
5. “The Perfect Hiding Place” – Fredericksburg Bible Illustrations – Kerux illustrations #8341
6. From Kerux illustrations #17501