

Sonoraville Baptist Church
Sunday, May 9, 2010 – 11:00 AM
Rev. Steve Skates, Pastor

“M” is for Mother - Proverbs 31:10-31

Introduction: Today we honor our mothers. Where would we be without them? Well, the answer is, we wouldn't be here at all! Mothers come in all shapes and sizes and can be found in all ages. Mothers are special for many reasons. They teach us about what unconditional love is. They teach us things like values and goodness and character. And for all those reasons and more, we ought to love our mothers with all our hearts.

Now I know that not all children feel that way about their mothers but most children do, especially after they are grown. But the fact is, Moms are special people. But sometimes we can be guilty of ascribing to them a little more than they really are or can be. For example, I've seen on cards or plaques the sentiment, *"God couldn't be everywhere all the time, so He made mothers."* Well, I can appreciate the sentiment, but the theology is all wrong! The truth is, God can be everywhere at the same time, because He is God...but He did establish the family! In fact, Eve was so named because her name means the *"life giver."* (**Genesis 3:20**)

There are many things that we could say about mothers in general, but let me turn your attention to our text this morning and talk about the "M's" of Godly Mothers found in **Proverbs 31:10-31**. First, we see that:

1. Godly Mothers are Most-Valuable. (10)

"A wife of noble character, who can find? She is worth far more than rubies." The Hebrew word for *"noble character"* is *"chayil"* which means that the godly wife and mother is a most valuable resource and a tower of strength to her husband and her children. She is more valuable than any earthly riches.

I've heard of mothers who are applying for jobs or filling out applications being asked, *"What do you do?"* I've heard them say *"I'm just a stay at home mom."* – JUST a stay at home mom? The word *"just"* means, *"no more than,"* or *"only."* I don't believe the mother's role and responsibility in her home deserves to have the adverb *"just"* in front of it. That's like saying, Babe Ruth was *"just"* a ballplayer, or Christopher Columbus was *"just"* a sailor.

Do you know what the average annual salary of stay-at-home moms would be if they actually received a paycheck? According to one study, it would be \$131,471 annually, including overtime.

And here's another fact: Working mothers reported spending on average 44 hours per week at their outside job and then another 49.8 hours at their home job. Talk about doing double duty! The writer of this proverb had it right. The godly mother *"...is worth far more than rubies."* Second, we see that:

2. Godly Mothers are Multi-faceted Managers. (13-16)

"She selects wool and flax and works with eager hands. She is like the merchant ships, bringing her food from afar. She gets up while it is still dark; she provides food for her family and portions for her servant girls. She considers a field and buys it; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard." This sounds like a typical mother doesn't it? She's juggling four or five things at once, and doing them all well. Most mothers are multi-faceted managers of time and resources. And most mothers are experts at multi-tasking. They are some of the most versatile and resourceful people on the planet. And they have to be, don't they?

I found this description of mothers which shows just how multi-faceted they really are. It's entitled, "A Mother's Job Description from 'A to Z'" In her lifetime, a mother has to be an Accountant, a Baker, a Coach, a Dressmaker, an Electrician, a Financial Advisor, a Grief Counselor, a Health-care Practitioner, an Interior Decorator, a Judge, a Kitchen Manager, a Lender, a Mediator, a Nutritionist, an Office Clerk, a Psychic, a Quartermaster, a Referee, a Supervisor, a Taxi Driver, an Underwriter, a Victim's Rights Advocate, a Weightlifter, an X-ray Vision Expert, a Yard Maintenance Assistant, and a Zookeeper!
A mother does do it all!

But a godly mother, on top of all those other things, also manages to find the time and energy to teach her children godly virtues and attends to their spiritual lives as well. Susannah Wesley was such a mother. She was the mother of 17 children, so you can imagine what her days were like. Yet, it is said that she spent an hour each day praying for her 17 children. In addition, she took each child aside for a full hour every week to discuss spiritual matters. No wonder two of her sons, Charles and John, grew up to become mighty men of God.

Godly mothers are able to balance or manage all of those different aspects of motherhood and see to it that the needs of the family are met. Next, we see that:

3. Godly Mothers are Mighty (17)

“She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks.” In case you haven’t figured it out, motherhood is not for wimps! Any dad who has actually witnessed the birth of his children should be able to attest to that fact. I mean, there’s a reason it is called *“labor,”* right moms?

But that’s only the beginning of the godly mother’s mighty acts. The godly mother will do some simply amazing things in the course of raising her family. The responsibilities of motherhood – her job if you will – is the most demanding, time-consuming, skills-oriented, frustrating, endless, thankless, and payless job there is. No person in their right mind would apply for such a job if they ever expected to make money at it, much less keep their sanity or stay alive. It takes a mighty woman to be a godly mother. Next, we see that:

4. Godly Mothers are Merciful (20)

“She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy.” Godly mothers are filled with mercy; not only for their family, but also for others! My mother was merciful. She had a big heart and would open it up often. Not only did she make sacrifices for us kids, but she would bend over backwards to help out others. For example, we went on visitation once and found an unchurched family of 10 living in our community. The parents didn’t mind their kids going to church but they said they would not be able to attend themselves because of having to keep up their farm. Well, my mother told them right then that we’d come and pick up the kids every Sunday. And we did! Now, not all of them wanted to go, but almost every Sunday, we’d pick up 4 or 5 of them. Sometimes, we’d even have to make two trips. But it was Mom who faithfully saw to it that a way was provided for those kids to go to church. And ultimately, most of them, including the Mom and Dad were saved and became active members.

Godly mothers find a way to show mercy, even when it’s inconvenient. Next, we see that:

5. Godly Mothers are Models. (25)

“She is clothed with strength and dignity...” Now, when I say that godly mothers are models, I’m not necessarily referring to them as beautiful and ridiculously thin women who wear expensive designer fashions and parade them down a runway. They can be, but that’s what I’m talking about. Godly mothers model something completely different.

This passage says that a godly mother *“is clothed with strength and dignity.”* In other words, the godly mother is honest, upright and strong on the inside – and thus becomes a model of inner beauty.

Peter talks of this quality when he writes in **1 Peter 3:4-5 (NIV)** *“... it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight. For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to make themselves beautiful...”*

It’s a beautiful thing to see a godly mother pour her life into her children and model before them a life of faith, grace, and submission and obedience to God. When they do, chances are, that child is going to pass those same virtues down to their children. Next we see that:

6. Godly Mothers are Mentors (26)

“She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue.” A godly mother is a mentor to her children. This means that she is an encourager, an example, a counselor, and a teacher. She is her children’s primary source of godly wisdom and influence. In fact, it has been said the home is greatest and most influential place for children to learn core values that will stick with them the rest of their lives.

The Apostle Paul writes in **Titus 2:3-4 (NIV)**, *“...teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children.”*

Godly mothers will teach their daughters how to be godly wives and their sons how to be godly husbands. Godly mothers will also take their responsibility seriously to teach their children the truth of God’s Word.

Paul also told young Timothy to remember and continue on in what he had learned from his mother Eunice and his grandmother Lois. He reminded him in **2 Timothy 3:15 (NIV)** about *“how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.”*

The godly mother’s teaching of Christian values is invaluable, and should never be passed off to anyone else.

Finally, we see that:

7. Godly Mothers are Memorable (28)

Lee Ann Womack sings a song in which one line is, *“I’m just tryin’ to live so when I die the preacher won’t have to lie.”* We laugh at that, but the truth is, sometimes it’s difficult to have to look a grieving family in the eye and try to come up with something comforting and good to say about their loved one when you and everyone else knows there’s not much good you can say.

But this son, who wrote Proverbs 31, didn’t have trouble saying something wonderful about his wife and the mother of his children. He said in vs. 28, *“Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her.”*

I believe this is what Mothers Day is all about! It’s about remembering and honoring our mothers and motherly figures in our lives. It’s about reflecting on the good things they taught us and emulated before us. But unfortunately, some people have a hard time remembering any good thing about their mother. Some people haven’t spoken to their mother in years. Some folks were never able to have a healthy relationship with their mother. It’s sad to think about, but for many, Mother’s Day is a sad reminder of something they never had – a godly mother.

So mothers, how will you be remembered? Will you be remembered for your invaluable worth? Will you be remembered for the mighty way you managed your home? Will you be remembered for the way you shown mercy and modeled a life of honesty, strength and dignity before your family? Will you be remembered as a godly mentor to your children? Can they rise and call you blessed? Will your husband also rise to praise your godly virtues?

You know, this message doesn’t only apply to mothers. It applies to every one of us, for these are qualities we should all strive to emulate and want to be remembered for.

So please don’t miss the importance of this message. This is a time for mothers, fathers, and children to consider our testimony. Do you know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior? If not, why not come today and receive Him?

Can you properly honor your mother today? Maybe your relationship with her isn’t what it should be. Or perhaps your mother is no longer with you, and you have regrets. If so, why don’t you determine to do something about it today? Obviously, if your mother’s still with you, you can begin the restoration process today. But if she is not, you just need to ask for God’s mercy and grace to help you overcome your regret, and resolve to pick up where you are and strive to live with no regrets from this day forward. Whatever your need is today, come and bring it to the Lord. He will meet you right where you are.