

(15 Minutes That Challenge The Rest Of Our Lives.)

“Just Exactly What Does Our Life Indicate Is Most Important To Us?”

(Matthew 5-7) LIVING-OUT THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

“K P M K L”

Matthew 6:19-21

Christ Is Your Compass. His Righteousness Is Your Road Map. Certainly, every Christian parent wants to successfully influence their kids to be maturing-Kingdom-citizens. The Kingdom principles in Jesus' Sermon help parents do that very thing.

I. Keep C In The S. (Matt.6:1-18)

(Your Parenting Is Not The Main Show.)

- A.** Don't Let Pride Invade The Home.
- B.** Seek God's Praise.

II. Keep F T F. (Matt.6:33).

(Which Is Nothing Of This Earth)

- A.** What spiritual compass will direct your family's daily steps?"
- B.** What do your actions show to your kids that you prioritize?
- C.** E Training Is Very Important.
E Training: Most Important!

III. Keep I _____ In H _____. (Mat.6:19-21).
(*Earth is Passing, Eternity Is Permanent*)

- A. Honor to parents who provide physical food. (I Tim. 5:8)
 - B. Highest honors to those who supply the spiritual Bread of eternal Life.
 - C. Passing on this legacy. (**Deut. 6:7-9**; I Tim.6:18-19, II Cor.8:13-14)
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IV. Keep F _____ On The P _____ (Mat.6:34).
(*"Burdens Of All Tomorrows Are Too Heavy For Any One Today."*)

- A. Stories to illustrate a balanced perspective.
 - B. Don't over-fret, but don't ignore.
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-
-

V. Keep H _____ Of Future B _____. (Mat.7:15-20).

- A. Instruction and correction are daily duties.
 - B. **Hebrews 12:11**.
 - C. It is worth the sacrifice. Daily watering brings long-term spiritual fruit.
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-
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VI. Keep W _____ On Y _____ **First** (Mat.7:3-5).

- A. John Maxwell said it well, "You t _____ what you k _____;
you r _____ what you a _____."
 - B. This is the best thing you can do for your kids.
 - C. **Deut.6:4-9**.
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Conclusion:

*Christ Is Your Compass. HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS is your Road Map.
Honor to every parent doing his/her best to model the Kingdom Life.*

THE ABC'S OF CHRISTIAN PARENTING

Though scores of wonderful books have been written on this vital subject of childrearing, the Bible, *that perfectly divinely inspired book*, always remains the authority, foundation and guide for 'parental instruction.' The Holy Scriptures contain the A to Z principles that provide the power for applying heavenly wisdom in every situation. (Content below is compiled & arranged by *Mike Vestel*.)

"If the title of this article leads one to think that parenting is easy, please forgive me. Let me go on record as saying, Parenting Definitely Is Not Easy. But the following alphabetized stream of thoughts and practical tips will help us to be better Christian parents if we are willing to daily apply them to ourselves. One of the greatest questions we can ask ourselves as Christian parents is, ***"What shall it profit a mom and dad if they gain the whole world and lose their own children?"***

"A" Attention. How we need to redeem the time as parents! → **Eph. 5:16.**

"B" Balance. If our children would grow as Jesus grew, what remarkable success we would have as parents? (**Lk 2:40, 52**) They need to see balance in us.

"C" Compromise. Not in our spiritual training, but to favor our children's needs, schedules, and opinions (**Eph. 6:4**).

"D" Discipline. Children are to be disciplined (**Prov. 19:18**) by parents who are disciplined (**1 Tim 4:7; Heb. 12:6-11**).

"E" Encouragement. If 'Barnabas' means "son of encouragement," (**Acts 4:36**) we need more parents who are fathers/mothers of encouragement (**1 Thess. 5:11**).

"F" Fun. Children must be taught the times & places for good, clean fun! Parents who don't play with their children neglect one of life's greatest blessings.

"G" Godliness. When parents exhibit God-like-ness, children will find the example our Father desperately desires that they have (**1 Tim. 6:6; Col. 1:27**).

"H" Helper. Children must know they are loved and needed. They need to see themselves as "God's helper," "Daddy's helper," and "Mommy's helper." Small amounts of responsibility can do much to help a child's esteem. (**Matt. 7:12**).

"I" Inventory. Parents must regularly take inventory of themselves. "Am I the kind of father/mother that God wants and that my child/children need?" (**2Cor. 13:5; 2 Pet 1:10**).

"J" Joy. Children are a gift of God (**Ps. 127:3**). We should joyfully teach them and fill their hearts with joy too! (**1Jn 1:4**).

"K" Know. Know your child's fears, phobias, likes, loves, and dislikes. After all, our children are part of us! It is truly a shame for our own flesh and blood to almost be unknown to us – to be complete strangers (Note **1 Tim. 3:5** and the qualification for elders to "know how to manage" their households).

"L" Love. As the Heavenly Father loves His children, godly parents will strive to love theirs. We are to love in deed and in truth (**1Jn 3:18**). Loving one's own children naturally increases to immeasurable dimensions the more one tries to comprehend the magnificent love of God to the offering of His Son for us. Love motivates all our dealings. (**Lk 15:11-32**).

"M" Memory. God has created man with a remarkable capacity to remember, and what a blessing it is to have memories to stir us up regarding our children (**2 Peter 1:12, 13**). We are making memories with them every day – memories that can never be reproduced to exactly the same way again. Cherish them!

"N" Nipping things in the bud. The word "no" is one of the most powerful and necessary words in a parent's vocabulary. If some things aren't nipped in the bud, the blossoms they produce will be ugly and poisonous (**Eph. 6:4**).

"O" Order. All things are to be done decently and in order (**1 Cor. 14:40**). Sadly in too many families there is a conspicuous lack of any order. Is the only "orderly" thing about your home the fact that there is no order within it? Is the only "orderly" thing about your home the fact that there is no order within it?

"P" Patience. Parents need patience, for their sake and for theirs! (**Heb. 10:36; 1 Tim. 6:11**). Without it seen in us, they will not grow this, and other godly traits in themselves. To encourage a parents to be more patient, simply remind them of God's patience with them!

"Q" Questions. Children can ask more questions than anyone else on earth! They can also ask the same question over and over until your patience is again tested. Jesus repeatedly dealt with the questions of others, even when the motive behind them was far less than sincere. Don't just let your children ask questions – encourage it! The education you'll be providing them (and yourself) will be worth the gray hairs such questions may bring on.

"R" Respect. Children must be taught respect for God, His Word, and for others. A lack of respect for authority promotes rebellion, while a proper respect for it promotes humility and subjection (**Eph. 5:21; 1 Pet. 5:5**).

"S" Stability. In this age of insecurity and change, our children want and need a sure foundation. They need to see in us a strength of purpose and resolution to live right and do right (**1 Cor. 15:58**).

"T" Thanksgiving. Do our children see us "*giving God thanks for all things*?" (**Eph. 5:20**) Or do they often find us murmuring about the affairs of life? (**Phil. 2:2-3**). We are instructed to be thankful (**Col. 3:15**). To fail to exhibit real thanksgiving in our lives is characteristic of a pagan, pessimistic people, which we know God abhors! (**Rom. 1:21**).

"U" Unfinished. Like Paul, (in a slightly different context) we "*do not regard ourselves as having laid hold*" (**Phil. 3:13**). Even when children become adults, we will still be their parents. A parent's counsel, wisdom, and love will always be valued by godly children.

"V" Valued. To show the value of mankind, God paid the ultimate price – He gave His unique, only Son! (**John 3:16**) Do our children know how much we love them, value them, and care for them? Some children, living daily with this huge, lingering void, go miserably astray just to have someone express some concern for them!

"W" Wisdom. How we need God's Word in our heart (**Deut. 6:6**) and His wisdom in our heads in bringing up young people. "Acquire wisdom! Acquire understanding!" said a wise father to his sons (**Prov. 4:1**). (He knew they'd need it when they became parents!)

"X" X-Factor. The "X-FACTOR" is prayer. How we need to pray for strength as parents, and how we need to pray for our children to develop into the strong servants of God. There are many temptations out there for young people, and our prayers are one of the strongest helps in fighting sin.

"Y" Yes. Contrary to some children's beliefs, this word is in a parent's vocabulary! Every now and then, we should say it (the shock on their faces will probably be worth it!).

"Z" Zeal. Young people should see parents with a zeal for God (**Rom. 12:11**), a zeal for living, loving and serving (**Col. 3:23**). If we are Christians believe Christianity is the best way of life, let's make sure our children are a zealous, working faith in us.

My Mother

She carried me under her heart;
Loved me before I was born;
Took God's hand in hers
and walked through the Valley of
Shadows that I might live;
Bathed me when I was helpless;
Clothed me when I was naked;
Fed me when I was hungry;
Rocked me to sleep when I was weary,
and sang to me in the voice of an
angel;
Held my hand when I learned to walk;
Suffered with my sorrow;
Laughed with my joy;
Glowed with my triumph, and while
I knelt at her side, she taught
my lips to pray.
Through all the days of my youth she
gave strength for my weakness,
courage for my despair, and hope
to fill my hopeless heart;
Was loyal when others failed; Was true
when tried by fire; Was my friend
when other friends were gone;
Prayed for me through all the days,
when flooded with sunshine or
saddened by shadows;
Though we lay down our lives for her
we can never pay the debt we owe
to a mother

Mother's Day

A mother appears to be a normal human being. She has all of those physical features that all people have -- two eyes, two hands, two arms, two feet -- all connected to one body. Now, that is what you see if you just look at the exterior of a mother.

If you were ever a child, you will know that she has at least three sets of eyes -- two in front, two in back so that she can see all those things she must see but that are hidden from her, and one on each side of her head so she can protect the cookie jar at all times no matter where she stands in the kitchen. All eyes are capable of seeing through wood and plaster so she can tell what is going on behind closed doors.

She has bionic ears. She can hear a dirt word whispered a block away. She can hear a complaint that is only thought when unpleasant tasks are assigned to her kids.

With her many arms and hands, she can prepare a meal, find Dad's shirt, change a diaper, run the vacuum cleaner and hit two kids all at the same time.

With strong, fast legs, she can move about the house like a speeding bullet. She patrols the streets, stops a fight in the backyard, catches a tennis ball before it is flushed down the toilet, prevents a child from falling out of a tree in the front yard, and moves all the toys out of the driveway before Dad comes home all at the same time.

Her endless supply of energy can only be God-given attribute. She is first to arise each morning, has breakfast ready for the brood as they get up, gets each kid ready for school, both barber and beautician, fashion consultant, chairwoman, budget director, purchasing agent, paramedic, mechanic, veterinarian, interpreter, travel agent, interior decorator, and is the last to bed at night.

With a tender kiss, she can heal everything from a cut finger to a broken heart. With her kiss, she can convince a balding, fifty-year-old man that he is just as handsome as he ever was.

Her ability to love is exceeded only by God's love itself. Her love grows with her children as it is impossible to tell the success or failure of her children by her love. There are no depths to which a child can fall that will diminish her love and no heights of success a child can achieve that will increase it.

Her love is protective, tender, consistent, understanding, forgiving, unchanging, unselfish, giving, contagious, comfortable.

“What Mother Did”

She carried me under her heart, loved me before I was born. She took God's hand and walked through the 'valley of the shadows' that I might live. She bathed me when I was helpless, clothed me when I was naked, fed me when I was hungry, rocked me to sleep when I was weary, and sang to me as the voice of an angel. She held my hand till I learned to walk, suffered with my sorrow, laughed with my joy, glowed with my triumph, and while I knelt at her side, she taught my lips to pray. She was a loyal friend when all others failed. Through all the days of my youth, she gave me strength for my weaknesses, courage for my despair, and hope for my hopeless heart. She prayed for me whether life was flooded with sunshine, or saddened by shadows. I can never repay the debt I owe to my mother.
(Author Unknown)

“When you Thought I Wasn't Looking....”

I saw you hang my first painting on the refrigerator, and I wanted to paint another one. When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you make my favorite cake for me, and I learned that little things make people feel special. When you thought I wasn't looking, I felt your goodnight kiss, and I learned the peace that comes with being loved. When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw tears come from your eyes, & learned that some things in life make us cry, & that's ok. When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw that you cared and I wanted to be everything that I could be. When you thought I wasn't looking, I heard you say a prayer, and I learned there is a God I could always talk to. When you thought I wasn't looking, your example was molding my very soul. As a child, I always began writing my holiday “thank you” cards to you, when I thought You were not looking. (Author Unknown)



A LITTLE HISTORY OF MOTHERS' DAY

(Nelson's Preacher Resource Book 2010)

In the United States, Mother's Day started nearly 160 years ago, when Anna Jarvis, an Appalachian homemaker, organized a day to raise awareness of poor health conditions in her community, *a cause she believed would be best advocated by mothers*. She called it “Mother's-Work Day.” . . . In 1905 when Anna Jarvis died, her daughter, also named Anna, began a campaign to memorialize the life work of her mother. Legend has it that young Anna remembered a Sunday school lesson that her mother gave in which she said, “*I hope and pray that someone, sometime, will found a memorial mother's day. There are many days for men, but none for mothers.*” Anna began to lobby prominent businessmen like John Wannamaker, and politicians including Presidents Taft and Roosevelt to support her campaign to create a special day to honor mothers. At one of the first services organized to celebrate Anna's mother in 1908, at her church in West Virginia, Anna handed out her mother's favorite flower, the white carnation.

Five years later, the House of Representatives adopted a resolution calling for officials of the federal government to wear white carnations on Mother's Day. In 1914 Anna's hard work paid off when Woodrow Wilson signed a bill [for the nation to recognize] Mother's Day. While at first, most people wrote simple, well-meaning letters of appreciation to their mothers, this quickly changed. Jarvis eventually became disgruntled in the 1920s as the day became more commercialized. (*feel free to talk later about that*) She even filed a lawsuit trying to get the day removed from the calendar. Most everyone can relate to the charges of over commercialization. But still, above all people, mothers deserve the recognition and sincere expressions of appreciation. They are, after all, a very special breed. As the poet William Ross Wallace once stated in the title of a poem he penned as a tribute to mothers back in 1865, “The Hand That Rocks the Cradle Is the Hand That Rules the World.”

The Wife/Mother of Noble Character

(A Look At Proverbs 31:10-31)

10 A wife of noble character who can find? [How rare & special indeed] 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 merchant ships, bringing her food from afar. 15 She gets up while it is still night; provides food for her family & [all in her household care.] 16 – 19 [She is opportunistic, resourceful, hard worker, financially smart and physically healthy.] 20 She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy. 21-24 [She plans to ensure provision.] 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 Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.

A MOTHER'S LONG JOURNEY

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. 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 could not see how anything could be better than these early years. So she played with her children, and gathered flowers for them along the way, and the young Mother cried, 'Nothing will ever be lovelier than this.'

Then the night came, and the storms. The path was dark and the children were cold and shook with fear. The mother drew them close, covered them with her blanket, and the children said, 'Mother, we are not afraid, for you are near.'

The morning came, & hills were ahead. The children grew weary as they tried to climb, but the mother said, 'A little patience and we are there.' So the children persisted 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 showed them courage. Today, I've shown them strength.'

And the next day came bringing 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.' The children looked above the clouds and saw an everlasting glory which guided them beyond the darkness. And that night the Mother said, 'This is the best day of all, for I have shown my children God.'

And the days went on, and the weeks turned into months and years, and the mother grew old and her body became frail. But her children were tall and strong, walking with courage. And when the way was rough, they lifted her, for she was as light as a feather. 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 on their own in the Lord, and their children after them.'

But the children said, 'You will always walk with us, Mother, even when you have gone through the gates.' They stood and watched as she passed through the gates which closed after her. 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 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 in 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!

SERMON: *Thank God for godly Mothers!*

TEXT: Proverbs 6:20-22

INTRODUCTION: Mother's Wisdom is Priceless!

1. COUNSEL by godly Mothers is penetrating (vs.20, "My son, keep your father's command, and do not forsake the law of your mother." (NKJV)). Cf. Prov. 4:6-7; 15:20; 23:25.

- ♦ This verse instructs children to listen and obey the counsel of godly parents, especially mothers (cf. Eph. 6:1-3). Josh 24:15; 2 Tim. 3:14-15; Luke 2:50-51

Wisdom of Mothers! JOY – faithful/heaven-3 Jn 4

"I have no great joy to hear that my children walk in truth."

- ♦ Children blessed with godly parents will be advised based on the Word of God and the God of the Word!

2. CONNECTION to godly Mothers is priceless (vs.21, "Bind them continually upon your heart; tie them around your neck." (NKJV)). Cf. Prov. 1:8-9. Keep them constantly in view!

- ♦ Binding godly counsel on our heart means to meditate upon it and assimilate it into our actions. We must connect to godly counsel! 1 Thess. 2:7, "as a nursing mother tenderly cares for her own children."
- ♦ We must weave ("tie") godly counsel into the fabric of our life. It must permeate our life & our actions!

Love God, Church, Bible, truth. Kind, merciful, gracious, pure, holy – faith NT Christian/heaven home!

3. COURSE of godly Mothers is pure (vs.22, "When you roam, they will lead you; when you sleep, they will keep you; and when you awake, they will speak with you."). Deut. 11:18-21

- **LEAD**—Psalm 119:105. We do not know where to step without godly guidance from God's Word and God's people (Jer. 10:23). **WOG is food, shelter & clothing!**
- **KEEP**—Phil. 4:6-9. The peace of God guards us and the God of peace guides us.
- **TEACH**—Deut. 6:4-9. God's Word must be so central to family that we naturally focus completely on Him while engaged in all activity.

-Mark N. Posey

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SERMON: So God made a Mother!

TEXT: Ephesians 6:2-3, "Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise: "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth."

Intro: I remember the fourth quarter of Super Bowl 48 because that's when I heard for the first time Paul Harvey's "So God made a Farmer" poem. It was a Dodge Ram Truck commercial, and wow, it caught my attention. I wanted to go buy a Ram Truck immediately. The poem was powerful; it brought tears to my eyes. Since then, I've thought, what if I changed one word ("So God made a Mother")? Would it mean more to me? Leslie Means wrote a book entitled *So God Made a Mother* tender, proud, strong, faithful, known, beautiful, worthy, and unforgettable—just like you. I like that! Consider some thoughts and scriptures for each word:

1. So God made a mother Tender: 1 Thessalonians 2:7. No power on earth compares to a mother's tenderness.
2. So God made a mother Proud: Proverbs 23:25. A mother thinks once of herself and twice of her family.
3. So God made a mother Strong: Proverbs 31:25. We are strong children because strong mother's raised us to be strong.
4. So God made a mother Faithful: 2 Timothy 1:5. Nothing eclipses a Christian mother's dedication, commitment, and faithfulness.
5. So God made a mother Known: Proverbs 31:10. To know a loving mother is to love her all your life.
6. So God made a mother Beautiful: 1 Peter 3:3-4. Outward beauty fades, but inward beauty will last a lifetime.
7. So God made a mother Worthy: Ephesians 6:2. The Proverb is true: "Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her."
8. So God made a mother Unforgettable: Proverbs 1:8-10. Many things need to be forgotten, some things we can't forget, but a loving mother is unforgettable.

Conclusion: We've seen it on cards, heard it in a sermon, and read it in books—Abraham Lincoln's tribute to his mother: "All that I am, or hope to be, I owe to my angel mother." AMEN!

-Mark Nichols Posey

Thank God for Mothers!

TEXT: 2 Timothy 1:5; 3:14-15

Intro: The *head* of the home is the father, but the *heart* of the home is the mother!

1. **The Source of Her Faith (3:16).** Scripture is both Inspired and Profitable!
2. **The Sincerity of Her Faith (1:5).** Genuine faith is faith based on fact; solid rock faith produces solid rock lives.
3. **The Sharing of Her Faith (1:5; 3:14).** Faith that saved is faith that obeys and is worth giving away (i.e., sharing).
4. **The Salvation of Her Faith (3:15).** Scripture (i.e., sacred writings) produces wisdom and the wisest things is life is eternal life.

SERMON STARTERS
Adapted from Terry Townsend

PULPIT PREVIEW

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SERMON: A Mother's Heart!

TEXT: Luke 2:41-52

Intro: Jesus accompanied His parents for Passover in Jerusalem at age 12. Upon return, Jesus remained in the city. His parents turning back, discovered him in the Temple discussing religious matters with the lawyers (i.e., Religious Law Experts). He returned to Nazareth, and nothing is said about him until age 30 (Luke 3:23). What occurred in Jerusalem was priceless, piercing, and precious.

1. **Mary sought after Jesus (2:45)!** For three days, Joseph and Mary searched for Jesus (v.46). They did what all parents would do; they looked for him until he was found. Like the one lost sheep, we search and find. Hannah reminds us that children belong to the Lord; they're with their parents for a little while. We must keep them and seek the best for them. Thank God for children that are found—in a spiritual sense.
2. **Mary spoke to Jesus (2:51)!** Mary's outburst of emotion is best described with the word "amazed" (i.e., astounded, shocked, knocked out); a demonstration of great concern. It was concern that triggered her search and words. All mothers are concerned about their children, especially about spiritual welfare. Mothers, keep talking to your children about their souls and spiritual growth. Jesus grew under Mary's loving care, concern, and tutelage: Mentally ("in wisdom"), Physically ("in stature"), Spiritually ("in favor with God"), and Socially ("in favor with man").
3. **Mary stored up memories of Jesus (2:51)!** Jacob (Gen. 37:11) and Daniel (Dan. 7:28) treasured memories. Mary had previously practiced memory treasuring twelve years earlier (2:19), likely repeated many times to various people, possibly even to Luke. Telling and retelling the Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah should be regular among Christians. We sing: "I love to tell the story" OR "Sing me a Song about Jesus." The memories of Jesus and meditation upon them are vital to spiritual growth (2 Pet. 3:18). May we never forget all the Savior has done and said. We must tell it again and again to all we encounter.

Conclusion: Thank God for godly mothers! Their heart is set on their children mentally, physically, spiritually, and socially. May God continue to bless this world with mothers with Mary's character, integrity, and grace.

-Mark Nichols Posey

Pulpit Preview is sent for the purpose of sharing sermon ideas & useful illustrations. It is sent via email on a monthly bases. Editor: Mark Nichols Posey, preaching minister for the Winfield Church of Christ (P.O. Box 730, Winfield, AL 35594). Please send all correspondence the address or pulpit.preview@gmail.com
God bless you, MNP

SERMON: Magnificent Motherhood!

TEXT: 2 Timothy 1:5; 3:14-15

Introduction: Mothers are the most powerful and influential force on the face of the earth. One of life's greatest blessings is to have a godly mother and one of the greatest gifts is to be a godly mother.

Proposition: What is necessary for mothers to transfer faith to the next generation? See - Deuteronomy 6:6; Psalm 78:4-7.

1. A faith that is **SINCERE** (2 Timothy 1:5). Sincere faith is not an act but completely genuine, unhyphenated and without pretense or deceit. Timothy enjoyed the great blessing of having a godly heritage, even though it was only one parent and one grandparent who contributed. It will be a great joy to meet Lois and Eunice in Heaven! Sincere faith is the most important thing we can pass on to our children. In fact, the values we leave in our children are more important than the valuables we leave to them. The character of our children tomorrow depends on what we put into their hearts today. Faithful mothers, thank you! This is true "joy of faith" (Phil. 4:25).
2. A faith that is **MODELED** (2 Timothy 3:14). Modeled faith is faith that can be followed (1 Cor. 11:1). Paul tells Timothy to remember from what sort of people his knowledge had come. The pronoun "whom" is plural which would include the OT prophets ("speaking" through the Scripture). Timothy's grandmother Eunice, his mother Lois (2 Tim. 1:5), and his mentor Paul (2 Tim. 1:13, 2:2, 3:10). Thus, the content of teaching is importance, but so too is the character of the teacher. Consistent living that matches clear teaching will produce greater success. We must consistently back up the words of our lips with the works of our life! *"Lord, give us more trustworthy teachers (i.e., Eunice, Lois, Paul) and a firm foundation (i.e., the holy scriptures)." Faithful mothers, thank you! After all, you cannot impart what you do not possess!*
3. A faith that is **DEDICATED** (2 Timothy 3:15). The main way our children will grow up to love and serve the Lord is to instill in them from an early age the importance of reading, studying, memorizing and obeying God's Word. **FACT:** God's Word is powerful to save (James 1:18). **FACT:** God's Word is powerful to sanctify (John 17:17). **FACT:** Salvation is built on the knowledge of the truth revealed in Scripture. Children must know these facts! They must know more than Jesus as friend; they must know what God's Word reveals about the condition of their hearts, that they are rebellious and disobedient toward God. They must know more than the living God, they must know that He is holy and just, and that He will bring terrible, everlasting punishment on those who do not turn from their sins and obey Jesus. Our children need to see us apply God's Word in such a way that it changes our lives for time and eternity (Rom. 12:2). This takes a dedicated faith! Faithful mothers, thank you!

"Thank you for teaching me about Jesus!"
Conclusion: There are few greater joys parents can experience than seeing their children walk with God. Through faith in God and by honoring His Word, godly mothers have tremendous influence as they train their children. Faithful mothers, thank you! As Abraham Lincoln once said, "All that I am or ever hope to be, I owe to my angel Mother." Read Proverbs 6:20-22.

Sermon Starters
-Mark N. Posey

Mothers Worth Honor!

Ephesians 6:2

Intro: "Youth fades, love droops, the leaves of friendship fall, a mother's secret hope outlives them all" (Oliver Wendell Holmes). Thank God for worthy mothers! Cf. Romans 13:7

1. **Worthy mothers conform to God's Will** (Luke 1:38): *"Behold, the bond slave of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word."*
 2. **Worthy mothers covet Jesus' actions** (Luke 2:51): *"His mother treasured all these things in her heart."*
 3. **Worthy mothers continue after their son suffers** (John 19:26-27): *"From that hour the disciple took her into his own household."*
- Con:** "The hand that rocks the cradles the hand that rules the world" (W. R. Wallace).

SERMON STARTERS
-Mark N. Posey

TEXT: 1 Corinthians 13:7

1. **Mother's Love Bears all things** (v.7a): her love protects the beloved by covering them over, concealing them from that which would be harmful. With mom, I'm safe! Cf. 1 Kings 6:26.
2. **Mother's Love Believes all things** (v.7b): her love isn't glib; it's trusting. Mom sees & believes the best in all people!
3. **Mother's Love Hopes all things** (v.7c): her love isn't pessimistic; it shows a godly optimism. Mom's love sees the bright side of things and doesn't despair! Cf. Genesis 24:6, 7.
4. **Mother's Love Endures all things** (v.7d): her love continues despite resistance and opposition. In times of pain, suffering and loss, mom's love never fails! Cf. Exodus 24:10.

SERMON STARTERS
-Mark Nichols Posey

SERMON: Thank God for godly Mothers!

TEXT: Proverbs 6:20-22

INTRODUCTION: Mother's Wisdom is Priceless!

1. **COUNSEL by godly Mothers (vs.20, "My son, keep your father's command, and do not forsake the law of your mother." (twice)). Cf. Prov. 4:6-7; 15:20; 23:25.**

- This verse instructs children to listen and obey the counsel of godly parents, especially mothers (cf. Eph. 6:1-3).
- Children blessed with godly parents will be advised based on the Word of God and the God of the Word!

2. **CONNECTION to godly Mothers (vs.21, "Bind them continually upon your heart; tie them around your neck." (twice)). Cf. Prov. 1:8-9.**

- Binding godly counsel on our heart means to meditate upon it and assimilate it into our actions. We must connect to godly counsel!
- We must weave ("tie") godly counsel into the fabric of our life.

3. **COURSE of godly Mothers (vs.22, "When you roam, they will lead you; when you sleep, they will keep you; and when you awake, they will speak with you." (twice)). Cf. Deut. 11:18-21**

- **LEAD**—Psalm 119:105. We do not know where to step without godly guidance from God's Word and God's people (Jer. 10:23).
- **KEEP**—Phil. 4:6-9. The peace of God guards us and the God of peace guides us.
- **TEACH**—Deut. 6:4-9. God's Word must be so central to family that they naturally talk about Him while engaged in all activity.

SERMON STARTERS
-Mark Nichols Posey

Mothers of Transference

2 Timothy 1:5; 3:14-15

Intro: Eunice was married to a Greek (Acts 16:1-2). She was a New Testament Christian as was her mother, Lois. They transferred their Christian faith to young Timothy.

1. **A Mother's Faith is GENUINE** (2 Tim. 1:5).
 2. **A Mother's Faith is ASSURING** (2 Tim. 3:14).
 3. **A Mother's Faith is CONSISTENT** (2 Tim. 3:15).
- Con:** Faith in God and by honoring His Word, godly mothers have lasting influence as they train their children in the ways of righteousness.

SERMON STARTERS - Mark N. Posey

Proverbs 6:20

- Have Strong Faith like Jothabed: Exod. 2:1-4, 8-10. She put her trust in God!
- Have Fervent Prayer like Hannah: 1 Sam. 1:9-28. She offered her requests to God!
- Have Living Hope like Sarah: Genesis 21:1-3.
- Have Assuring Instruction like Eunice: 2 Timothy 3:15.
- Have Unwavering Dedication like Mary: Luke 1:38.

SERMON STARTERS
-Mark N. Posey

What attitudes will a child develop?

*If a child lives with criticism,
he learns to condemn.
If a child lives with hostility,
he learns to fight.
If a child lives with ridicule,
he learns to be shy.
If a child lives with shame,
he learns to feel guilty.
If a child lives with tolerance,
he learns to be patient.
If a child lives with encouragement,
he learns confidence.
If a child lives with praise,
he learns to appreciate.
If a child lives with fairness,
he learns justice.
If a child lives with security,
he learns to have faith.
If a child lives with approval,
he learns to like himself.
If a child lives with acceptance and friendship,
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... a young parent / young married / person. + any other idea...

refer to 'I should' + 'I would'

If I Were a Young Parent Again (#3)

Introduction: It's not possible for me to go back in time and raise my children again. Today, I ask "Where did the years go?" If I could do it again, I would do a better job. This lesson is for every young parent. Hopefully, it will help you be a great parent. **If I were a young parent again...**

- I. **I would spend as much time with my children as I possibly could.**
- A. I would realize that my children do not need more money; they need me.
 - B. I would compliment and encourage my children at every opportunity.
 - C. I would develop a closeness that would allow me to help and instruct them all of their lives.
- II. **I would realize to a greater extent that my example is the greatest teacher of my children.**
- A. Zacharias and Elizabeth knew this (Luke 1:6).
 - B. Abraham commanded his children and his household "after him" (Genesis 18:19).
 - C. Lois and Eunice were Timothy's example of a genuine, sincere faith (II Timothy 1:5).
- III. **I would make the time to read the Bible and pray with my children every day.**
- A. I would emphasize that being a Christian is the most important thing in the world (Luke 18:28-30).
 - B. I would emphasize that the greatest privilege we have is to worship (Psalm 122:1).
 - C. I would emphasize that the greatest institution in the world is the church and it is our top priority (Matthew 6:33; I Corinthians 14:12).
- IV. **I would instill in my children the importance of having a good, positive attitude in all things.**
- A. I would realize that a negative outlook makes all aspects of life difficult.
 - B. I would realize that a negative outlook destroys confidence, self esteem and tends to produce a fault finding spirit.
 - C. I would remember that saying "I can" and looking for the silver lining in the cloud is crucial (Philippians 4:13; Psalm 27:13).
- V. **I would emphasize to my children that they should love all people regardless of how they act.**
- A. I would want my children to know that love is the greatest Christian attribute (I Corinthians 13:1-3, 13; I Peter 4:8).
 - B. I would emphasize to my children how Jesus loved (John 11:36; Luke 23:34).
 - C. I would stress over and over again that a meaningful life, free from envy, anger, and hate, is found in loving everyone.
- VI. **I would insist that my children choose the right kind of friends.**
- A. I would do my very best to get my children to see the dangers of the wrong crowd (Proverbs 13:20; I Corinthians 15:33).
 - B. I would constantly emphasize the importance of wholesome activities.
 - C. I would speak against alcohol and other drug use often.
- VII. **I would make my children fully understand that selfishness is the ugliest sin of all.**
- A. I would want my children to know that a happy life is a giving life (Acts 20:35).
 - B. I would want my children to know that selfishness destroys friendships and especially marriages.
 - C. I would want my children to know that 'doing for others' is their mission in life (Matthew 20:28).

Conclusion: Your job is not easy. What the world needs is great young parents. Pay the price and one day you will be proud you did.

Ken Ty

Meeting at 10:00
Antioch

where Justin Par

2/17/15

Appreciate These days

Words by Living FULL : Amanda Oleander Art

A Mothers' Day Article to focus appreciation for the irreplaceable Moments of child rearing.

We don't appreciate the years of little kids while we're in them.
Because humans never do until it's too late and they're gone.
While we're in it, we often wish parts of it away,
the hardly any time to ourselves,
the crawling across the floor to put away puzzles and crayons,
the peeling off stickers,
and scraping muffins and scrambled eggs off the kitchen floor.

We wish away the tantrums,
the constant fighting,
the bad behavior,
the non-stop laundry,
and the exhaustion ALL THE TIME.

We wish away every imperfect moment that makes our skin crawl.
But one day, it will be over
and we'll miss it—
ALL OF IT.

We'll miss the giggles,
the smiles,
the "not wiped off" kisses,
and chubby arms and toothless grins.

We'll miss being needed,
the crooked teeth,
the time spent together,
and hearing "Mommy look!" every two minutes.

We'll miss who we are RIGHT NOW as individuals and a family.
Because soon new people will be living in our house with us. Their faces and voices will
morph into someone else's.

And they'll keep changing.
And we'll be new people, too.

So, let's try to take in ALL OF IT—
the bad, hard, and the good—
and not take any of it for granted.

Because I guarantee,
one day soon,
we'll miss THIS.

“YOUR NAME”

A Poem by *Edgar A Guest* shared for Mothers' / Fathers' Day.

I first heard of this poem on the Podcast TODAY WITH JESUS (Season 5 Episode 2)

As you read this poem concerning the importance of reputation, as yourself:

*How am I known by others?

*What do people know about my faith?

*What do people know about my feelings, my love?

*What do people know about my future, my desire for, and expectation of Heaven?

You got it from your father. Twas the best he had to give.
And right-gladly, he bestowed it. It's yours the-while you live.

You may lose the watch he gave you and another you might claim.
But remember, when you're tempted, to be careful of *his name*.

It was fair the day you got it, and a worthy name to bear.
When he took it from his father, there was no dishonor there.

Through the years he proudly wore it, to his father he was true.
And that name was clean, spotless when he passed it on to you.

Ohh, there's much that he has given that he values not at all.
He watched you break your playthings in the days you were small.

You have lost the knife he gave you and you scattered many *again*.
But you'll never hurt your father if you're careful with his name.

It is yours to wear forever; yours to wear the while you live.
Yours, perhaps some distant morning, to another boy to give.

And you'll smile, as did your father, with a smile that all can share.
If a clean name and good name, you are giving him to where.