

THE VALUE OF A MOTHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT AND SUPPORT

Whether we only had them for a brief time, have them no longer, or have them still, we have been greatly blessed by godly mothers. Their impact and influence on our lives cannot be overestimated. William Ross Wallace famously stated, "the hand that rocks the cradle is the hand that rules the world." It is always fitting on this day when we honor mothers that we reflect upon the one who literally rocked the cradle of this world's Ruler, Mary the mother of Jesus. The fact that God selected her to be the mother of our Lord is a testament to the character and faith of this godly woman. There is much about her life that is worthy of meditation and emulation. In particular, the role that she played in the development and ministry of Jesus is a profound demonstration of the value of a mother's encouragement and support.

Even before she was with child, Mary learned that her Son would be the most remarkable child ever born. The angel Gabriel said, "And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end" (Luke 1:31-33). Like every godly mother, Mary was a keen observer of all of the unique and peculiar events that accompanied the growth and progress of her Son, and she kept those things and pondered them in her heart (Luke 1:19, 33, 51). Perhaps no one is better suited or positioned to identify a child's God given abilities and talents than a mother. And so, mothers, be on the look out!

Second, a mother can help and encourage her children to fulfill their potential. Mary, it seems, was eager for Jesus to begin His work, and encouraged Him to do so. At the wedding in Cana of Galilee, it appears that Mary instigated that first miracle of turning water to wine (John 2:1-12). Her words, "They have no wine," are laced with expectation and anticipation (John 2:3). She knows that her Son can do something about it, and she wants Him to! While it is unlikely that she fully comprehended how a sword would pierce through her own soul once He started down that path, it is evident that she was anxious for Him to formerly begin His ministry (Luke 2:34-35). Mothers, when you see those talents begin to bloom in your children, encourage them early and often to make use of their abilities in service to God.

Third, a mother can be a steadfast supporter of her children. Mary was always numbered among the disciples (Luke 8:19; Acts 1:14-15). And she was one of the few supporters that Jesus had at the end, when all others had forsaken Him and fled, even remaining with Him through the crucifixion (John 19:25-27). Surely her love and support was a source of great strength to Jesus during those dark hours. Similarly, a mother's unconditional love and support will be one of the greatest sources of strength and encouragement for her children, especially in times of trial.

Sadly, we live in a generation that increasingly curses father and does not bless mother (Proverbs 30:11). For our part, however, on this day we pay tribute to our mothers, and we express our love and appreciation for all that they have done for all that they continue to do. We join other generations in calling Mary, the mother of Jesus, blessed (Luke 1:47-48). And, in a time when it seems young women have fewer and fewer genuine role models, we look to Mary as an example of both womanhood, and motherhood.

Selected



BELVEDERE BEACON
"Ye are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14)
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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES
SUNDAY: Bible Classes for all ages 10:00 am.
Morning Worship 11:00 am.
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
WEDNESDAY: Bible Classes for all ages 7:00 p.m.
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Is The Bible Your Daily Companion?

Are Job, Moses, and Elijah your friends? What about David, Daniel, Isaiah, Paul, and John? What a joy to walk among the greatest men and women who have ever lived, such as Abraham, Sarah, Mary Magdalene, Peter, and James! Yes, indeed, we can be in company with these outstanding Bible characters everyday by obeying the God of the Bible and following Divine principles. By studying their lives and applying the Word of God by which they lived, we can constantly be in their company. The eye of faith will enrich our lives and make us a spiritual people if we stand on the Source of Faith, the Word of God: "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Rom. 10:17). We walk with the Lord when we walk according to His truth: "For he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee" (Heb. 13:5). Living and loving the Grand Old Scriptures will be a constant source of joy, as it was to Jeremiah: "Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O Lord God of hosts" (Jer. 15:16).

Timely Advice

If you are impatient, sit down quietly and talk with Job.
If you are just a little strong-headed, go and see Moses.
If you are getting weak-kneed, take a good look at Elijah.
If there is no song in your heart, listen to David.
If you are a policy man, read Daniel.
If you are getting sordid, spend a while with Isaiah.
If you feel chilly, get the beloved disciple to put his arm around you.
If your faith is below par, read Paul.
If you are getting lazy, watch James.
If you are losing sight of the future, climb up the stairs of Revelation and get a glimpse of the promised land.

Author Unknown

Why is the Bible so powerful? The answer is simple: "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (II Tim. 3:16-17).

Danny Douglas, Mt. Pleasant, TN

IS THIS IN OUR FUTURE?

This week there was a report in the British Daily Telegraph, about a street preacher being arrested and jailed after having been booked, fingerprinted and had DNA taken. What was his crime?

The headline for the article stated: “Christian preacher arrested for saying homosexuality is a sin” and a sub-title: “A Christian street preacher, Dale McAlpine, was arrested and locked in a cell for telling a passer-by that homosexuality is a sin in the eyes of God.” The article goes on to state that the preacher “was handing out leaflets explaining the Ten Commandments or offering a ‘ticket to heaven’ with a church colleague on April 20, when a woman came up and engaged him in a debate about his faith.” He was charged with causing “harassment, alarm or distress” after a homosexual police community support officer (PCSO) overheard him reciting a number of “sins” referred to in the Bible, including blasphemy, drunkenness and same sex relationships. This preacher, from Workington in the Lake District of England, said he didn’t mention homosexuality in his sermon but that he had told a passer-by that he believed it went against the word of God. remark loudly enough to be him with using abusive or Public Order Act. The preacher the back of a marked van and April 20th. At the station, he was mobile telephone, belt and shoes fingerprints, a palm print, a reported to have stated: “I felt deeply shocked and humiliated that I had been arrested in my own town and treated like a common criminal in front of people I know. My freedom was taken away on the hearsay of someone who disliked what I said, and I was charged under a law that doesn't apply.” He also indicated that it was one of the worst experiences in his life. He was later interviewed, charged under Sections 5 (1) and (6) of the Public Order Act and released on bail on the condition that he did not preach in public. He pleaded not guilty at a preliminary hearing a week ago Friday at Wokingham magistrates court and is now awaiting a trial date. The Public Order Act, under which he was charged, was introduced in 1986 to tackle violent rioters and football hooligans but now, it seems, is being used to curb religious free speech.



The police allege he made the overheard by others and charged insulting language, contrary to the was taken to the police station in locked in a cell for seven hours on told to empty his pockets and his were confiscated. Police took retina scan and a DNA swab. He is

Could this be the future in this country as a result of so-called “hate speech” laws that are coming into existence? It seems that for anyone to speak out against perverted lifestyles (homosexuality, lesbianism etc.), the errors of Islam etc. is branded as “hate speech” but when someone speaks out against Christianity and profanes the holy name of God and Jesus Christ that comes under the real of “acceptable speech.” We must continue to seek to get elected representatives to see how the agenda of certain minorities is being pushed to the detriment of this great country and in opposition to the constitution.

However, regardless of what laws may be passed, as Christians, our prime responsibility is to obey God rather than me (Acts 5:29) even if that means us being deprived of our rights and being hauled off to a cell because we have the audacity to speak the truth against that which is contrary to the way of God. May God give us the strength to stand firm.

Ken Chumbley

NEWS AND NOTES

Keep in your prayers the following: Pam Gossett, Lavonne McClish, Linda Chumbley, Maomi Aaron’s sister, Leann Rogers, who is having health problems, and Lanny Niver together with his daughter and son, and Tim Smith.

Susan and Aaron Arnold were sick last Sunday and not able to be out.

Holly Albrecht graduated from the University of South Carolina at Aiken this week. Our congratulations go to her for this achievement.

Brother Tim Smith is finally going to get his disability hearing this week, May 12. Please keep and his family in your prayers that he will be able to get this much needed assistance with his medical and other bills. He had to quit preaching as a result of being severely injured in an auto wreck several years ago, not his fault and as a result of his disability is not able to contribute to pay for his own care. Sadly, the compensation that he received from the accident was inadequate given his continuing disability.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

A man was walking down a little hill in the woods when he stepped on a little twig. The twig rolled and he fell down. As he got up and went on his way, he thought to himself, “If that had been a big log, I would have seen it and climbed over it. There would have been no danger of falling, for I would have been aware of the danger.” The fact that the twig was small was what made it dangerous.

In our spiritual pathway, the devil places little temptations to defeat us. His little traps or obstructions are more effective than the big ones, partly because if people do notice them they may think they are too small to make a difference.

Beware of little things!! It was only a “little thing”—a bit of forbidden fruit—that brought sin and its curse into the world.

Author Unknown