

Warrington

5/14/61

Bailey

Mother's Day

"Mother's Day"

Scripture Lesson: - Proverbs 31: - 10 - 31.

Text: - "Remember thy father and thy mother"

Introduction: - We honor the dignity and sanctity of the American woman today. Only in Christianity have women been lifted to a true equality with men. In many parts of the world women are still considered almost a beast of burden. It was Christ who valued womanhood. The Bible is filled with the stories of the women of God, who have contributed to making this world a better place in which to live. It was Miriam who led the women in singing, "Sing ye unto the Lord, for He hath triumphed gloriously!" It was Ruth who put God first and as a result became the ancestress of King David. It was the royal Esther who took her life in her hand to plead for her doomed people. And so we might go on and on mentioning women, who gave all that the nation might live. Yes, there scores of others on the royal list, that could be mentioned who have been followers of God and whose names are prominent in Holy writ. The Scriptures teach that the primary duty of a woman is to be a homemaker. Home, in the sense in which we know it, is distinctively a Christian institution, based on the love of one man for one woman, symbolizing Christ's love for his bride,

the Church.

Heathen languages even today, have no synonym for Christ's institution, which we commonly call "home". To be sure, they have words meaning "house", "hut", "dwelling", "abode", "cave" or "tent", but no word for "home" in the Christian sense. This "home" is a spiritual creation, founded on love, fidelity, trust, mutual interest, sacrifice, unselfish and loving service to one another. Such a home is a solace, a refuge, a place of comfort and peace.

The quality of a home does not depend upon its location, size, wealth, comforts or conveniences. It does not depend upon mere manners, culture, education, or grammar, for even these desirable things, may, without Christian ideals, become tools of dissipation. Living creatively for Christ in the home is the acid test for any Christian man or woman. It is far easier to live an excellent life among your friends, when you are putting your best foot forward and are conscious of public opinion, than to live for Christ in the home. Your own family circle knows whether Christ lives in you and through you. If you are a true Christian, you will not give way in the home to bad temper, impatience, sarcasm, unkindness, suspicion, selfishness or laziness, but you will reveal through your daily life the fruits of the spirit, and all the other Christian virtues, which round out a Christlike personality. You will remember that the Golden Rule applied to ^{Strangers} servants and to business dealings quite as much as it does to your own friends. God alone knows the influence of a Christian mother

-in the molding of the character in her children. The Bible tells the story of some women who have had an evil influence on their children. Someone has said, "Like mother, like children." Some of the greatest criminals in history have had bad mothers. Most of the noble characters and the finest leaders in history have had good, God-fearing mothers. We are told that George Washington's mother was pious, and that Sir Walter Scott's mother was a lover of good music and poetry. On the other hand, we are told that Nero's mother was a murderess and that the drunkard Lord Byron's mother was a proud and violent woman.

Today, when the divorce rates continue to climb and the news papers are filled with stories of violent and vicious women, who spend more time in bars than they do at home, our nation is in desperate need of consecrated Christian mothers. We need Christian mothers more than we need atomic bombs and a trip to the moon.

If we had more Christian mothers, we would have less delinquency, less immorality, less ungodliness and fewer broken homes. Every mother owes it to her children to accept Christ as her personal Saviour. The influence of a mother in her home upon the lives of her children cannot be measured. They know and absorb her example and attitudes when it comes to questions of honesty, temperance, kindness and industry.

Too many mothers are too busy that they have no time for the real things of life. They have great activity and great doings, but they lack the time for building Christian characters. They need to

cultivate their souls that in turn they may cultivate their children.

Timothy's mother was a woman of prayer and faith. But she saw her inadequacy in the training of her son and she had come to know the power of prayer in her home.

One of the most difficult jobs in the whole world is to bring up a family in the nurture and admonition of the Lord during the terrible days in which we live. With the magazines filled with dirty stories, with immoral conditions in our high schools and with a thousand temptations that the last generation never knew, it is only by the grace of God that a child comes up in the fear of God during these days.

Some time ago a girl was dying. She lay in her hospital bed dying of a lingering fatal disease.

Her parents had gratified her every wish. One day she called her mother to her bedside, and whispered in her ear this message. "Mother, you have taught me how to dance, how to sip my cocktails, how to hold my cigarettes and how to dress. Those things are of no value to me now, for I am not going to need them. But, mother, you have not taught me how to die."

Know Christ
The Bible says, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Your first job, dear parent, is to train your children to know Christ, and when they know Him everything will fall into line. Even though, they may resent your discipline and training at the time, they will rise up in later years, and call

you blessed.

Conclusion:- Are your children Christians? Have you done all in your power to win them to Jesus Christ. If they have not come, keep praying. We believe that God hears a mother's prayer more than the prayers of anyone else.

a Preacher

Dwight L. Moody, tells the story of a girl, a girl of Scotch parents, who wandered away and forgot the instruction of her father and the counsel of her mother, and went deeply into sin. One night, in a wild frenzy, in the ^{a large} city of Edinburgh, she concluded that she would committ suicide. Before she would committ suicide, she decided that she wanted to look on her old home, just once more. The home where she had been born, where she had spent her childhood, and her youth. In the middle of the night, she came to the fence that surrounded the home. She lifted the latch of the gate and walked in. As she came to the door of the house, she was amazed to find it open. Suddenly, she feared that someting had happened to her mother. So she called out, "Mother, I found the door open." The old Scotch lady arose and came down and said, "Maggie, it is many a long day since you went away, but always the prayer has been in my heart, "Lord, send her home." Whether she comes, by night or by day, I want her to see the door open, and know she is welcome." The weeping girl fell into the mother's arms.

Many of you had a Christian mother. You know that she constantly prayed for you. But you have not yet surrendered your heart and life to the Lord. Perhaps she has gone on. She is there waiting for you. The door is still open, inviting you, appealing to you

welcoming you, and wooing you. Al, you have to do is walk in, and the Lord and Master will receive you. Will you come to Jesus Christ as we sing?

Christ if they have not come to Jesus Christ, this mothers day would be the most appropriate time to come back to God if you have wandered away if you have never been forgiven whether your mother is gone or still living answer her prayers today by giving your life to Christ

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The tender memories which cluster about our mothers are among the most sacred in life. William McKinley was once asked, "What is greatest blessing a child can have?" His reply was, "To be born poor, & have a Christian mother that knows God. To have a mother that knows God is a greater blessing than to possess wealth of a Henry Ford. Childhood memories bring to us a face, the sweetest of all we have ever looked upon. Such memories recall a touch, the tenderest that ever stroked our brow, a love, the largest & richest ever poured into our lives