

Honoring Mother

No. 95

Introduction.

- I. Today millions in our nation are celebrating Mother's Day. For 86 years our nation has set aside this day to honor its mothers. Mother's Day was instituted by President Wilson in 1914.
- II. Although the Bible does not command us to honor our mothers on a special day, it does teach we are to honor them on this day and every day throughout the year. Certainly no one is more deserving of our honor and praise! Our mothers **experienced great pain** to bring us into the world. They have **taken care of us in sickness and health**. They have **shown us love and understanding**. They have **worked long hours** without pay **that we might have health and happiness**. In most cases our mothers are largely responsible for our success in life.

I. Tributes To Mother

- A. **John Quincy Adams** said: "All that I am my mother made me."
- B. **Abraham Lincoln** said: "All that I am or hope to be I owe to my angel mother."
- C. Thomas Edison paid this tribute to his mother:

"I did not have my mother long, but she cast over me an influence which has lasted all my life. The good effects of her early training I can never lose. If it had not been for her appreciation and her faith in me at a critical time in my experience, I should never likely have become an inventor. I was always a careless boy, and with a mother of different mental caliber, I should have turned out badly. But her firmness, her sweetness, her goodness, were potent powers to keep me in the right path. My mother was the making of me. The memory of her will always be a blessing."

- II. Someone else has written this tribute to mothers.

No Occupation

<p>She rises up at break of day And through her tasks she races; She cooks the meals as best she may And scrubs the children's faces, While school books, lunches, ribbons, too All need consideration; And yet the census man insists She has "No occupation."</p> <p>When the breakfast dishes all are done, She makes a pudding maybe; She cleans the rooms up one by one, With one eye watching baby. The mending piles she then attacks By way of variation; And yet the census man insists She has "No occupation."</p>	<p>She irons for a little while, Then presses pants for daddy; She welcomes with a cheery smile Returning lass and laddie. A hearty dinner then she cooks, (No time for relaxation): And yet the census man insists She has "No occupation."</p> <p>For lessons that children learn The evening scarce is ample To mother dear they always turn For help with each example. In grammar and geography, She finds no relaxation; And yet the census man insists She has "No occupation."</p>
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II. **Commanded To Honor Mother** - The Bible has a great deal to say about honoring mother.

- A. It is commanded in both the Old and New Testaments.
- B. God said from Mt. Sinai. (Exod. 20:12).
- C. Paul wrote in Ephesians 6:1-2.

III. **Ways Of Honoring Mother** - There are many ways we are to honor our mothers.

- A. We are to honor our mothers by **obeying them**.
 - 1. We are to have respect for their authority and we are to obey our mothers unless obedience to them conflicts with obedience to God. (Lk. 2:51).
 - 2. Under the old law those who did not honor their mothers were put to death. (Exod. 21:15, 17; Deut. 21:18-21).
 - 3. The New Testament does not command that disobedient children be put to death, but it does teach that all will not go well with those who do not honor their mothers.
 - a. Disobedient children suffer many heartaches in life.
 - b. This is also a sin that will keep them from entering the heavenly city. In Romans the first chapter Paul lists disobedience to parents among the grossest possible sins a person can commit. God views this sin as an abomination.
- B. We are to honor our mothers by **expressing our love and appreciation for them**.
 - 1. Mothers do not expect pay for their work. They gladly give themselves for their families. They are satisfied to hear us express our appreciation for their efforts. This is something most of us fail

to do as often as we should. We take them for granted, but this should not be.

2. **On one occasion a proud mother showed a friend a picture of her fine-looking boy.** The friend said, "If I had a lad like that my pride could know no bounds. He is the most beautiful boy I have ever seen." Tears came to the eyes of the mother. She bit her lip. The friend said to himself, "Have I misjudged that boy, or is there something hidden in his life that is breaking her heart?" The mother seemed to sense the thoughts of the friend. She quickly said, "Don't feel hurt. He is just as sweet and beautiful and wholesome as you believe him to be. Here's why I weep. Until about four years ago there was never a day in my life but he climbed upon my knees, put her arms around my neck, kissed me, and said, "O Mother, how dear you are! How I love you! But is now two or three years since he has done that. I believe he loves me, but I tell you my heart is aching to hear it from his lips!"
3. I wonder how many other mothers there are like this mother? I wonder how many mothers are weeping inside because their children seldom, if ever, put their arms around them and say, "I love you. I appreciate all you do for me!"
4. **Anne Campbell** has written this poem of appreciation.

Thank You

For all the weary steps you took for me When I was much too young to understand, For midnight vigils and for sympathy, For the cool touch of your remembered hand, For your low voice that echoes down the years, For patience and unshaken boundless tears, For swift decisions that were always just.	For memories of days spent by your side, For hours of harmony achieved through you, For little rooms your presence sanctified, For high ideals and childish dreams come true, For health of body and for strength to press Forever forward on life's painful way, For all my heritage of happiness. I thank you, Mother dear, on Mother's Day.
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5. **LaVerne Larson** has written this beautiful poem entitled, "Wonderful Mother."

The earth has many treasures Which are rare and so divine, Yet none of them compare With that wonderful mother of mine. She shines with tender beauty From a holy inner glow, And her laugh and radiant smile Weave a special joy, I know. When I was just a tiny baby She held me in her arms, And sang me soft sweet lullabies With soothing magic charms	She kissed my hurts and tears away. Through every passing year, And sought to bring my happiness And chase my doubt and fear. She taught me lovely evening prayers And took me by the hand, To show me all the wonders Of the sky and sea and land. Yes, the earth has many treasures, Rare and rich and fine, But I wouldn't trade them all For that wonderful mother of mine.
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- C. Another way we are to honor mother is by **taking care of them when they are unable to take care of themselves.**

1. Our mothers took care of us for many years when we were unable to take care of ourselves. It isn't asking too much for us to do the same for them.

2. **It is a shame that some have tried to shun this God given responsibility. (Matt. 15:1-6; 1 Tim. 5:8).**

D. Still another way of honoring mother is **by living a righteous life.**

1. A righteous life brings honor to mother.

2. An unrighteous life brings her remorse and shame. (Prov. 10:1).

3. **A number of years ago a pitiful scene took place in a Philadelphia jail.** A young man was there because he had broken the laws of the land and shamed his mother. His mother entered her son's cell and offered some food to him. She then began to cry and fell on the floor in convulsions and died a few hours later. The shame of her son's arrest and imprisonment for crimes killed her.

4. This story would have been very different if this woman, instead of entering her son's cell, had entered into his home and found that was honoring her and honoring God. One who was living a righteous life and was raising a Christian family. She would have been filled with happiness instead of remorse and shame.

Conclusion.

I. **Once there was a brilliant young man who was studying in one of the well known universities.** He was a muscular athlete and on the field was lion-like in his contact with opponents. But when the game was over, he was very kind and considerate to others, especially to women. The word "Mother" was most sacred to him; and whenever that word was used in his presence, he became silent: sometimes he even shed tears. A friend inquired of him one day why he was so rough and lion-like in athletics and so gentle at other times, especially towards girls and women. He answered, "I never like to refer to this, but my father told me that when I was being born, mother's case was most serious. Said the doctor, 'I cannot save them both. Decide quickly which one shall it be.' My father stood speechless I was told, not knowing what to say. Mother, who had overheard the doctor said 'I will die: let my child live.' Thus, mother gave her life for me!"

II. This young man rightly had great love and respect for his mother because she gave her life for him. We should have even greater love for Jesus who said to the Father in heaven, "I will die: let them live" and came to this earth and shed His blood on the cross for our sins. Jesus loves us with His life. Let's love Him back! Come as we stand and sing!