**RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR MOTHER**

Sunday School Lesson 10

*Building Right Relationships*

Proverbs 1:8

5/14/2023

**Introduction:** Last week, we looked at our relationship with our friends. Hopefully, we have the type of relationship with them that is pleasing to the Lord. Let’s consider some of the principles that were covered. 1. We must take the lead on showing friendliness in our relationships. 2. While we ought to be friendly, we do not have to be friends with everyone. 3. We ought to be willing to risk ruining a friendship for the sake of trying to strengthen our friends and for the sake of the truth. 4. We must ensure that we are not enablers nor seeking enabling people in our friendships. 5. We ought to be thoughtful about the type of conversations that we engage in with our friends. 6. We ought to place an emphasis on steadfastness and faithfulness in our friendships, as these are Biblical priorities over loyalty. 7. We ought to cultivate a properly Godly reliance instead of a reliance on us in our friendships. 8. We ought to strive not to allow offenses to hinder our friendships. In today’s lesson, we are going to go back for a little bit to the parent/child relationship in light of today being Mother’s Day. When we looked at this previously, the focus mostly was on how parents (jointly) ought to deal with their children. Today’s lesson will solely be focused on the relationship between mother and child and even maybe mother and father. I think it would be nearly impossible for the importance of the role of the mother to be overstated during our lesson. We have several great examples in Scripture of the value that is brought to a home that has a Godly mother in it. Let’s consider the following principles:

1. **WE MUST UNDERSTAND THAT THE MOTHER/CHILD RELATIONSHIP IS MEANT TO BE A COMFORTING RELATIONSHIP.**

* Isaiah 66:13 As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you; and ye shall be comforted in Jerusalem. 14 And when ye see this, your heart shall rejoice, and your bones shall flourish like an herb: and the hand of the Lord shall be known toward his servants, and his indignation toward his enemies. The Lord told Israel that He would comfort them as a mother comforts her child. To comfort means to strengthen; to invigorate; to cheer or enliven; to strengthen the mind when depressed or enfeebled; to console. I believe the Lord designed the primary comforter (aside from the Holy Spirit Himself) in the home to be the mother. She has a unique ability to give comfort to that child that nobody else can give except for the Lord Himself. Maybe, this ability is the result of the maternal bond that forms while the child is in the womb. Perhaps, it’s just a general result of the difference in God’s design of the man and the woman. Regarding her comforting ability, consider the behavior of an injured child (especially a younger child). Where do they tend to run to when they have been injured? While there are obviously exceptions to this, we see that young children will typically run to their mothers when in pain. Knowing this, husbands ought to be respectful or supportive of the mother’s special comforting bond with her children. Additionally, as adults, we ought to consider the mother’s continual desire to comfort.

1. **WE MUST UNDERSTAND THE DESIRE AND GREAT JOY OF MOTHERHOOD FOR WOMEN.**

* Psalm 113:9 He maketh the barren woman to keep house, and to be a joyful mother of children. Praise ye the Lord. Proverbs 30:15 The horseleach hath two daughters, crying, Give, give. There are three things that are never satisfied, yea, four things say not, It is enough: 16 The grave; and the barren womb; the earth that is not filled with water; and the fire that saith not, It is enough. Perhaps, this thought will seem “dated” in this day that we live in, but I believe the Bible shows us an inherent desire that exists within most women to be mothers. Every example we have of a barren woman is of one who is disappointed and discouraged over the lack of a child. There are examples of women such as Hannah, Rachel, and Sarah who greatly desired to have a child. The Bible lists four things that are never satisfied, and one of those is the barren womb. God created us to have families. Obviously, the New Testament teaches that it is appropriate if someone chooses to never marry and never have children, but the Scriptures also make it clear that children are a wonderful gift from the Lord (Psalm 127:3). The husband should have a proper understanding of the woman’s desire before marrying her, and children should understand just how important they are to their mother. This speaks to her love and joy over them.

1. **WE MUST UNDERSTAND THE GREAT PAIN AND BURDEN THAT A MOTHER FEELS WHEN HER CHILDREN LIVE FOOLISHLY.**

* Proverbs 10:1 The proverbs of Solomon. A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother. Proverbs 15:20 A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish man despiseth his mother. The intent of these verses is clearly not meant to assign the grief felt toward wayward children to only the mother and not the father. Surely, a wayward child will break the heart of both of his Godly parents. Yet, the Lord does choose to place an extra emphasis on the pain that a mother feels over the foolishness of her child. The Bible says that the foolish son is the heaviness of his mother. The use of the word *heaviness* seems especially relevant considering the process of child bearing. During pregnancy, the mother literally feels the heaviness of the child within her own body. She must carry his weight with her, and it is generally a very taxing experience. Would any mother desire to continually feel the cumbersome weight of pregnancy for her whole life? Surely, the thought of bringing new life into the world helps the heavy-laden mother to endure. When it comes to the foolish child, though, it’s like the mother is carrying that weight all over again emotionally and spiritually. Her care for her child and his well-being are crippling and overwhelming. She carries that weight with hope that her child will have new life once more in Christ and in His Word. She looks for the lightness of that joy. (Prov. 23:25)

1. **WE MUST PROPERLY REGARD AND FORSAKE NOT THE LAW OF THE MOTHER.**

* Proverbs 1:8 My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother: Proverbs 6:20 My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother: The child is commanded in the book of Proverbs to both hear the instruction of the father and to keep his commandments. When it comes to the mother, the child is given one instruction as it relates to these two verses. The child is commanded to forsake not the law of thy mother. Previously, we looked at the relationship in the home, and we noted that the husband/father is the leader of the home under Christ’s ultimate leadership. Within this, we understand how important it is for parents to be on the same page in the governance of their child. Thus, this passage in Proverbs is not speaking to a division in authority. It is simply emphasizing a point as it relates to a child’s behavior toward his mother. The father issues out the instruction, but the mother, given that she typically spends more time with that child, establishes the law for that child to follow daily based upon that instruction. We ought not to disregard the law that is given. It is to be that child’s constitution and governance. He shouldn’t ignore it or treat it lightly. The child who forsakes his mother’s law does it at his own peril.

1. **WE MUST UNDERSTAND THAT A GODLY MOTHER SHOULD KNOW THAT SHE IS BLESSED BY HER CHILDREN AND HER HUSBAND.**

* Proverbs 31:28 Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her. Proverbs 30:11 There is a generation that curseth their father, and doth not bless their mother. The Bible tells us that there is a generation that curses their father and does not bless their mother. I believe that we are likely living in such a generation today. This is a shame because a Godly mother is worthy of great blessing from both her children and her husband. A virtuous woman is so hard to find. If your mother raised you in the Lord, you ought to rejoice in that and bless her. What does it mean to bless her? To bless means to pronounce a wish of happiness to one; to make successful; to praise; to glorify; to esteem or to account happy; to extol. You ought to desire for your mother to be happy and successful. Proverbs 30:11 does not even limit this to Godly mothers. Even if your mother did not treat you well, you should still desire for her to be well. You ought to desire for her to come to know the Lord and all the goodness that comes along with knowing Him. On this Mother’s Day, does your mother know that she is blessed and loved? If nothing else, why don’t you go to the Lord in prayer for your mother today and seek for her to be blessed of the Lord!