

A MOTHER'S VOICE

"You are . . . irritating and unbearable, and I consider it most difficult to live with you" wrote one mother, Johanna, to her 19-year-old son in 1807. "No one can tolerate being reproved by you, who also still show so many weaknesses yourself, least of all in your adverse manner, which in oracular tones, proclaims this is so and so, without ever supporting an objection. If you were less like you, you would only be ridiculous, but thus as you are, you are highly annoying." From *The Atlantic*.

That's brutal. This is not the mother's voice I'd like to discuss today. I know motherhood can be frustrating, but I hope none of our mother's feel this way about their children. If you do, perhaps find a better way to articulate your frustration? No doubt, being a mother is a tremendous blessing, but it can be difficult.

We were laughing the other night, because Andrew's new job requires him to drive very expensive cars. Hey, someone's got to do it! He may, for example, pick up a customers sports vehicle from their home for a tune-up or oil change. He recently drove a 2.2 million dollar car. We were laughing because it only had 1 seat. I said, "It seems like a guy would typically buy a car like that to impress a girl, but yet she couldn't ride in that one!" Jordan was very impressed with the vehicle. Not because it was fast, expensive, or the design. As a mother, it meant she would have some "alone time." No kids could ride with her! I was reading an article on Thursday and it stated "Year after year, surveys that ask others what they most want for Mother's Day find that their No. 1 answer is time alone." *The Atlantic*. That's actually what Jordan gets for Mother's Day. A day to herself. But in all seriousness, we wouldn't give up our roles and mother or father for the world. Our children are precious.

My mother is precious to me. I know your mother, whether alive or having passed, is precious to you as well. There are tender moments I think about, but there's also and overall "feel" I remember from her. I get it from listening to her voice. There's something special about a mother's voice. Her tone. Her gentleness. Her encouragement. Her love. You know what I mean? Women are thought of as gentle. You can hear it in her voice. It's truly a beautiful aspect. And to think - she was also made in God's image, so it tells you something about the Godhead. A man is blessed if he had a loving mother. "*Then Isaac brought her into the tent of Sarah his mother and took Rebekah, and she becomes his wife, and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after*

his mother's death." **Genesis 24:67**. I have a note in the margin of my bible from a couple years back. It says, "Momma's boy." I drew a smiley face. As you mature, truly see the beauty in such passages. What a beautiful commentary on their relationship.

There's another beautiful mother/son relationship in the Scriptures. Not much is said, but what is stated is enough and something we can, to a degree, relate to. That is the relationship of Mary and her son, Jesus. Today, we'll consider some things Mary had to say and learn from the principles set forth.

Luke 1:46-56. Momma's love their babies and they'll talk about them as long as you'll let them, but their hearts must first belong to Christ. Before Mary would be able to speak about her son, she spoke about His Father.

- What does your child hear from you? Not only do we hear about her love for God, but Mary was also thankful, because God brought joy in her life by giving her a child. Children bring joy to their mothers.

Luke 2:41-52. Mother's are always concerned about their young ones, aren't they? There are mother's who aren't concerned about their little ones - where they are or what they're doing. Not her.

- **Proverbs 6:20-22.** We've been working through Proverbs (slowly) and we just happen to be at this passage. It's not just the father's voice that's a blessing, but the mother's. Not only does a mother praise God first and foremost, but she loves her children and cares for them.

John 2:1-5, 12. Mother's involve their children. Not only do they teach by word, but lead by example. This was an important event and the family needed help.

- Such mother will hopefully have children who honor them. There comes a time when a child needs to be giving back more.

- **Titus 2:3-5.** Yes, loving their children is something that should be encouraged among our group. It needs to be told and shown. This is a call to seasoned mothers. Just as a mother is hands on with her children, so it is with her. She is blessed if someone is hands on with her - teaching her to love her husband and children in word and deed.

John 19:23-27.

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- **1 Timothy 5:3-4** Honor widows who are truly widows. But if a widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show godliness

to their own household and to make some return to their parents, for this is pleasing in the sight of God.

- Point being - it's good to find ways to honor our mothers. Whether that's financially or protecting and providing like Jesus. We can express our appreciation and help out any way possible. It's in this way that we bring joy and not pain to their lives. They have cared for us - we need to return the love.