

Millennium Mom

Daystar Church – Mother’s Day – 5/8/05

Introduction:

A. You know you’re getting old when your favorite channel is TV Land.

1. We’re a long way from mothers like June Cleaver (Leave it to Beaver).
2. The day begins with a calm call for the boys to come downstairs and enjoy a full hot meal.
3. June is fully dressed with a cocktail dress, hair nicely fixed, earrings in and a pearl necklace.
4. As she sees her sons and husband off to work, we never see her again until they return home to a hot four-course meal waiting for them on the dining room table.

B. My how things have changed.

1. Now a mom often drags the kids out of bed 30 minutes late b/c of a late ballgame last night.
2. They eat a cold pop-tart on the way to school or the bus stop.
3. In sweatpants and a t-shirt mom heads out the do the many errands (or work) that have to be done in a day.
4. After school the kids are whisked away to piano, baseball, volleyball, cheerleading, drama...
5. Everyone arrives home to dinner – a sackful of Krystals or pizza.
6. It is inhaled over while homework is being done in the floor of the living room b/c the dining room table is covered with bills, laundry waiting to be folded, and other household projects.

C. This is called parenting in 2005.

1. This is not a job for the June Cleaver’s, Marian Cunningham’s and Aunt Bea’s of the world.
2. ***THIS IS A JOB FOR A MILLENNIUM MOM!***

D. A Millennium Mom is different.

1. She has to juggle work, parenting, cooking, and a marriage.
2. With all of the other pressures our culture has placed on moms, she still has to be the nurturing, teaching mom her children need.
3. Every mother still needs to try to teach the basics of life to their children just as we learned as kids.

What My Mother Taught Me:

LOGIC: If you fall off that swing & break you neck, you can't go to the store with me. If everyone else jumped off a cliff would you do it too?

MEDICINE: If you don't stop crossing your eyes, they're going to freeze that way.

TO THINK AHEAD: If you don't pass your spelling test, you'll never get a good job!

TO MEET A CHALLENGE: What were you thinking, son? Answer me when I'm talking to you...Boy, don't you talk back to me!

HUMOR: Alright, if you break your legs don't come running to me!

GENETICS: You're just like your father!

RECEIVING: You're gonna' get it when we get home!

MY ROOTS: Son, were you born in a barn?

THE WISDOM OF AGE: When you get to be my age you'll understand.

ANTICIPATION: You just wait until your father gets home.

JUSTICE: One day you'll have kids, and I hope they turn out just like you. Then you'll what it's like. I can't wait!

E. With all of the changes in this life, children still need kind and caring mothers to raise them up in a godly home.

1. One thing God cannot do.
2. He cannot ask you to do what is impossible.

3. You may think your situation as a parent is impossible, but...

Matt 19:26 NIV

With God all things are possible.

F. Today we look at a nameless woman in the O.T. who displays the qualities of a great mother.

1. Story is found in II Kings 4.
2. A wealthy Shunamite woman provided a room in her home for Elisha when he was ministering in the area.
3. In return he promised her a child, though she was barren.
4. Years later, the child died and she came to Elisha.
5. Elisha sent his servant to his staff on the boy (somehow it didn't work).
6. Elisha then made the trip himself, stretched out on the boy's dead body and he was brought back to life.

G. Now let's look more closely at this woman.

I. She had her PRIORITIES in order.

2 Kings 4:9-10 NIV

9 She said to her husband, "I know that this man who often comes our way is a holy man of God. 10 Let's make a small room on the roof and put in it a bed and a table, a chair and a lamp for him. Then he can stay there whenever he comes to us.

A. Just last night, Leslie proved that her priorities are in order when she took the girls for a walk before supper.

1. She constantly proves it.

Sometime ago the Wall Street Journal reported that, on the average, American parents spend less than 15 minutes a week in serious discussion with their children. For fathers the amount of intimate contact with their children is an average of 17 seconds per day.¹

2. And we wonder what has happened to the next generation. WE have happened to the next generation.
3. It's time we reorganize our priorities!

Writer and speaker Carol Kent writes: One day when my son Jason was young, we were eating breakfast together. I had on an old pair of slacks and a fuzzy old sweater. He flashed his baby blues at me over his cereal bowl and said, "Mommy you look so pretty today." I didn't even have makeup on! So I said, "Honey, why would you say I look pretty today? Normally I'm dressed up in a suit and high heels." And he said, "When you look like that, I know you're going someplace; but when you look like this, I know you're all mine."²

B. There are so many responsibilities a mother has.

1. Often parents get them out of order.
2. It is sometimes so hard to know what the right thing to do is.
3. There is one sure way to get it right.

Matt 6:33 NIV

seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

C. Just look what happened when the mother in our story put God first.

1. She was given the desire of her heart (motherhood).

¹ Michael G. Moriarty, *The Perfect 10: The Blessings of Following God's Commandments in a Post Modern World*, p. 110.

² Interview with *Today's Christian Woman*.

2. When her son died, he was raised from the dead.
- D. See, God knows what you need before you even ask Him.
1. He just wants you to put him first in your life.

II. She kept the FAITH during her problems.

2 Kings 4:18-26 NIV

*18 The child grew, and one day he went out to his father, who was with the reapers. 19 "My head! My head!" he said to his father. His father told a servant, "Carry him to his mother." 20 After the servant had lifted him up and carried him to his mother, the boy sat on her lap until noon, and then he died. 21 She went up and laid him on the bed of the man of God, then shut the door and went out. 22 She called her husband and said, "Please send me one of the servants and a donkey so I can go to the man of God quickly and return." 23 "Why go to him today?" he asked. "It's not the New Moon or the Sabbath." **"It's all right,"** she said. 24 She saddled the donkey and said to her servant, "Lead on; don't slow down for me unless I tell you." 25 So she set out and came to the man of God at Mount Carmel. When he saw her in the distance, the man of God said to his servant Gehazi, "Look! There's the Shunammite! 26 Run to meet her and ask her, 'Are you all right? Is your husband all right? Is your child all right?'" **"Everything is all right,"** she said.*

- A. Admittedly, this is not the average problem for a mother to face.
1. But notice the grace, calm and incredible FAITH she exercises.
 2. She doesn't collapse in the floor, blame God, get bitter, loose it, & have an emotional melt-down.
- B. She methodically reacts in faith.
1. Puts him in the room of the man of God.
 2. She goes to Elisha for prayer.
- C. Look closely at the story and you'll see UNUSUAL faith:

1. She didn't even tell her husband why she was leaving or that the boy had died: "It's all right."
2. When she approached the prophet she didn't even have a "come-apart".
3. He asked how she was and she said, "Everything is all right."

D. This kind of resolve is almost UNBELIEVABLE!

1. "Preacher, how am I supposed to have this kind of faith?"
2. In the OT, Jesus had not been revealed yet & Elisha was a type/shadow of the coming Christ.
 - i. Many in the NT thought Jesus was Elisha come back from the dead.

E. She knew that everything was going to be all right b/c of her relationship with Jesus.

1. If you're facing something right now that you just can't convince yourself is going to be okay, I have one solution for you.
2. Get just as close to Jesus as you can.
 - i. He's opened blinded eyes.
 - ii. He's healed diseases.
 - iii. He's calmed nerves, given peace to countless souls.
 - iv. He's raised cripples.
 - v. He's even brought the dead back to life many times.

F. The best news: HE KNOWS YOU BY NAME!

1. You're the centerpiece of His creation.
2. The hairs on your head are individually numbered.
3. You are the apple of His eye.
4. A thought doesn't cross your mind that he is not acquainted with.
5. He is TOUCHED by your needs and moved with COMPASSION when you are hurting.

A little boy forgot his lines in a children's presentation at church. His mother was in the front row to prompt him. She gestured and formed the words silently with her lips, but it did not help. Her son's memory was blank. Finally, she leaned forward and whispered the cue, "I am the light of the world." The child beamed and with great feeling and a loud voice said, "My mother is the light of the world."

- G. You are not the light of the world (never will be).
1. But you don't have to be.
 2. You can intimately know the ONE who is!
 3. Get to know Him and TRUST HIM!

III. She saw the hand of God MOVE on her behalf.

2 Kings 4:29 NIV

29 Elisha said to Gehazi, "Tuck your cloak into your belt, take my staff in your hand and run. If you meet anyone, do not greet him, and if anyone greets you, do not answer. Lay my staff on the boy's face."

- A. Remember, this is the OT equivalent of Jesus.
1. He sends his best servant RUNNING to meet her need.
 2. "Tuck that dress in and run!" In other words, "Hurry, and I mean don't run like a woman!!!"

3. He is serious about the needs of this woman.

B. What does this say to you in your time of need?

1. Don't give up so fast.
2. Maybe God has dispatched your answer already and he's running to you just as fast as he can.

C. Don't you dare give up.

1. *"I'll never be able to be a good mother/father."*
2. *"I'll never break this bondage in my life."*
3. *"I'll never be able to live for God consistently."*
4. *"Things will never change for me!"*
5. This attitude in no way reflects God's attitude toward you:

Jer 29:11 NKJV

11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

D. You may be thinking thoughts of failure and of evil.

1. But God is looking for the best in your life.
2. "Peace, hope, a BEAUTIFUL future!!!"

E. But wait a minute: The servant failed – I'm glad you asked about that.

1. I don't know why he failed.
2. Maybe he didn't run fast enough, tripped over his girdle, stopped to talk to someone...
3. That's an important aspect of this story, b/c people often let us down.
 - i. Family, work, church people...

F. BUT GOD IS BIGGER THAN PEOPLE!!!

1. Next thing we see, Elisha (type of Jesus), going into the room of the dead boy.
2. He lays on the dead body and it heats up and comes back to life.
3. He proves again that there are no hopeless cases with God!!!

Conclusion:

A. Maybe you have some dead places (situations) in your life today.

B. I have a fool-proof, 3-step cure to bring it back to life (BONUS MATERIAL).

1. Get it into God's house.

- i. Remember, Elisha is an OT type of Christ.
- ii. She didn't put the dead boy in her husband's room, hospital room – she lay him in the man of God's bed!
- iii. Quit taking your problems to every other place.
- iv. GET IT INTO THE HOUSE OF GOD!

2. Get it as close to Jesus as you can.

- i. It wasn't enough for Elisha to touch the boy.
- ii. He literally laid over him (hand to hand, eyes to eyes, mouth to mouth...)
- iii. Abandon this cursory, superficial relationship you have with Jesus!

iv. Let him have free rule and reign over your life!

3. Become a worshiper.

- i. The last thing she did was to fall at his feet in worship.
- ii. I don't care where you go in this Book, you'll find worship.

I recently talked to a friend of mine who was worship leader at a large church that had never been a worshipping church. Although he knew it would create a stir, the pastor wanted him to bring in new worship music. But the pastor didn't want to take any of the heat. In fact he told the worship leader, "You go ahead and worship like you Pentecostals do, but don't expect me to worship. That's just not my personality."

- iii. WOW! Aren't you glad Jesus didn't say, "You all go ahead and burn in hell for all eternity. It's just not my personality to die on a cross!"
- iv. If you want to be victorious in Christ, you'll have to become a worshiper.

C. Invitation.

1. Do you have some dead situations in your life?
2. Why don't you just get as close to Jesus as you can today.
3. He'll come running to your rescue.

D. Prayer for mothers.