

“MOTHERS WHO MAKES A DIFFERENCE”

GENESIS 3:20

INTRODUCTION

EVE WAS THE MOTHER OF ALL LIVING PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN AND WILL BE.

HER NAME, “EVE,” MEANS “LIVING.”

SHE WAS THE FIRST MOTHER AND THE FIRST WOMAN TO EVER GIVE BIRTH TO A CHILD.

I WONDER IF SHE KNEW WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN IT CAME TIME FOR CAIN TO BE BORN?

I WONDER IF SHE WAS AFRAID OF MOTHERHOOD? AFTER ALL, NO ONE HAD EVER DONE IT BEFORE?

I WONDER IF SHE KNEW WHAT AN IMPORTANT AND INFLUENTIAL JOB BEING A MOTHER IS?

SHE MOTHERED THREE SONS MENTIONED IN THE SCRIPTURE: CAIN, ABLE AND SETH.

GENESIS 5:4 TELLS US THAT THEY HAD MANY SONS AND DAUGHTERS IN THEIR LIFE TOGETHER, BUT WE ARE FOCUSING ON THESE THREE BOYS.

BECAUSE CAIN MURDERED ABLE, EVE IS NOT ONLY THE FIRST, BUT SHE ALSO WAS THE FIRST MOTHER TO LOSE A CHILD TO DEATH.

THEY REALLY LOST TWO SONS, BECAUSE THE OTHER SON LEFT AND WANDERED THE LANDS.

IT WAS THROUGH THE LINE OF SETH THAT PEOPLE BEGAN TO CALL UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD. (GENESIS 4:25-26).

SINCE THE TIME OF EVE, IT HAS FALLEN TO MOTHERS TO RAISE THEIR CHILDREN FOR THE LORD.

OUR MOTHERS BRING US INTO THE WORLD; THEY NURTURE US; THEY PROVIDE FOR US; THEY RAISE US UP; THEY TEACH US, AND THEY DISCIPLINE US.

MOTHERS HAVE THE REMARKABLE ABILITY TO CHANGE THE WORLD THROUGH THEIR CHILDREN.

LET US TAKE A BRIEF LOOK AT MOTHERS WHO MAKE A DIFFERENT.

(I). LET US FIRST LOOK AT THE “PROTECTIVE” MOTHER: JOCHEBED IN EXODUS 2:1-4.

(A). MOSES’ MOTHER TOOK GREAT RISK TO PROTECT HER SON.

- (1). JOCHEBED WAS A SLAVE AMONG A VERY BRUTAL PEOPLE.**
- (2). THE PLAN WAS TO CONTROL THE HEBREW PEOPLE THROUGH CONTROLLING THE MALE POPULATION.**
- (3). IF THEIR PLAN HAD WORKED, THE HEBREW PEOPLE WOULD SOON BE A STAGNATE RACE, AND EGYPT WOULD HAVE TOTAL ABSOLUTE CONTROL OVER THEM.**
- (4). THE PROBLEM FOR PHARAOH IS THAT THE MIDWIVES DID NOT OBEY HIS COMMAND AND ALLOWED THE BOYS TO LIVE AND THE NATION OF ISRAEL GREW STRONG IN SPIRIT AND IN NUMBER.**
- (5). AS A RESULT, THE CRUELTY DID NOT END, BUT CONTINUED.**

(B). MOSES' MOTHER PUT HIM IN A BASKET TO PROTECT HIM.

- (1). SHE COULD NO LONGER HIDE HIM AND FEARED THAT DEATH WOULD COME TO HER SON, SHE PUT HIM IN THE NILE AND TRUSTED GOD.**
- (2). HIS SISTER WATCHED HIM FROM A DISTANCE AND SAW HIS RESCUE.**
- (3). SHE EVEN OFFERED "A WOMAN" TO BE THE NURSE FOR THE BABY AND MOSES' OWN MOTHER BECAME HIS NANNY. (EXODUS 2:7-9).**

©. MOTHERS HAVE PROTECTED US IN MANY WAYS.

- (1). THEY HAVE PROTECTED US PHYSICALLY AND KEPT US FROM DANGER.**
- (2). MOTHERS HAVE PROTECTED US MORALLY BY TEACHING US RIGHT FROM WRONG.**
- (3). MANY TIMES THEY HAVE ALSO PROTECTED US EMOTIONALLY BY KEEPING US FROM THINGS THEY KNEW WOULD HURT US.**
- (4). MOTHERS HAVE ALSO PROTECTED OUR SOULS AND BROUGHT US UP TO LOVE AND SERVE THE LORD.**

(II). LET US LOOK SECONDLY AT THE "SUPPORTIVE" MOTHER: HANNA IN I SAMUEL 1:24-28.

(A). HANNAH PRAYED FOR A SON FOR MANY YEARS, BECAUSE SHE WAS BARREN.

- (1). AFTER YEARS OF PRAYER AND ENDURANCE, GOD GAVE HER A SON, AND SHE GAVE HER**

SON BACK TO THE LORD.

(2). IT WAS SORT OF A DEAL SHE HAD STRUCK WITH THE LORD.

(a). “GOD GIVE ME A SON AND I WILL GIVE HIM BACK TO YOU.

(3). SAMUEL WAS TAKEN TO THE LORD’S HOUSE WHEN HE WAS OF APPROPRIATE AGE AND HE WAS LEFT WITH THE PRIESTS TO BECOME A SERVANT OF THE LORD.

(B). THERE ARE THREE THINGS EVERY MOTHER CAN LEARN FROM HANNAH:

(1). GOD ANSWERS PRAYER CONCERNING CHILDREN.

(2). YOU SHOULD GIVE YOUR CHILDREN TO THE LORD TO USE THEM AS HE SEES FIT.

(3). YOU SHOULD SUPPORT YOUR CHILDREN IN DOING THE LORD’S WILL.

(III). LET US LOOK THIRDLY AT THE “INSTRUCTIVE” MOTHER: EUNICE IN II TIMOTHY 1:1-5.

(A). YOU MIGHT BE ASKING YOURSELF, “WHO IS EUNICE?”

(1). SHE WAS A WONDERFUL MOTHER WHO CHANGED THE WORLD THROUGH HER CHILDREN.

(2). SHE WAS THE MOTHER OF TIMOTHY.

(3). TIMOTHY WAS A CLOSE FRIEND OF THE APOSTLE PAUL.

(4). HE WAS ONE OF THE CHIEF ASSOCIATES ON ALL OF HIS MISSIONARY JOURNEYS.

(5). TIMOTHY JOINED PAUL ON IN JOURNEYS AFTER HIS VISIT TO LYSTRA, AND WE SEE HIM BEING A FAITHFUL FRIEND EVEN DURING PAUL'S IMPRISONMENT IN ROME. (COLOSSIANS 1:1, PHILIPPIANS 1:1, PHILEMON 1).

(6). TIMOTHY, ALONG WITH HIS MOTHER AND GRANDMOTHER, WERE JEWISH BELIEVERS WHO HEARD ABOUT CHRIST AND ACCEPTED HIM.

(7). THE FAITH THAT WAS IN TIMOTHY WAS FIRST IN HIS GRANDMOTHER AND IN HIS MOTHER.

(a). THEY WERE AN EXAMPLE OF FAITH TO HIM.

(b). THEY TAUGHT HIM THE SCRIPTURE.

(B). MOTHERS AND GRANDMOTHERS, HOW MUCH TIME DO YOU SPEND TALKING TO YOUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE?

(1). THEY SHOULD FIRST HEAR ABOUT GOD FROM YOU.

(2). TEACH THEM THE SONGS ABOUT JESUS.

(3). THEY SHOULD BE SINGING ABOUT JESUS BEFORE THEY ARE SINGING ABOUT BARNEY.

(4). TEACH THEM ABOUT JESUS.

(5). GET HEM INTO CHURCH.

(6). SHARE IN THEIR SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON.

ILLUSTRATION

TOO OFTEN, WOMEN ARE MADE TO FEEL THAT THEY SHOULD APOLOGIZE FOR BEING MOTHERS AND HOUSEWIVES

IN REALITY, SUCH ROLES ARE NOBLE CALLINGS.

THERE WAS THIS MOTHER AND HOUSE WIFE WHO WAS CONFRONTED BY A GROUP OF WOMEN LAWYERS, SOCIOLOGIST AND PHYSICIANS. THEY ASKED HER, “AND WHAT DO YOU DO, MY DEAR?”

AND THE MOTHER AND HOUSEWIFE SAID, “I AM SOCIALIZING TWO HOMO SAPIENS IN THE DOMINANT VALUES OF THE JUDEO-CHRISTIAN TRADITION IN ORDER THAT THEY MIGHT BE INSTRUMENTS FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE SOCIAL ORDER INTO THE TELEOLOGICALLY PRESCRIBED UTOPIA INHERENT IN THE ESCHATON.”

WHEN SHE FOLLOWED THAT WITH, “AND WHAT DO YOU DO?” THE OTHER WOMEN WERE SPEECHLESS.

(IV). LET US LOOK FOURTHLY AT THE “LOYAL” MOTHER: MARY IN JOHN 19:25a.

(A). THERE STOOD BY THE CROSS OF JESUS, HIS MOTHER, MARY.

(1). SHE WAS LOYAL TO HER SON TILL HIS DEATH.

(2). MOTHERS HAVE THIS WONDERFUL ABILITY THAT NO MATTER WHAT CHILDREN DO, NO MATTER WHAT THEY GO THROUGH, THEY ARE LOYAL TO THEIR CHILDREN.

(3). MONS DON’T GIVE UP.

(4). THIS DOESN'T MEAN THAT YOU CONDONE OR APPROVE OF THEIR SIN.

(5). MANY OF OUR MONS COULD HAVE GIVEN UP ON US, BUT THEY HUNG IN THERE AND WERE LOYAL.

(B). I THINK THAT THE AFFIRMATION OF JOHN KILLINGER SAID IT BEST:

(1). "I BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST, THE SON OF THE LOVING GOD, WHO WAS BORN OF THE PROMISE TO A VIRGIN NAMED MARY."

(2). "I BELIEVE IN THE LOVE MARY GAVE HER SON, WHICH CAUSED HER TO FOLLOW HIS MINISTRY AND STAYED BY HIM AS HE DIED ON THE CROSS."

(3). "I BELIEVE IN THE LOVE OF ALL MOTHERS, AND ITS IMPORTANCE IN THE LIVES OF THE CHILDREN THEY BEAR."

(a). "IT IS STRONGER THAN STEEL, SOFTER THAN DAWN, AND MORE RESILIENT THAN A GREEN CEDAR ON A HILLSIDE."

(b). "IT CLOSES WOUNDS, MELTS DISAPPOINTMENTS, AND ENABLES THE WEAKEST CHILD TO STAND TALL AND STRAIGHT IN THE FIELDS OF ADVERSITY."

(4). "I BELIEVE THAT THIS LOVE, EVEN AT ITS BEST, IS ONLY A SHADOW OF THE LOVE OF GOD."

(a). "IT IS ONLY A DARK REFLECTION OF ALL THAT WE CAN EXPECT OF GOD,

BOTH IN THIS LIFE AND THE LIFE TO COME.”

- (5). “AND I BELIEVE THAT ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL SIGHTS IN THE WORLD IS A MOTHER WHO LETS THE GREATER LOVE FLOW THROUGH HER TO HER CHILD, BLESSING THE WORLD WITH THE TENDERNESS OF HER TOUCH AND THE TEARS OF HER JOY.”**

CONCLUSION

TO THE MONS WHO PROTECT US, SUPPORT US, INSTRUCT US, AND WERE LOYAL TO US, WE SAY “THANK YOU.”

(A). TO THE YOUNG MOTHERS HERE TODAY WE SAY:

- (1). PROTECT YOUR CHILDREN.**
- (2). SUPPORT YOUR CHILDREN.**
- (3). TEACH THEM IN THE LORD.**
- (4). REMAIN LOYAL TO THEM.**

(B). TO ALL MOTHERS HERE TODAY, DON’T WORRY ABOUT BEING A STRONG WOMAN, JUST BE A WOMAN OF STRENGTH.

- (1). A STRONG WOMAN WORKS OUT EVERYDAY TO KEEP HER BODY IN SHAPE...BUT A WOMAN OF STRENGTH KNEELS IN PRAYER TO KEEP HERE SOUL IN SHAPE.**
- (2). A STRONG WOMAN ISN’T AFRAID OF ANYTHING.....BUT A WOMAN OF STRENGTH SHOWS COURAGE IN THE MIDST OF HER FEARS.**

- (3). A STRONG WOMAN WON'T LET ANYONE GET THE BEST OF HER...BUT A WOMAN OF STRENGTH GIVES THE BEST OF HERSELF TO EVERYONE.**
- (4). A STRONG WOMAN MAKES MISTAKES AND AVOIDS THE SAME IN THE FUTURE....BUT A WOMAN OF STRENGTH REALIZES MISTAKES CAN ALSO BE GOD'S BLESSINGS AND CAPITALIZES ON THEM.**
- (5). A STRONG WOMAN WALKS SURE FOOTEDLY....BUT A WOMAN OF STRENGTH KNOWS GOD WILL CATCH HER WHEN SHE FALLS.**
- (6). A STRONG WOMAN WEARS THE LOOK OF CONFIDENCE ON HER FACE...BUT A WOMAN OF STRENGTH WEARS GRACE.**
- (7). A STRONG WOMAN HAS FAITH THAT SHE IS STRONG ENOUGH FOR THE JOURNEY....BUT A WOMAN OF STRENGTH HAS FAITH THAT IT IS IN THE JOURNEY THAT SHE WILL BECOME STRONG.**