

Individual Message: BEING A GODLY MOM

Mother's Day 2023

Text: Romans 16:13; Luke 8:21

Introduction

Take on the Role of a Godly Mother

Romans 16:13

Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord; also his mother, who has been a mother to me as well.

- High likelihood that Rufus is the son of Simon of Cyrene. It is described in St. Mark's Gospel (Mark 15:21) as "the father of Alexander and Rufus,"
 - He who bore the cross of Christ... followed Christ upon His resurrection along with wife and sons
 - Church history suggests that in later days, Simon may have passed away and Alexander out of the house while Rufus stayed and cared for his mother.
 - She had raised Rufus and now he is a chosen, elect, and eminent Christian.
- It would seem that Paul had spent time with Rufus and had been hosted in their home. Rufus' mother in some ways had shown care for Paul and been like a mother to him.
- Barnes
 - *And his mother and mine* - "His mother in a literal sense, and mine in a figurative one." An instance of the delicacy and tenderness of Paul; of his love for this disciple and his mother, as if he were of the same family. Religion binds the hearts of all who embrace it tenderly together. It makes them feel that they are one great family, united by tender ties, and joined by special attachments.
 - See his tender address to John when he was on the cross; John 19:26-27.
- Jamieson's commentary states, "The apostle calls her 'his own mother' ... in grateful acknowledgment of her motherly attentions to himself, bestowed no doubt for his Master's sake, and the love she bore to his honored servants."

Whatever the case may be, Paul states that this woman cared for him as if he were her own.

- This suggests that the role of mother may be lived out into the lives of anyone who chooses to do so.
- You may not be a mother. The Lord chose to have your life take another path, be it inability or the losing of a child.
- This message is to mothers, yet can be grasped by those who have no children and can be applied to any who would hear the words of the Lord.
- There is a role that can be held to off the love and care and concern of a mother to those around you.

There are countless people in this world who need the love and care of someone who would offer hospitality and care.

So this message is for all of us to hear the words of the Lord.

What are we to do?

First,

Have the Heart of a Godly Mother

Luke 8:19-20

¹⁹ Then his mother and his brothers came to him, but they could not reach him because of the crowd. ²⁰ And he was told, "Your mother and your brothers are standing outside, desiring to see you."

- See that his mother is there. But also his brothers were there. They desired to see him and to be with him
- The names of four brethren are given in Mark 6:3, as James (i.e., Jacob) and Joses and Juda and Simon.
 - Within six months of the Lord's ministry concluding and to the crucifixion we know that his brothers did not believe he was the Christ.
- Sisters are mentioned in Mark 6, but have no names or numbers of them.
 - Just a note. Some might say that these were not his half-brothers but adopted children of a sister of Joseph or of Mary. They have done so to venerate and maintain the virginity of Mary. This is pressing one's belief into a text that would not support it.
- His mother and brothers have come; possibly his sisters also, due to Jesus' response in Mark including sisters.

Many have speculated on the reason for them to come and see Him.

Commentators have speculated on the nature of the requests that Jesus' mother and brothers may have had.

- Many have said that because of their disbelief in Him they were coming to rebuke him.
 - Mark says that they desired to seize him earlier because they thought him out of his mind. But this was in relationship to the statement that there were masses there and when he came home, they followed him. They had no food for that many people food for them. This was not a check on him for his sanity... but that he had brought this insanity to their home.
 - Also, Mary knew who he was from before His birth. From events when He was twelve. From her request of Him at the wedding of Cana.

- Some suggest that they desired to cash in on the influence that Jesus is gaining with the crowd, and they want some part of it.
- Some said that they were concerned for His wellbeing because of conversations that had taken place with the Pharisees and concerns were for safety
 - Though John 7 says that they had not yet believed in him it does say that they suggested that he break away out of concerns for his life
 - ³ *So his brothers said to him, "Leave here and go to Judea, that your disciples also may see the works you are doing. ⁴ For no one works in secret if he seeks to be known openly. If you do these things, show yourself to the world."*
- All these thoughts fall outside of the text that we are given. It is likely that they wanted Him in their home. Could not get in and wanted to figure out how to feed these people.

The text says

- They came to him - Lk
- They could not reach him Lk
- They called him – Mk
- They asked to speak with him – Mt.
- They sent to him - Mk
- They desired to see him - Lk

Matt. 12:46-50 adds...

- "...They were asking to speak with him."

Mark states,

- *"...standing outside they sent to him and called him..."*

Many times those we care for are hard to reach.

- We try to connect
- We wait outside of their lives
- We desire to see them
- We want to ask questions about their lives and choices
- We may have concerns and we feel outside of any realm of influence.

Nurturing

- Moms come to support their children no matter the age
- Mary has a desire to her their son. To be near him.
 - She may have also wanted to support him by working out the details of feeding the guests he has brought to their home.
 - When our kids brought friends over... June was and still is quick to pull something together to eat. It is a gesture of nurturing and supporting.
 - Possibly simply to be in support of Him – She is a nurturer.
 - Definition of "nurture:"

- to feed and protect: to nurture one's offspring.
 - to support and encourage, as during the period of training or development;
 - to foster: to nurture promising musicians.
 - to bring up; train; educate.
- “The natural state of motherhood is unselfishness. When you become a mother, you are no longer the center of your own universe. You relinquish that position to your children.”
Jessica Lange
 - “Sweater, *n.*: garment worn by child when its mother is feeling chilly.”
Ambrose Bierce

Who in your life needs a meal?

Who in your life could use your support?

Affirming

- Mary affirms her son when at the wedding she said, “Whatever he tells you to do... do it.”
 - She learned early that he was going to be about his father’s business.
 - She is there affirming His calling and his ministry.
 - Definition of “affirm:”
 - to state or assert positively; maintain as true: to affirm one's loyalty to one's country; He affirmed that all was well.
 - to confirm or ratify: The appellate court affirmed the judgment of the lower court.
 - to assert solemnly: He affirmed his innocence.
 - to express agreement with or commitment to; uphold; support: to affirm human rights.
 - My mother said to me, 'If you are a soldier, you will become a general. If you are a monk, you will become the Pope.' Instead, I was a painter, and became Picasso.
Pablo Picasso

Are you affirming to people?

Who could you speak words of encouragement to?

Teaching

- We can see the respect Jesus has for his mother when she asks him to take care of the wine situation at the wedding.

- Church history suggests that Joseph had died, and it is likely that Jesus as oldest cared for his mother and his half-siblings. He worked as a carpenter until he was thirty.
- In that time – I am sure that Mary was sure that Jesus went to the synagogue, that they regularly quoted the Torah and that he was raised to honor God.
 - Luke 2:52: *“And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.”*
- Not only did Mary raise him and teach him. But she was likely concerned for her other children.
 - It would not surprise me that she is bringing his half-brothers and sisters to hear him that they might have their eyes opened.
 - We know that they had not yet believed.
 - We know that upon the resurrection, they do believe.
 - James becomes the first among equals and the lead in the Jerusalem church
 - Jude writes an epistle calling against false teachings
- “My mother was the most beautiful woman I ever saw. All I am I owe to my mother. I attribute all my success in life to the moral, intellectual, and physical education I received from her.” George Washington
- Watch me while I do it... you do it while I watch... you do it ... you do it while someone else watches
- “The mother's heart is the child's schoolroom.” Henry Ward Beecher

Parents...You cannot abdicate your responsibility of teaching your child to the state school system.

- The absence of God or godly truth will shape your child’s mind.
- They will not learn of the flood that threw mountains into the sea and brought other mountains into existence and disrupted all the geographic strata.
- They will not learn the difference between micro- and macro-evolution and will be taught that we were formed out of a “primordial soup” rather than by the hand, voice, and breath of God, to be made in His likeness.
- They will be taught that sexual deviancy is normal and should be affirmed and applauded rather than rejected and prayed for.
 - 1.9% dysphoria to 30% teenage girls now claiming some form of adjustment to their gender identity.
 - This is environmental and educational contagion.
- We must teach them the way to go.

Do the Work of a Mother

Luke 8:21

...But he answered them, "My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it."

- **Matt.** But he replied to the man who told him, "Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?" (12:48)
- **Mark** – "...he is my brother and sister and mother." (3:35)
- He said, Who?
 - *...looking about at those who sat around him, "Here are my mother and my brothers!" (Mark 3:34)*
 - *And stretching out his hand toward his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers!" (Matt. 12:49)*
 - This is you. This is me. We sit at the feet of Jesus. We are His disciples.
 - And he has a work for you and me to do.
- For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven
- "For whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother."

Influencing others' inner lives toward God

- They need to hear the Word of God
 - My Mom – early in the morning – a bowl of cereal and the reading of Proverbs and Psalms
 - Prayer in the morning and showing us to pray while at church – she sought the Lord in a heartfelt way that revealed a love of Jesus that we saw and wanted.
 - The Word was at the center of my life.
- "Only God Himself fully appreciates the influence of a Christian mother in the molding of character in her children." Billy Graham
- Challenge and guide those around you toward right and pure motivations regarding the work the Lord has given you and given them.
- Model a relationship with Jesus that stays close to Him – the disciples gave the lives for Jesus and spent their lives living for Him.
- The hearts of the children need to be drawn to the Savior.

Influencing others' outer lives toward God

- Not just hear the words but do them.

- Do the will of the Father.
- The life in Christ calls for us to be active in the lives of others.
- “My mother used to tell me man gives the award; God gives the reward. I don't need another plaque.” Denzel Washington
 - I want the reward from the Heavenly Father for the life I am to live for Him
- The world needs godly mothering. Not neo-fascist feminism.
 - We are to live a life that others may see.
 - We are doing the will of the Heavenly Father
- To go and live among the nations as a light shining the way to walk with the Lord.

CHALLENGE

To the Mothers

Live a life that Honors God and encourages others to live for Him with a deep inner love for God and a profound outer life that shows God's love.

“...who hear God's word and put it into practice.”

To All –

Take on that same heart to live holy lives in Him and honor others' lives for Him.