

Mothering by Serving

John 19:26-27

Introduction:

God has given women special abilities to be used in serving him.

The barren women are to serve him, and the bearing women are to serve him, while neither of them is to be spiritually unfruitful.

Examine opportunities for mothering by serving.

I. Mothering by Serving the Lord.

Mothers who include their children in their service to God have more time to serve the Lord.

Manoah's wife was told by the angel of the LORD that she would give birth to a son.

The child would be raised as a Nazirite, dedicated to the LORD, abstaining from alcohol and forbidden food (Judges 13).

Manoah's son would rescue Israel from the Philistines, who had been oppressing Israel for 40 years.

Manoah prayed that the angel would return and give them more instructions.

The angel appeared again to Manoah's wife, so she went and got her husband; the angel told him to raise the child as a Nazirite.

Manoah and his wife wanted to honor the angel after his second appearance, but the angel directed him to offer their sacrifice to God.

Manoah's wife gave birth to Samson and the child grew up and the LORD blessed him (Judges 13:24-25).

Mothers who do the LORD's will with their child(ren), serve the Lord.

Hannah was heartbroken because she did not have any children (1 Samuel 1:3).

When the LORD honored her request, giving her a son, she dedicated Samuel to the LORD, remaining faithful to the LORD in keeping her promise.

Mothers who involve their children in their service to God are a blessing beyond their time.

Hannah was blessed to have three more sons and two more daughters (1 Samuel 2:21).

Mary, the mother of Jesus, was serving the Lord before she became a mother.

The angel Gabriel told Mary, "Do not be afraid...for you have found favor with God" (Luke 1:30).

I love Mary's faithful response after some understanding was sorted out; She said, "Behold, the bondservant of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38).

Mary and Joseph brought their son "to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord" (Luke 2:22).

In Luke 8, Mary came to her son, to see him, and he explained that all who do God's will are part of his family.

She was there at "a wedding in Cana of Galilee" (John 2:1).

Jesus spent a few days with "his mother and brothers and his disciples" at Capernaum" (John 2:12).

Mary was at the cross (John 19:25); she was given the disciple whom Jesus loved to care for (v. 26), and she was given to the same disciple to be cared for (v. 27).

In Acts 1:14, Mary was still serving God, devoted to prayer, after the ascension of Jesus.

Mothering by serving the lord gives opportunities in every life phase of a woman.

Lois had sincere faith that she passed down to her daughter Eunice, who in turn passed on sincere faith to Timothy (2 Timothy 1:5).

Lois taught her daughter about serving the LORD.

There is no doubt that Grandmother Lois also had a part in establishing the faith of her grandson, Timothy.

Grandmothers help their children instill faith in their children.

Mothers who serve the LORD with genuine faith pass it on to their child(ren).

A standing legacy of faith begins with one woman who serves the LORD.

Serve the LORD by mothering the people around you.

II. Mothering by Serving at Home.

Titus 2:3-5 state, “Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good, so that they may encourage the **young women** to love their husbands, to love their children, to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored.”

When Paul said, “the young women” he used a term that simply means “young” or “new” and gave it in the feminine form.

Contextually, we conclude that Paul is speaking of young women because he said they are to be trained “to love their husbands.”

Young women need to be trained “to love their husbands, to love their children, to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands,” so that they can live a life that glorifies God when they become married and when they have children, if they do.

For time and topic purposes we need to look at one of the seven qualities.

Older women are to teach younger women to be “workers at home.”

The phrase translates a single word “housekeeper,” “homemaker” meaning “busy at home” or “working at home.”

Paul states the reason for the young women to be trained is “so that the word of God will not be dishonored/blasphemed.”

In a similar passage, Paul wrote, “Therefore, I want younger widows to get married, bear children, keep house, and give the enemy no occasion for reproach” (1 Timothy 5:14).

“Younger” is that same word from Titus 2:4; it means “young” or “new,” again in the feminine form.

Contextually, we conclude that Paul is speaking of young widows because he mentions widows in verses 3, 4, 5, 9, our verse 14 and verse 16.

These young widows are to get married, bear children, and keep a house.

“Keep house” means “manage a household.”

This includes cleaning and cooking among other physical aspects of the house but would include other aspects, such as submission to her husband, loving her husband, and loving her children.

When a husband or a child is in the picture, the woman’s first responsibility is to care for the home.

This mothering can be done even if the woman works outside the home.

An increasingly more sought-after role for mothers is to work from home.
Serve at home by mothering the people in your home.

III. Mothering by Serving Inside and Outside the Home.

Lydia was “a seller of purple fabrics” (Acts 16:14).

She worked at something in addition to managing her house.

Acts 16:15 tells that “when she and her household (which may or may not have included a husband, children, slaves, servants, etc.) had been baptized, she urged [Paul and his companions to] ...come into [her] house and stay.”

Lydia was a woman who served the Lord inside and outside the home.

The worthy woman of Proverbs 31 also served inside and outside the home.

Since her work inside the home is evident throughout, look at a few verses that attest to her work outside.

Verse 16, “She considers a field and buys it; From her earnings she plants a vineyard.”

Verse 24, “She makes linen garments and sells them, And supplies belts to the tradesmen.”

Verse 27, “She looks well to **the ways of her household**, And does not eat the bread of idleness.”

Buying property, making, and selling garments and belts, show some of her works outside the home, but she did not overlook “the ways of her household.”

She is praised for doing everything in her power to care for her family.

Her motivation is important in that her business activities were the means to an end, not an end in themselves.

Her work outside the home was secondary to her first responsibility, stewardship of her husband, children, and home.

If working outside the home does not hinder godliness, then serve the Lord inside and outside the home.

But, if working outside the home causes the neglect of serving in the home, work outside the home must end.

Serve the Lord by mothering inside and outside the home when both can be maintained to God’s glory.

IV. Mothering by Serving the Lord’s Leading.

Titus 2:3-5 states, “**Older women** likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good, so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored.”

When Paul said “older women” he used a term that refers to an older woman, but not yet in the last, less productive stage of old age.

Paul did not use a term that specifies unmarried or married, barren or bearing.

He instructs older women to encourage, advise, instruct, train, the young, the new unmarried, or married to live godly.

Paul gives the reason for the older women to train and the young women to be trained, “so that the word of God will not be dishonored/blasphemed.”

Widows and women who remain as Paul was, unmarried, are “concerned about the things of the Lord, how [they] may please the Lord” (1 Corinthians 7:34).

For the most part, a single person is free to devote all his or her attention to the work of the Lord, having no need to share time with a spouse or children.

Paul included this statement in verse 34, “but one who is married is concerned about the things of the world, how she may please her husband.”

Undistracted devotion to the Lord is to be promoted.

In other words, serve the Lord’s leading; serve your husband, children, and the home if you have them, and serve the Lord with greater attention if you do not.

Serve the Lord’s leading by mothering everyone the Lord leads you to.

Application:

Women, serve the Lord for your soul’s sake.

Serve the Lord at home by managing the home with your husband, training the child(ren) in the faith, and working at home “so that the word of God will not be dishonored.”

When serving outside the home, do so to the glory of God abounding in the work of the Lord.

If you are physically or circumstantially without children, your ultimate purpose is just the same, reflect God in all that you do.

Conclusion:

Genesis 1:28 is the first of many occasions that we read, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it.”

“God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth’” (Genesis 9:1).

God’s redemption of Israel began with “I will multiply you exceedingly,” “I have made you exceedingly fruitful” (Genesis 17), and “in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice” (Genesis 22:18).

After the captivity, after the rebuilding of Jerusalem, God spoke through Malachi, “Did he not make them one, with a portion of the Spirit in their union? And what was the one God seeking? Godly offspring. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth” (Malachi 2:15 ESV).

From Moses to Elijah, the Old Testament is about filling the earth with God’s people.

The New Testament commissions God’s people to reach all the nations.

Through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus salvation was made available to all people; Jews and Gentiles are now invited into God’s family (Galatians 3:28 and 29), with many mothers.

God’s instruction to Israel, “be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth” is expanded in the great commission, instructing Jews and Gentiles in the family of God to “make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.”

Galatians 3:6-9 says, “Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham. The Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, ‘All the nations will be blessed in you.’ So then those who are of faith are blessed with Abraham, the believer.”

Are you a woman of faith? Go about mothering be serving.

Are you a member of the family of God? Everyone who does God's will is a part of His family!

Salvation is available through Jesus Christ, who was born of woman (Galatians 4:4).

Jesus instructs everyone to believe in Him, repent of sins, confess His name, and be born again, born of water and the Spirit (John 3:5).

Come be a part of the greatest family their ever will be, as we stand and sing.