

Slide 1

Blessed

PROVERBS 31:28-31

Introduction

1. I have to admit. This day snuck up on me.
2. Not the fact that it is Sunday, the Lord's Day, but that it is Mother's Day.
3. For some reason, I thought it was next Sunday.
4. But for those of you who, like me, forgot, it is always officially recognized on the second Sunday in May.
5. That being said, I did not want to miss this opportunity to share with you some important truths in God's Word about mothers.
6. I do want to encourage each of you to be back tonight so that we can look at part two of what we began last Sunday morning on "Shepherds and Their Sheep."
7. Tonight, we will look at what God says about our responsibility as sheep to our shepherds.
8. This morning, I want those of you who are mothers and the rest of us who have mothers to recognize this most important fact.

Slide 2

I. Mothers, You Are A Special Part Of God's Creation

A. WITHOUT YOU, THE HUMAN RACE COULD NOT EXIST

1. Following God's creation of the first man, He said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make a helper suitable for him" (Genesis 1:18).
2. As you may remember, the Lord God "caused a deep sleep to fall upon the

man,” and as he slept, God took one of Adam’s ribs and fashioned it into a woman, and brought her to Adam.

3. In Genesis 3:20, we encounter an interesting statement, “Now the man [Adam] called his wife’s name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.”
4. This is the second time in Scripture that we encounter the word “mother.”
5. The first time followed God’s presentation of this helper for Adam, when Moses, who wrote the book of Genesis, commented, “For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh” (Genesis 2:24).
6. Without Eve, it was impossible for Adam to fulfill God’s command to “be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth” (Genesis 1:28).
7. To this day, the joy and excitement of little voices and the pitter patter of little feet is made possible by mothers.

Slide 3

B. YOUR CHILDREN HAVE AN ATTACHMENT TO YOU WHICH THEY HAVE WITH NO ONE ELSE

1. In Isaiah 66, God speaks through His prophet, Isaiah, of Israel’s return to Jerusalem following its 70 year captivity in Babylon.
2. In verse 13, He compares Himself to a mother who comforts her child.

“As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you” (Isaiah 66:13a, NASB95).
3. In Psalm 131:2, the psalmist David writes these words, “Surely I have composed and quieted my soul; like a weaned child rests against his mother, my soul is like a weaned child within me.”
4. How many of us have seen a mother take an inconsolable child into her arms, rock it back and forth as she either sings to it or quietly shushes it.
5. Usually, within a few minutes that little one is quiet and calm.

6. Mothers, you are the ones who quiet our souls.
7. We men, as a rule, do not have that ability, and it is not to us that our children so often run when they are upset.

Slide 4

II. Your Children Call You Blessed Because You Are A(n) . . .

A. BEAUTIFUL IN SPIRIT

1. Many of you have been blessed with physical beauty.
2. However, King Lemuel's mother taught him that beauty of spirit is something to be prized in "an excellent wife" (v. 10).
3. As she put it, "Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised" (Proverbs 31:30).
4. Mothers, over the years your physical beauty will fade, but the beauty of your spirit will grow brighter with each passing day, if you continue to honor God with your life.
5. One of the instructions which the apostle Paul gave to the Christians in Philippi was this: "Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near." (Philippians 4:5).
6. This is the beauty you want your children to remember.
7. It is the beauty for which they will call you blessed of the Lord.

Slide 5

B. LISTENER

1. There is an ability which God has given to you mothers which we fathers never seem to develop.
2. As a matter of fact, we depend upon you in this most important area.
3. God has given you the ability to tune in to your children's feelings and emotions.
4. You know when all is not well in your child's spirit.

5. It is because you mothers listen to your children not just with your ears, but also your heart that your children turn to you when they want to share something in their lives.
6. Not only are you blessed because of this, you bless our lives through it.

Slide 6

C. ENCOURAGER

1. As a mother, you are often the one who instills courage and confidence in your children.
2. I have often wondered what things . . .
 - a. Jochebed said to Moses in those early years as she nursed him for Pharaoh's daughter.
 - b. Hannah would say to her son Samuel every year when she visited him in Shiloh.
 - c. Mary said to Jesus as she raised Him in the little village of Nazareth.
3. How many of us because of our mother's encouragement have gone on to become successful in our lives.
4. Moms, the greatest encouragement you can give your children is in their spiritual growth and development.
5. Encourage them to . . .
 - a. Love the Lord their God with all their heart, all their soul, all their mind and all their strength (Mark 12:30).
 - b. Love their neighbor as they love themselves (Mark 12:31).
 - c. Use every opportunity to do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of faith (Galatians 6:9).
 - d. Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord — let them know that such effort is not in vain when it is done for the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58).

Slide 7

D. SERVANT

1. The mother who is called “blessed” by her children is the mother who has the heart of a servant.
2. Here, in Proverbs 31, as King Lemuel’s mother described the “excellent wife,” she said of her,
 - a. “She rises also while it is still night and gives food to her household and portions to her maidens” (Proverbs 31:15).
 - b. “She extends her hand to the poor, and she stretches out her hands to the needy” (Proverbs 31:20).
3. We have a song in our hymnals, #693, which is very short, but very profound:

**Give me the heart of a servant,
Tender and faithful and true.
Fill me with love, then use me, O Lord,
So that the world can see You.**
4. Jesus was the perfect example of a servant, and every godly mother I know follows in His footsteps.

Slide 8**E. SEED-SOWER**

1. Mothers, you children call you blessed, because you have constantly sowed seed which will bear good fruit in their lives.
2. In Proverbs 6:20-21, Solomon wrote, “My son, observe the commandment of your father and do not forsake the teaching of your mother; bind them continually on your heart; tie them around your neck.”
3. In verse 22, Solomon describes the benefit of such teaching:

“When you walk about, they will guide you; when you sleep, they will watch over you; and when you awake, they will talk to you” (Proverbs 6:22, NASB95).
4. Here, in Proverbs 31:26, we find these words, “She opens her mouth in

wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.”

5. Not only do you sow the seed of God’s Word, you sow the seed of wisdom and kindness.
6. Your constant prayer since the day you brought them into this world is that all this good seed which you were sowing will bring forth a bountiful harvest.

Slide 9

F. EXAMPLE

1. Mothers, the example you are setting before your children will live on long after you are no longer here.
2. As the apostle Paul wrote to Timothy in 1 Timothy 5:25, “deeds that are good are quiet evident . . .”
3. Moms, your children noticed when you took a meal to a sick or elderly neighbor.
4. We noticed when you smiled and offered words of encouragement to someone having a difficult day.
5. We noticed the time you spent in God’s Word, the prayers you prayed.
6. Your humility, your love, your compassion, your self-sacrifice, and so many other things about you will be long remembered by those of us who are your children.
7. My plea to each of you who are mothers is this: Please make sure the example you are setting every day points your children heavenward.

Slide 10

G. DILIGENT WORKER

1. Notice two statements here in Proverbs 31 about this excellent wife:
 - a. “She rises also while it is still night” (v. 15a).
 - b. “Her lamp does not go out at night” (v. 18b).
2. This woman isn’t sitting around waiting for things to happen in her life.

3. She is constantly engaged in something that will benefit her and her family.
4. Many a husband knows the value of such a wife and mother — “her worth is far above jewels” (*Proverbs 31:10b*).
5. As the last verse in *Proverbs* declares, “Give her the product of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates” (*Proverbs 31:31*).

Conclusion

Slide 11

1. Whether you are a son or daughter here today, whether your mother is still living or has gone on to her reward, make her proud.

“Let your father and your mother be glad, and let her rejoice who gave birth to you.” (*Proverbs 23:25, NASB95*)

2. Honor her today by living your life in obedience to God’s will.
3. If you are living a life of which you know she does not approve because it does not honor Christ, turn away from it and turn to Him today.
4. If you are a mother and haven’t yet obeyed the gospel, please do so today.
5. On more than one occasion over the years, I have shared the joy of sons and daughters whose mother put on Christ in baptism.
6. Is that something you need to do today? If so, don’t delay. Come now.