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Who Are You Mom?

PROVERBS 31:10-31

Introduction

1. You and I have gathered this morning to praise our heavenly Father for who He is and the salvation He has brought to us through His Son, Jesus Christ.
2. We also gather to be instructed in His will for us as we live each day in His presence.
3. One specific gift which God has given us and which is no doubt on many of our minds is our mothers.
4. Every single one of us has or has had a mother — we are here today because she gave birth to us or, if we are adopted, raised us.
5. Many of you have already paid tribute to this woman you affectionately call “Mom” through your calls, cards, flowers or other special gifts.
6. Others of you may treat her to a meal in a restaurant of her choice.
7. It is sad, but true, that on this day we will try to make up for our lack of appreciation and love shown to her over the last year.
8. I must tell you that you can’t make up for this, but you can make today the day you begin to truly honor her in the way she deserves.
9. Such a decision would certainly please our God and bring glory to His name.
10. Today, I would like for us to reflect upon what God says to us about you special women in our lives and also upon how we as family can honor you in a way that truly recognizes your worth.

[Let’s begin this morning by answering the question which serves as the title of our lesson . . . “Who Are You Mom?”]

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I. You Are A Woman Who . . .

A. IS PRECIOUS BEYOND COMPARE (PROVERBS 31:10-12)

“An excellent wife, who can find? For her worth is far above jewels. The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain. She does him good and not evil all the days of her life.” (Proverbs 31:10–12, NASB95)

1. The adjective (Hebrew, *Hayil*) used to describe you as a wife is variously translated as “excellent” (ESV, NASB95), “virtuous” (KJV, NKJV), “noble” (NIV84).
2. Yours is a strength of character to which no proper value can be affixed.
3. Your husband has complete confidence in you because you seek his good.

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B. ISN'T AFRAID TO WORK (VV. 13-22, 24)

1. You are constantly devoted to the needs of your family.
2. In describing the “excellent wife”, King Lemuel said . . .
 - a. “Her lamp does not go out at night” (v. 18b).
 - b. “She rises also while it is still night and gives food to her household” (v. 15).
3. When do you find time to rest?

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C. IS GENEROUS (V. 20)

“She extends her hand to the poor, and she stretches out her hands to the needy.” (Proverbs 31:20, NASB95)

1. Not only are you seeing to the needs of your family, you are also watching for others who have needs and doing what you can to help them.
2. In Proverbs 14:21, Solomon wrote, “happy is he who is gracious to the poor.”
3. In Proverbs 19:17, he wrote, “One who is gracious to a poor man lends to the

Lord, and He will repay him for his good deed.”

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D. FACES THE FUTURE WITH CONFIDENCE (v. 25)

“Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she smiles at the future.”

(Proverbs 31:25, NASB95)

1. To say that strength and dignity are your clothing is to say that these two traits are a part of your life.
2. They reveal who you are and how you live your life.
3. Your true beauty comes from your spiritual strengths — they allow you to smile at the future.

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E. TEACHES WISDOM (v. 26)

“She opens her mouth in wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.” (Proverbs 31:26, NASB95)

1. Who typically read Bible stories to us when we were young? Was it our mothers?
2. You are generally the ones who taught us the wisdom of God when we were in the car or helping you in the kitchen or some other chore around the house.
3. You are the one who taught us to be kind to those who were less fortunate than ourselves.

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F. FAITHFULLY WATCHES OVER YOUR HOUSEHOLD (v. 27)

“She looks well to the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness.” (Proverbs 31:27, NASB95)

1. You make sure the house is clean, the meals are cooked, the clothes are washed and the beds are made.
2. You made us do our homework and take our baths.

3. You made sure our shoes were tied and our hair was combed.
4. You kept up with our doctors' appointments, our practice schedules, our school and church events.
5. You drove us everywhere we needed to go and never charged a dime.
6. You were there for the broken arm and the runny nose.
7. You listened as we poured out to you our anger, disappointments, heartaches and fears.
8. Any of us men who think our wives "have it easy" should take on her responsibilities for a week or two.
9. I think we would find just who wrong we are.

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II. How Should We Treat Such A Special Woman?

A. HUSBANDS, PRAISE YOUR WIFE (Vv. 28-29)

"Her children rise up and bless her; her husband also, and he praises her, saying: "Many daughters have done nobly, but you excel them all." (Proverbs 31:28-29, NASB95)

1. Too often we think we are doing what we should because we make sure the bills are paid and repairs are done.
2. Our wives have mental, emotional and spiritual needs which need to be met as well.
3. We sin against our wives when we fail to take care of their needs properly.
4. We also sin against our children because they pick up unhealthy attitudes and actions which we demonstrate toward their mother.
5. In Ephesians 5:25, the apostle Paul wrote, "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her."
6. Three verses later (v. 28), he added, "So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself."

7. Have you encouraged her to take a day for herself lately, while you watch the children.
8. It is good to tell others just how special your wife is, but have you told her personally.
9. This past Monday evening at our "Men's Night Out," Tommy Hardin spoke at our devotional and utilized Proverbs 25:11 as his theme:

"Like apples of gold in settings of silver is a word spoken in right circumstances" (Proverbs 25:11).
10. He then shared a number of statements which will improve any relationship, but especially those with our wives. Consider these three:
 - a. "I am so proud of who you are."
 - b. "How can I make you feel more loved?"
 - c. "How can I try to understand you better?"

Slide 9**B. CHILDREN, BLESS YOUR MOM (VV. 28-29)**

"Her children rise up and bless her; her husband also, and he praises her, saying: "Many daughters have done nobly, but you excel them all.'" (Proverbs 31:28-29, NASB95)

1. Too often we take our mothers for granted — we fail to tell them how much we appreciate them.
2. Even worse, our mothers have been the recipients of our disrespect and rebellion, our cutting remarks spoken in anger.
3. She failed to hear the words . . .
 - a. "Thanks mom, I really appreciate that."
 - b. "Thanks mom, I really appreciate you."
4. One of the best ways you can show appreciation for your mother is to hold on to what she has taught you — "do not forsake your mother's teaching" (Proverbs 1:8).

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III. A Final Word Of Caution

A. THERE IS A DANGER YOU FACE AS A MOTHER

“But Martha was distracted with all her preparations; and she came up to Him and said, “Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to do all the serving alone? Then tell her to help me.”” (Luke 10:40, NASB95)

1. It is possible for you to become so consumed with caring for your family and the details of life that fail to spend time at the feet of our Savior.
2. Luke tells us that Martha was “distracted with all her preparations” (v. 40).
3. To be distracted is to be “pulled or dragged away,” to be “overburdened” by something.
4. What is the result?
 - a. Jesus told Martha, “you are worried and bothered about so many things” (Luke 10:41).
 - b. Martha was anxious and upset.
 - c. She felt sorry for herself and resented her sister.

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B. WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

1. Seek the one thing which is necessary — time alone with the Lord in His Word.
2. On one occasion when so many people were coming and going that Jesus and His disciples did not even have time to eat, Jesus said to his disciples, “Come away by yourselves to a secluded place and rest a while” (Mark 6:31).
3. Before the Israelites entered the Promised Land, Moses instructed them to diligently teach their children the things he had commanded them (Deuteronomy 6:6-7).

4. However, he first told them, “These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart” (Deuteronomy 6:6).
5. Only when God’s word is on your heart can you diligently pass it on to your children.

Conclusion

1. There is one final thing I would like to share with each of you women here today.
2. It is one of the last statements which King Lemuel remembers from his mother’s oracle.

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“Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised.” (Proverbs 31:30, NASB95)

3. Do each of you ladies here today fear the Lord?
4. Do you love Him with all of your heart, soul, mind and strength?
5. This is important not just for you but for every one of us.
6. To reverence God and to seek Him is the greatest purpose to which you can commit your life.
7. Can we help you in that today?