

Love You, Mom

May 5, 2018 | The Church of God International | Bible Study

Introduction

This is the beautiful summer month of May.
This month is known for its second Sunday
which many cultures know as Mother's Day.



To start, we will share with you seven (7) tidbits about our mothers and mother's day.



1. A mother carries a baby in the womb for about 280 days or 40 weeks or about 9 months.



2. A baby is nourished and gets all of his food, as well as his oxygen and water, from the mother's bloodstream through the placenta.



3. Over 18 years, moms will spend, on average, 45,653 hours looking after their children and families.



4. If motherhood were a paid job, moms would earn P1,000,000 per year for their work.

(365 days a year, 24 hours a day, at minimum wage rate, plus night differential and overtime.)



5. The average cost of raising a child from birth to age 18 in the Philippines is about Php12.5m.



6. Mother's Day accounts for a quarter of all flower sales in a year.



7. Mother's Day is the most popular day of the year to dine out.



Today, we will talk about the special person in our lives – our mothers.



The discussion about our mothers always stirs up strong emotions in us. And it should! We all have parents. Mothers are special to us.



We owe them our lives. They gave birth to us.
We nestled in the protective womb of our mothers for nine months, nourished by her love, even before we see the light of day.



How we are formed from the moment of conception to birth is a miracle; and this miracle happens through our parents and in our mother's womb.



Psalm 139:13

“For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb.”



Mothers are God's instruments in giving birth and bringing children up in the world. As a child we received much needed tender loving care from our mothers. In those formative years, we depended on them 100%.



Our parents stand as the authority of God on earth. This bond is the strongest human relationship. As such, we are to give them due honor.



As such, God gave us a command to honor our fathers and our mothers. This command is enshrined as the 5th commandment of God. This is the command with a promise. Notice Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 5:16.



Exodus 20:12

12 Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.



Deuteronomy 5:16

16 Honor your father and your mother, as the Lord your God has commanded you, so that you may live long and that it may go well with you in the land the Lord your God is giving you.



How Do You Love Your
Mother?

With the enormity of a mother's love, how should we respond to that love? How do you love your mother in return?



When you search the internet, the top five (5) answers are:

1. Spending quality time with them.
2. Expressing your love for them. Tell her often how you love her.
3. Showing them how much you appreciate her with a gift - it's not about the money, it's the thought.
4. Say "Thank you" for all their love - the helpful advice, being a great role model, time spent with you, all the days when she called in to be with you, etc.
5. Do chores for them. Helping them out with things around the house or doing errands for them.



Today, we will learn three (3) ways to love our mothers from Jesus.



God chose Mary to be the mother of Jesus. Mary fills a unique role in the upbringing of Jesus just as our mothers fill a special role in ours. Jesus loved His mother Mary. Jesus had a special closeness with her.



In this Bible study, we will learn three key lessons on how to honor our mothers from Jesus Himself throughout the three (3) stages of His life:

1. When Jesus was a young boy of 12 years
2. When Jesus was an adult of 30 years
3. When Jesus was about to die on the cross



When He was Twelve

Luke 2

41 Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover.

42 When he was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom.



Twelve years old was a wonderful age. Can you remember when you were twelve? Graduating grade school going on to High school, right? In ancient times, life started early. People got married at mid-teens and become parents at late teens. When someone got married at 18 years old, it was considered late. At twelve, the boys start learning the scripture more intensely.



The Jews have a tradition called Bar mitzvah.
Bar mitzvah is Hebrew for “son of
commandment.” When a Jewish boy turns 13,
he turns into an adult.



He has all the rights and obligations of a Jewish adult, including the obligation to observe the commandments of the law. He will start to wear tefillin on a daily basis, participate in synagogue services and take his place in the Jewish community. He may be called to read the scripture, lead services, give a speech or render other activities as an adult. At 13, the boy turns into a responsible adult.



Luke 2

43 After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus **stayed behind in Jerusalem**, but they were unaware of it.



On this occasion, Jesus was 12. He started to exhibit serious interest and passion for religiosity. He stayed behind at the temple in Jerusalem.



Luke 2

44 Thinking he was in their **company**, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him **among their relatives and friends**.



Joseph and Mary were traveling in a company of friends and/or relatives. Being 12, Jesus had a level of independence. The boy Jesus could be expected to be traveling with the men. After a days journey, they found out Jesus was left behind.



Luke 2

45 When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him.

46 After three days (one day traveling, one day returning to Jerusalem and on the third day) they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.



Luke 2

47 Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers.

The young Jesus possessed so much wisdom and understanding beyond His age that amazed even the teachers of the law.



Luke 2

48 When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, “Son, why have you **treated us like this**? Your father and I have **been anxiously** searching for you.” (The mother expressed concern that young Jesus’ action had cause them to worry.)



Luke 2

49 “Why were you searching for me?” he asked. “Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s house?”



Here, the young Jesus declared and reminded them about His mission in life. At the age of 12, He was expected to be about His Father's business. It should not come as a surprise that He stayed behind.



Luke 2

50 But they did not understand what he was saying to them.

51 Then he went down to Nazareth with them and **was obedient** to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart.



The mother knew exactly what Jesus was talking about. She kept the whole thing to herself. She knew Jesus' mission and the work He needed to do. However, at 12 years old, Jesus continued to be obedient to His mother. He obediently went down to Nazareth with His parents.



Luke 2

52 And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.



Jesus is an obedient son, both to His earthly and heavenly parents. In Philippians 2:8 we read: “And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross!”



How do we express our love to our mother
when we are young?

The answer is to be obedient.



As an Adult

John 2

1 On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there,

2 and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding.

3 When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine."



This suggests that the wedding was a close family affair as the disciples were guests. Jesus' mother Mary was acting as the host of the event. She was concerned that the wines were gone. Mary wanted Jesus to resolve the situation.



John 2

4 “Woman, why do you involve me?” Jesus replied. “My hour has not yet come.”



Addressing His mother as “woman” may seem impolite today. However, in the culture and language of the time, it was a respectful address. The term “mother” in Greek is “GUÑE” (gooney). It means a mother, my lady or madam. In the Genesis account Adam called the woman Eve, mother of all the living. Mother was a respectful term denoting the source of life – the one who gives us birth – a very respectful term.



John 2

5 His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.”



The mother knew Jesus could perform miracles, even though this was his first public miracle.



This simply means that Jesus did miracles privately which was witnessed by her mother; thus Mary was confident that Jesus can perform a miracle. Jesus' response was based on the "timing" to go public about His miraculous powers. But, as an obedient son, Jesus gave in to her mother's request.



John 2

6 Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons.

7 Jesus said to the servants, “Fill the jars with water”; so they filled them to the brim.

8 Then he told them, “Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet.”

They did so,



Jesus performed the miracle, thereby obeying
the request of His mother.



John 2

9 and the master of the feast tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside

10 and said, “Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now.”



John 2

11 What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

12 After this he went down to Capernaum with his mother and brothers and his disciples. There they stayed for a few days.



Jesus obeyed and did a fabulous job.

Out of respect for His mother, Jesus performed the miracle even when the circumstance was not ideal.



How do you express love to your mother as an adult?

Accord her the respect.



When We are Advancing
in Age

John 19

25 Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.

26 When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, **“Woman, here is your son,”**

27 and to the disciple, **“Here is your mother.”** From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.



By this time, Mary would be in her late 40's or early 50's. During that time, people marry in their teens, 15-18's. Jesus knew that He was going away. He needed someone to take care and provide for His mother during her advanced years.



Jesus entrusted His mother to the care of Apostle John, the disciple whom Jesus loved. John was Jesus' maternal cousin. Jesus asked John to treat His mother Mary as his own mother. And, for Mary to love John as her own son.



We are commanded to honor our parents.
What is meant by to HONOR?



In the Hebrew context, the word HONOR has a connotation beyond respect. The word “Kabbed” translated HONOR in Old Testament scripture means “to be heavy or weighty” in terms of impressiveness and importance.



Therefore, the context of “to honor” is “to show importance and dignity.” The same word is used to refer to the glory of God.



Now, knowing the etymology of the word 'HONOR', notice how we should put it into practice. In Mark 7:10-12.



Mark 7:10-12

10 For Moses said, 'Honor your father and mother, 'and, 'Anyone who curses their father or mother is to be put to death.'

11 But you say that if anyone declares that what might have been used to help their father or mother is Corban (that is, devoted to God)—

12 then you no longer let them do anything for their father or mother.



The Pharisees had the tendency to impose certain traditions that over-ride God's laws. One of which is with regards to honoring parents.



One way to honor our parents is to provide for their needs during their old age especially when their productivity is no longer viable.



The Pharisees had a tradition that says if a man has sworn to devote his money to the temple, he can withhold help towards their parents. The parents shall not be able to benefit from any assistance because the money had already been pledge to the temple.



Therefore, the pledge exempted him from fulfilling his obligation regarding God's holy law which is to honor the parents by providing for their needs. Jesus called it an evil thing.



Mark 7:23

“All these evils come from inside and defile a person.”



How do we love and honor our elderly parents? Jesus emphasized that to honor our parents is to take care of them and provide for their needs financially.



The principle is for adult children to take care of their parents in the same way their parents took care of them when they were young. In this manner we give them importance and dignity.



How do you express love to your mother in her old age?

Treat her with dignity.



Summation

Ephesians 6:1-3

1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

2 “Honor your father and mother” – which is the first commandment with a promise –

3 “so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on earth.”



God's instruction is very clear. We are to honor our parents in all circumstances. This is a command that comes with a promise – a promise of long life and well-being.



The blessing comes in two (2) parts. The first part is the natural result of obedience, and of the loving and respectful relationship within the family. There are many benefits to the children, and the generations after them, if respect for authority and the elderly is dutifully observed.



And, the second part is the special blessings from God. Our parents stand in the place of God within the family. Therefore, to honor our parents, who are our earthly father, is to indirectly honor God, who is our heavenly Father. The principle can be found in 1 John 4:20.



1 John 4:20

20 Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen.



To paraphrase the verse using the same principle: “If someone says, “I love God,” and hates his father and mother, he is a liar; for how can he who does not love his parents whom he has seen, love God whom he has not seen?”

And, if I may add: if he cannot love his earthly parents, how can he love His heavenly Father?”



A mother is special. She is God's vessel in bringing us to life. She carried you in her womb for nine months. In pain, she brought you forth and nourished you from her breast. She reared you to become who you are today.



No one knows a mother's love for her child except a mother. No amount of things you do as a son or a daughter will ever surpass the love of your mother has for you. At best, you can only return a small fraction of the love back to her.



How do you love and honor your mother?
Three simple ways:

1. Be obedient to her
2. Show her the respect
3. Honor her with dignity



For the closing verse:

Proverbs 23:25 “May your father and mother
rejoice; may she who gave you birth be
joyful!”



END

