

## INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture texts: **Luke 10 :38-42; Proverbs 31:19-31.**
- B. Last year on Mother's Day I did not preach a lesson about the value of motherhood, so to hold to my promise, today I will.
- C. We give special honor to our mothers in the audience this day.
- D. Our scripture reading was from Luke 10, where Jesus rebukes Martha for being so bothered by trivial things. Martha was running around all confused about the preparations instead of doing what was important for her task (Lk. 10:38-42).
- E. Jesus does NOT condemn motherhood aside of following Him. If He did then He and Paul would have disagreed. Spirituality is important but so is being a good mother.

## I. PAUL'S INSTRUCTIONS.

- A. In three separate letters, the apostle Paul gives instructions to the ruler of the home--mothers. And he said three things.
  - 1. First, be busy (2Th. 3:11).
  - 2. Second, be godly (Ti. 2:3-5).
  - 3. Third, be concerned (1Cor. 7:32-35).
- B. Motherhood is godly and important!

## II. A GODLY MOTHER (AND WIFE) IS INDISPENSABLE.

- A. Scripture text: Proverbs 31:10-31.
- B. A godly mother:
  - 1. Makes her husband look good (Prov. 31:10-11,23,28-29).  
(Many times, all the husband does is bring home cash; a mother provides much more.)
  - 2. Her children will grow up and call her blessed (Prov. 31:28,29).
  - 3. Will care for her family's needs:
    - a. Clothing (Prov. 31:13).
    - b. Food (31:14-15).
    - c. Toils for the family's benefit (31:16).
    - d. Thrifty and hard working (31:17).
  - 4. Is considerate to those who are less fortunate (Prov. 31:19-20).
  - 5. Her work is always excellent, never second rate (Prov. 31:24-25).
  - 6. Her words are of encouragement, soft, and gentle (Prov. 31:26).

## III. "THE MEANEST MOTHER IN THE WORLD."

- A. Read the letter written about a godly mother raising her children.

### THE MEANEST MOTHER IN THE WORLD

"I had the meanest mother in the world. While other kids ate candy for breakfast, I had to have cereal, eggs and toast. When others had cokes and candy for lunch, I had to eat a sandwich. As you can guess, my supper was different than the other kids' also. But at least I was not alone in my suffering. My sister and two brothers had the same mean mother I did.

My mother insisted upon knowing where we were all the time. You'd think we were on a chain gang. She had to know who our friends were and what we were doing. She insisted, if we said we'd be gone an hour, that we be gone an hour or less, not one hour and one minute. I am almost ashamed to admit it, but she actually struck us. Not once, but each time we did as we pleased. Can you imagine someone actually hitting a child just because he disobeyed? Now you can begin to see how mean she really was.

The worst is yet to come. We had to be in bed by nine each night and up early the next morning. We could not sleep until noon like our friends. So while they slept my mother actually had the nerve to break the child labor law. She made us work. We had to wash dishes, make the beds, learn to cook and all sorts of cruel things. I believe she laid awake nights thinking up mean things to do to us.

She always insisted upon our telling the whole truth and nothing but the truth even if it killed us — and it nearly did.

By the time we were teenagers, she was much worse and wiser and our lives became even more unbearable. None of this tooting the horn of a car for us to come running. She embarrassed us to no end by making our dates and friends come to the door and get us. I forgot to mention: while my friends were dating at the mature age of 12 or 13, my old fashioned mother refused to let me date until the age of 15 and 16. Fifteen, that is, if you date only to go to a school function and that was maybe twice a year.

My mother was a complete failure as a mother. None of us had even been arrested or beaten his mate. Each of my brothers served his time in the service of this country. And whom do we have to blame for the terrible way, we turned out? You are right, our mean mother. Look at all the things we missed. We never got to march in a protest parade, nor to take part in a riot, burn our draft card and a million and one things that our friends did. She forced us to grow up into God-fearing, educated, honest adults.

Using this as a background I am trying to raise my three children. I stand a little taller and I am filled with pride when my children call me mean.

Because you see, I thank God he gave me THE IVIEANEST MOTHER-IN THE WORLD."

— Author Unknown

#### **CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.**

- A. Behind every good man is a great woman.
- B. Behind every maturing child is a hard-working; loving mother.
- C. Motherhood is not a job that pays cash dividends. But to those who work hard, and try to do it according to God's rules will receive a spiritual reward unlike any other.
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.