

**MOTHERS DAY
HONORING MOTHER
MATTHEW 15:4-6; EPHESIANS 6:1-3**

Introduction

In *Matthew 15:4*, we see that Jesus said during his ministry on the earth “For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother” (Quoting from *Exodus 20:12*)

In *Ephesians 6:2*, Paul reiterates what Moses recorded in *Exodus 20:12* and what Matthew recorded that Jesus said there in *Matthew 15:4*!

Scripture is clear...it says that we are to “*honor*” our father and mother! Since today is Mother’s Day, we are going to focus on the matter of honoring our mothers. But most of what I will say also applies to our fathers. So we could entitle the message “***Honoring Parents.***”

The word “*honor*” means to “*to prize, that is, fix a valuation upon; to revere or hold in high regard.*” We don’t treat that which is valuable in just any old way, do we? (It also means “*to respect; to treat with deference.*”)

The commandment to honor our fathers and mothers is stated first in *Exodus 20:12* as part of God’s top 10 commandments (not suggestions) and then the commandment is reiterated, defined more precisely and commented on in different places in the Scripture.

Let me share some of these with you:

Here Are Some Scriptures Which Speak Of Honour:

***Exodus 20:12*–“Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.”**

***Deuteronomy 5:16*–“Honour thy father and thy mother, as the LORD thy God hath commanded thee; that thy days may be prolonged, and that it may go well with thee, in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.”**

***Leviticus 19:3*–“Ye shall fear every man his mother, and his father, and keep my sabbaths: I am the LORD your God.”**

“Fear” means “to revere”.

**MOTHERS DAY
HONORING MOTHER
MATTHEW 15:4-6; EPHESIANS 6:1-3**

***Proverbs 1:8-9*–“My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother: 9For they shall be an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck.”**

“Hear” – means “to hear intelligently; often with implication of attention or obedience.”

“Forsake not”– means “to thrust off or to reject.”

***Proverbs 23:22-25*–“Hearken unto thy father that begat thee, and despise not thy mother when she is old. 23Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding. 24The father of the righteous shall greatly rejoice: and he that begetteth a wise child shall have joy of him. 25Thy father and thy mother shall be glad, and she that bare thee shall rejoice.”**

“Hearken”– means the same thing as “hear” that we previously defined... “to hear intelligently; often with implication of attention or obedience.”

“Despise not”– means “don’t disrespect.”

Here Are Some Scriptures Which Speak Of Dishonour:

***Exodus 21:15*–“And he that smiteth his father, or his mother, shall be surely put to death.”**

Children should be taught that it is not right to hit their father or their mother!
Hitting your parents is an act of disrespect that God looks at with the greatest of disdain!

Parents should not tolerate their child hitting them! That is wrong that should be corrected!

MOTHERS DAY
HONORING MOTHER
MATTHEW 15:4-6; EPHESIANS 6:1-3

Exodus 21:17–“And he that **curseth** his father, or his mother, shall surely be put to death.” (That is the other verse Jesus referred to in *Matthew 15:4*)

Proverbs 20:20–“Whoso **curseth** his father or his mother, his lamp shall be put out in obscure darkness.”

Proverbs 30:11–“There is a generation that **curseth** their father, and **doth not bless** their mother.”

“Curseth” is **NOT** talking about *just cursing at them (although that would be included)*. The word “curseth” means “*to make light of, to be sharp towards; to be trifling or vile towards; to belittle.*”

Although much of the *cursing* of fathers and mothers today may come from the sad fact that many fathers and mothers are *cursing* at their children and each other! **But listen, it still doesn’t make it right!**

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Proverbs 28:24–“Whoso **robbeth** his father or his mother, and saith, It is no transgression; the same is the companion of a destroyer.”

Proverbs 30:17–“The eye that **mocketh** at his father, and **despiseth to obey** his mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, and the young eagles shall eat it.”

“Mocketh” means “*to laugh scornfully at*” or “*to make faces.*”

“Despiseth to obey” means “*to disrespect by disobeying.*”

So a good question today would be: **How can a person honor his or her father and mother and comply with the commandment of God?**

By the way, the verb “*honor*” in our text is in *the present tense*, meaning *it is to be done at all times*, and it is in *the imperative mode*, that means *it is not a mere suggestion but a definite command.*

MOTHERS DAY
HONORING MOTHER
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I. **LET’S LOOK AT WHAT THIS MEANS IF YOUR MOM IS STILL ALIVE.**

A. **Practice Kindness, Thoughtfulness, And Forgiveness Toward Her!**

Ephesians 4:31-32 – “Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: 32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.”

This could involve **acknowledging special days** that involve her such as **birthdays, anniversaries, and Mother’s Day**. She should be at the top of your to do list!

B. **Express Your Gratitude For Her Toward Her!**

Colossians 3:15 – “And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and **be ye thankful.**”

1 Thessalonians 5:18 – “In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”

Thankfulness is something we should express to those we love, but too often we don’t. When your mom does something special for you or helps you in some way, don’t forget to be grateful for that which she does for you!

That thankfulness should also extend to include gratefulness for things she did in the past that maybe you have never thanked her for! (Like letting you live!)

C. **Listen To Her Words!**

When I say “*listen to her words,*” I’m talking about that word “*hearkening*” that I mentioned earlier which includes obeying!

Obedience is a definite sign of love!

**MOTHERS DAY
HONORING MOTHER
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Jesus said in *John 14:15*–“*If ye love me, keep my commandments.*”

**If we love Jesus we will keep His commandments.
One of which is to honor our fathers and mothers.**

If we love our mother, we will keep her commandments!

We should listen to mom and obey her because it is the right thing to do! *Ephesians 6:1*–“*Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.*”

In addition, we are to obey because it is well pleasing unto the Lord when we do so! *Colossians 3:20*–“*Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.*”

Practice Kindness, Thoughtfulness and Forgiveness Toward Her...Express Gratitude Toward Her...Listen To Her Words...

D. Do Your Best To See To Her Care. (Matthew 15:5-6)

The Pharisees were trying to absolve themselves from having to take care of their parents. (They looked at taking care of their elderly parents with disdain!)

Most of the time the Dad will die first. Not always, but most of the time. (My Dad died in 1997 and my mother died in 2017.)

When that happens, children should make sure their mother is taken care of in every way!

When she is without a husband and grows old, she needs her children then, more than ever before.

So, we’ve talked about how to honor your mom if she is still alive...how about if she is not?

**MOTHERS DAY
HONORING MOTHER
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II. LET’S LOOK AT WHAT THIS MEANS IF YOUR MOM IS STILL ALIVE OR NOT!

Understand that the verses about honoring our fathers and mothers doesn’t end at their death!

Just because dad and mom aren’t around anymore, don’t think that you have the freedom to disdain them and or the family name, because you don’t!

A. Get To Know God Personally!

Whether your mother knows God or not, get to know God yourself.

1 Chronicles 28:9–“*And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever.*”

If your mother is saved, there is nothing your mother would like better than for you to know her God in your own life!

If she is a Godly mother, then she wants you to be godly too, more than she does for you to be prosperous with riches or fame!

If your mother doesn’t know God, you still bring honor to her as you come to know God personally.

B. Follow Her Biblical Teachings!

Proverbs 1:8-9–“*My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother: 9For they shall be an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck.*”

This is especially talking about the teachings from the Bible!

**MOTHERS DAY
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Again, even if your mother doesn't know God, you still bring honor to her as you personally live for God!

C. Sing Her Praises!

Proverbs 31:30—"Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised."

That verse tells us that she is to be praised, that is if she is a virtuous woman.

But listen, even one that doesn't fear the LORD can be and should be praised for the right things!
That's giving honor where honor is due and that's Biblical!

We all have our personal flaws, but a good mother that has shown the fear of the LORD in her life has much to be praised for!

Conclusion

Let me ask in closing: Are you bringing honor to your mother and father?

Not if you're not saved you're not!

Not if you're not living for God you're not!

It doesn't matter whether they are dead or alive, it doesn't matter if they are saved or lost, it doesn't matter if you judge them worthy or unworthy of honor, God's Word tells us that we should still bring honor to them.

If your Mom and Dad are still alive, how are you treating them?

Are You Practicing Kindness, Thoughtfulness, And Forgiveness!

Are You Expressing Gratitude For Them Toward Them!

Are You Listening To Their Words?

Are You Doing Your Best To See To Their Care?

Do You Know The LORD Personally?

Are You Following Their Biblical Teachings?

Are You Singing Their Praises?