

May 8, 2011

M.A.D.D. "Mother's Against the Devil's Devices"

Genesis 3:15 & 20

In the early 1700s the Devil seemed to have England under his total control:

1. The teaching in most churches was a philosophy called deism, which basically said God created the world and then left it. According to the deists God was no more than a creative force.

2. Churches, therefore, were corrupt, and the nation without spiritual or moral leadership, was faltering fast! Morality was despised! Virtually non-existent!

3. The nation was known for the gin-craze, every sixth house in London had become a gin shop!

4. National pastimes were games involving the torture and killing of animals, crime had run rampant, to the point that 160 crimes were punishable by death. The moral low sunk to the degree that hangings became gala events.

5. England was characterized by: the rule of the mob, nick-named "Sir Mob", child-abuse, poverty, alcoholism, and rat infested over-crowded prisons!

Yet in the midst of this -

"A religious revival burst forth ... which changed in a few years the whole temper of the English society. The church was restored to life and activity. Religion carried to the hearts of the people a fresh spirit of moral zeal, while it purified our literature and manners. A new philanthropy reformed our prisons, infused clemency and wisdom into our penal laws, abolished the slave trade, and gave the first impulse to popular education." J.R. Green - A Short History of the English People.

What happened? Where did the Devil's fool proof plan fail?

1st, God - All revival starts with the Spirit of God!

2nd, God's man -- George Whitefield, a study of the history of this revival shows that his open-air preaching was truly its first direct human spark!

3rd, George Whitefield's Mom -- her baby George was the seventh of seven children, one whom she dedicated to the Lord in prayer! Where the Devil first failed was with the heart of a mother who kept praying for her youngest son, whom she raised to serve the Lord, even in the midst of difficult circumstances.

Devil's Device #1 - He would have women think of children more as BURDENS, and less as BLESSINGS!

1. Scripture tells us children are blessings:

Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, The fruit of the womb is a reward. ⁴ like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one's youth. ⁵ Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them; they shall not be ashamed, but shall speak with their enemies in the gate. (Psalm 127:3-5 NKJ)

"And as for Ishmael, I have heard you. Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly. He shall beget twelve princes, and I will make him a great nation. (Genesis 17:20 NKJ)

And Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "The LORD give you descendants from this woman for the loan that was given to the LORD." Then they would go to their own home. (1 Samuel 2:20 NKJ)

Saying, "Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you." (Hebrews 6:14 NKJ)

But some might say to me "Pastor you don't know children are burdens!" I'd say, yes they are, yet they are blessed burdens!

Max Heine in "Children Blessing or Burden" puts it like this --

Children Are BURDENS! "It is no exaggeration to say that they require everything from A to Z. They need to be Answered, Bathed, Combed, Diapered, Encouraged, Fed, Groomed, Helped, Instructed, Judged, Kissed, Led, Managed, Nurtured, Observed, Praised, Quiet, Reminded, Spanked, Trained, Utilized, Valued, Wedded, X-Rayed, and Yearned-for-Zealously!"

2. The fact that children are BLESSINGS (and the skills of motherhood in general) are things older women need to teach younger women –

the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things--⁴ that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children,⁵ to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed. (Titus 2:3-5 NKJ)

- A. How necessary is this today?
- B. How laughed at, mocked, ridiculed is such godly behavior today? Older women must teach these things and help!
- C. This is something very difficult for a man or a preacher it must be modeled by women in the church!

II. Devil's Device #2 He would have us disrespect the role of wife and mother! Why? Because he knows godly motherhood, even parenthood is part of God's perfect plan!

1. God's first blessing and command had to do with motherhood -

Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth." (Genesis 1:28 NKJ)

2. Even before HUMANS were created God blessed and commanded motherhood –

So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that moves, with which the waters abounded, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.²² And

God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." (Genesis 1:21-22 NKJ)

3. Paul even connects salvation to child bearing -

Nevertheless she will be saved in childbearing if they continue in faith, love, and holiness, with self-control. (1 Timothy 2:15 NKJ)

John Calvin in interpreting 1 Timothy 2:11-15 applied this to the nuns in the Churches of his day; they may have thought they were doing holy work, yet were they working according to God's will? A woman being saved in child bearing does not mean that she is SAVED differently than a man – ALL Christians are saved by Christ's work on the cross!

The context is ministry in the church. Some men are called to preach and teach. Paul is simply promoting MOTHERHOOD, as a High Calling!

It is no coincidence that the most despised lines of work in an ungodly day are the work of the pastor for men, and the work of the mother for women! Is not this what we see all around us today?

Yet, Motherhood has an important role in the advancement of the Kingdom of God -

1. The mother of George Whitefield mentioned earlier is an example of this! Hannah mentioned in chapter one of 1st Samuel, which along with 2nd Samuel are Bible books named after the son she prayed for!

2. 80% of ministers and most Christians were raised in Christian homes!

III. Devil's Device #3 – He would discourage faith in a sin dominated world –

- This could have happened in Whitefield's day, I am sure it did
- It happens in our day, 50 million abortions, and protected sin! Outlawed prayer and worse!

We live in a day of spiritual insanity, even amazing stupidity, that most of us NEVER dreamed of.

** Yet, Moses day was a faith discouraging one too!*

- A. God's people had been slaves about 400 years.*
- B. Pharaoh pronounced a death sentence on Israel's boy babies – ²² So Pharaoh commanded all his people, saying, "Every son who is born you shall cast into the river, and every daughter you shall save alive." (Exo 1:22 NKJ)*

1. Yet, at least one woman took faith action for her son -

And a man of the house of Levi went and took as wife a daughter of Levi. ² So the woman conceived and bore a son. And when she saw that he was a beautiful *child*, she hid him three months. ³ But when she could no longer hide him, she took an ark of bulrushes for him, daubed it with asphalt and pitch, put the child in it, and laid *it* in the reeds by the river's bank. ⁴ And his sister stood afar off, to know what would be done to him. ⁵ Then the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river. And her maidens walked along the riverside; and when she saw the ark among the reeds, she sent her maid to get it. ⁶ And when she had opened *it*, she saw the child, and behold, the baby wept. So she had compassion on him, and said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children." ⁷ Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and call a nurse for you from the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for you?" ⁸ And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Go." So the maiden went and called the child's mother. ⁹ Then Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child away and nurse him for me, and I will give *you* your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed him. ¹⁰ And the child grew, and she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. So she called his name Moses, saying, "Because I drew him out of the water." (Exodus 2:1-10 NKJ)

- A. An act of faith (probably with much prayer too) by Moses mother kept Moses alive*
- B. Moses was used by God to free His people from their Egyptian bondage –*

Then Moses and the children of Israel sang this song to the LORD, and spoke, saying: "I will sing to the LORD, For He has triumphed gloriously! The horse and its rider He has thrown into the sea!" ² The LORD *is* my strength and song, And He has become my salvation; He *is* my God, and

I will praise Him; My father's God, and I will exalt Him. (Exodus 15:1-2 NKJ)

2. We have the opportunity for faith action today –

- A. Some will walk for the Pregnancy Solutions crisis pregnancy center this coming Saturday!*
 - B. Some will support them financially!*
 - C. Hopefully we will all support this work with our prayers*
- *The law in our land is similar to that of ancient Egypt's*
 - *Unborn babies are threatened, but both boys and girls will be killed*
 - *Young women in our culture need encouragement to be mothers!*
 - *Who knows if one child, who might have been killed, yet is saved, may turn out to be the next Moses or George Whitefield?*

We need to believe our action, even if seemingly small, can have God-blessed, multiplying RESULTS! Even if only touching one life!

VI. There is final VICTORY over all Satan's Devices and even release from the Curse –

1. This is gained through Christ Who bruises Satan's Head –

And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel." (Genesis 3:15 NKJ)

2. This is a promise bringing great hope for life –

And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. (Genesis 3:20 NKJ)

- A. The name "Eve" means life!*
- B. I believe Adam named her that because he saw the grace and hope in the promise of a Redeemer, even in God's pronouncing of curse and judgment!*