

A Mother's Prayer

Text : I Samuel 1-2

(Reading : 1:12-18 , 2:1-11)

INTRODUCTION :

A. Mother's Day is the most widely observed holiday in America. (96 %)

1. There are more than 82 million mothers in the U.S.
2. A T & T claims 122 million long-distance calls made to mothers on Mother's Day.
3. 20% of all flowers given during any year is given on Mother's Day.

B. A couple of interesting facts about mothers :

1. The woman who holds the record for having the most children :
 - a. The highest officially recorded number of children born to one mother is **69**.
 - b. She was the first wife of Feodor Vassilyev in Shuya, Russia. (1707-1782)
 - c. By natural childbirth she bore : 16 pairs twins, 7 sets triplets, 4 sets quadruplets
 - d. 67 of them survived infancy (<http://www.corsinet.com/braincandy/momtrivia.html>)
2. The oldest woman to give birth in modern times :
 - a. No one has beat Sarah's record ... 90 years old. (**She had divine assistance.**)
 - b. 70-year old Rajo Devi of India
 - c. She had a baby girl, after IVF treatments. (*first child*)

C. The desire to bear children is instinctive within the normal woman.

1. The desire to have sex is directly linked to the desire to reproduce.
 - a. Anyone who does not have that desire is not normal. (**Control is also normal.**)
 - b. Likewise, anyone who does not have the desire to have sex with one of the opposite sex is not normal. (**The basic purpose is reproduction.**)
 - c. God made sex is pleasurable SO THAT people will reproduce.
2. The maternal instincts go beyond the desire for the pleasure of sex.
 - a. It is unique to women.
 - b. God programmed women that way so it is good. (**Men don't understand.**)
 - c. Differences are not bad, they are essential. (**e.g.** men instinctively protect)

It is to his own destruction that mankind resists the order established by his creator for it is this order that has enabled man to survive on the earth.

I. Man does not have the right to overrule God.

A. God's judgment on Sodom and Gomorrah is recorded to teach us the result of man's trying to altar the natural order established by God.

1. Lot chose Sodom because it was such a prosperous area.
2. They did not recognize the authority of God, **BUT** He still exercised sovereignty.
3. Through history all who learn of this judgment learn God's sovereignty.

B. As His children, we must understand that God has our best interest at heart.

1. Children often think their parents just don't want them to have fun.
2. They think their parents don't understand them.
3. The truth is children don't recognize the parent's love because they want what they want. **Man is the same way with God.**

C. No attempt to limit the creator's ability to regulate HIS creation is justified.

1. No just society gives one party the right to arbitrarily take control of another's possessions. **Man belongs to God.** (*A passenger cannot take over an airplane.*)
2. One who allows another person to use his possession has the right to regulate how it is being used. (*When you rent a car, they won't let you take out of state.*)

D. Sodom taught us that neither social norms nor "pop culture" can overrule God.

1. Today some in America are in direct rebellion against God.
 - a. Like Sodom, they think because they deny Him they can defy Him.
 - b. God is patient, but His patience should not be interpreted as weakness.

II Pet 3: 9-10 The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance. **10** But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.
2. The consequences of rejecting God are horrible.

Romans 1: 28-32 And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper, **29** being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; *they are* , gossips **30** slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, **31** without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful; **32** and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.

II. There has never been a time in recorded history when the institution of the family has been under greater attack.

A. Increasing numbers of people view marriage (thus motherhood) with disdain.

1. More marriages end in divorce than survive.
 - a. The legal paperwork for the divorce is commonly drawn up before the marriage.
 - b. Even some “Christian” counselors are advising people to have “prenuptials.”
2. People are choosing to just live together instead of marriage.
 - a. They want a relationship with NO COMMITMENT. (“It’s all about ME !!)
 - b. Statistically, those who live together before marriage are 30% more likely to divorce.
3. Homosexuals are now seeking to “marry.” (*Thumbing their noses at God.*)
 - a. This trashes the very concept of marriage.
 - b. They simply seek acceptance for acceptance of their perverse lifestyle.
4. This week some began seriously advocating a marriage consisting of three people.

B. Sex has been reduced to recreation. (“Just a biological need.”)

1. Those who espouse abstinence are ridiculed. (**Reject God as reason to restrain.**)
2. It’s thought to be unreasonable to expect school children not to be sexually active.
3. Like dogs, people no longer even limit sex to relationship. (**not taught morals**)

C. When recreational sex produces a child, it’s unceremoniously murdered.

1. These murdered babies are not even buried, **just discarded as waste.**
2. Instead of protecting them, the law guards their mother’s right to murder them.

D. Marriage is held in such reproach those who choose motherhood are ridiculed.

1. Young girls are raised to feel they must have goals beyond a home and family.
2. Those who choose motherhood are made to feel they have wasted their potential.
 - a. “She’s just a stay-at-home-mom.” (**Motherhood is viewed as an interruption of ..**)
 - b. “She could’ve done so much with her life, but she just ...”
3. The pendulum has swung TOO far the wrong way; we need to center it.
 - a. The extremist make women property to be used.
 - b. The feminist put women in competition with men.
 - c. God puts both men and women together as a unit ... **the two shall become one flesh**

III. There is a greater need for godly mother now than at any time in history.

A. Merely biology does not make one the kind of mother God desires.

1. It is a lifelong responsibility and commitment to another human being.
2. A child is a sacred trust assigned by God to be prepared to serve Him.

B. One's mother is the strongest influence in his / her life.

1. Mothers influence the ability of their children :
 - a. To maintain relationships and work with others. (**Essential to marriage.**)
 - b. To succeed in life. (**The father builds on the mother's foundation.**)
2. Mothers influence the basic attitudes of their children :
 - a. Toward others. (**respectful , loving , loyal , or manipulative , bully , hostile**)
 - b. Toward themselves.
 - c. Toward authority. (**including God**) **MOM IS MOST IMPORTANT PERSON IN LIFE**

C. The influence wielded by mothers determines the course of nations. (**rocks cradle)**

1. Basic values are first instilled in children at a very young age.
2. Character begins being developed while yet on mother's breast.
3. Will a child be independent, or always look to the government to solve his problems.
 - a. The welfare state is a product of attitudes taught by the previous generation.
 - b. One's response to problems is first learned from his mother.

*** The national character is a compilation of families, of individual characters.**

D. In large measure the future of a congregation is determined by its mothers.

1. Not just to have children, but to raise them devoted to God.
 - a. No one is born devoted to God, it's a learned behavior. (**caught from mother**)
 - b. It is the mother who forms their child's early relationship to God.
 - c. Thus, the child will view the church and God much the same as his mother.
2. It is the mother who sets the spiritual tone for the home.
 - a. Though it should clearly fall to the man, in practice, it more often falls upon mom.
 - b. It is the mother who teaches children to have faith in God.
 - c. It is the mother who teaches the child to pray.
3. The future of the church is determined in the home, not the church building.

IV. Hannah realized the importance of motherhood. (relate story)

A. Her life could not be complete without filling the roll of a woman on the earth.

1. Woman carries within her womb the future of the family, yeah, of mankind.
2. Even being her husband's favorite wife could not satisfy her need to procreate.

B. She accepted the responsibility along with the blessing.

1. She did not abdicate her responsibility to others.
 - a. He was the center of her life. (**She made sure he was ready for God.**)
 - b. She taught him well enough he never faltered or fell away.
2. Hannah did a better job raising Samuel than Eli did raising his sons.
 - a. Eli served God faithfully all his days so his sons had a good example.
 - b. His sons were not taught the fundamental lessons Samuel had been taught.
3. Many today are so involved in their own lives, they turn the training of their children over to others.
 - a. Schools do not have strict moral guidelines for hiring teachers.
 - b. Many teachers do not believe in God.
 - c. Pop-culture has replaced the traditional Judeo-Christian value system.
 - d. The educational system has become hostile to God. (**esp. at college level**)

C. Hannah came back every year with clothing for her son. (2: 18-19)

1. As the prophet's assistant he would have been well cared for, but she took responsibility for her own son.
2. Though he was out of her house, he did not stop being her responsibility.

CONCLUSION :

A. God needs Hannah kind of mothers today.

1. Women whose greatest desire is to raise a child for God.
2. Women will train up children in a way that they will always desire to serve God.

B. We honor those of you who are raising up children for God

1. We lift up your hands in support and in encouragement.
2. Remember that you NEVER stop being mom.

(*Make sure to keep this lesson tied to the text.*)