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SOME M. O. M.s ("Mothers on Mission")

I guess I'm on firm ground here; but I believe that being a parent is more demanding today than ever before - and being a Christian parent - is doubly so. The demands, stresses, and expectations of today's living can seem overwhelming - and might distract even a Believing parent from the basic fundamentals of Christian family life.

The greatest impact that is being made today on tomorrow's generation is being made by today's parents. Times may have changed - and they certainly have - but the need for Christian parents has not!

I read an article by Bernie Koerselman who said:

"Emily was renewing her driver's license and

was horrified as the clerk berated another woman for giving "mother" as her occupation. "Housewife" is all we have that will cover that, the belligerent clerk had told her.

Emily was determined; so, when asked that question, she said, "I'm a research associate in the field of child development and human relations".

The clerk stopped with her pen in mid-air; then wrote the job description down. "What does your job entail? the clerk asked.

"I have a continuing program of research (and what mother doesn't); both in the laboratory and in the field (inside and outdoors). I am working for my masters (the family) and already have four credits (four children). It is very demanding; and I often put in 14-16 hours per day".

The clerk was so impressed, she got up and opened the door for this new "very important person".

As Emily told it, when she drove home; she was greeted by her lab assistants (age 13, 7, and 3). Upstairs, she could hear her new experimental model (6 months old) in the child-development program testing out a new vocal pattern!

What a glamorous career is parenthood - especially when there's a title on the door. I guess grandparents are now "Senior Research Associates in the Field of Child Development and Human Relations"; and us great grandparents??? Well, we are 'Executive Senior Research Associates'.

Nurturing the young, teaching them by precept and example, and training them in the

affairs of life is what parenting is all about.

As Karen Engle has written, "A Mother's Day message isn't always easy to prepare; and then to deliver. Mother's Day can be a [unique, tricky, sensitive | day to preach on. An effective Mother's Day Message will connect with the hearts of women from all walks of life and vastly different circumstances. Some have multiple children, while others long for just one. Some have lost mothers, while others mourn an estranged relationship with the one they still have. It's easy to write off a "Mother's Day message" and instead have all the mothers stand up, bless them with a nice prayer, maybe give them a flower—and check the "done" box."

Yet Mother's Day affords a wonderful opportunity to connect us with Biblical Examples of mothers that will not just speak to the mothers in the room but the church as a whole.

Here are some M. O. M. s (Moms on Mission) to consider.

AN UNNAMED WIDOW OF A PREACHER: She sought wisdom from Elisha.

(2 Kng 4:1) - Now the wife of one of the prophets cried to Elisha, "My husband worked with you; and he has died; and the creditor has come to take my two children to be his servants."

(2 Kng 4:2) - And Elisha said to her, "Tell me; what have you in the house?" And she said, "Your servant has nothing in the house except a jar of oil."

(2 Kng 4:3) - Then he (quickly) said, "Go outside,

borrow empty vessels from all your neighbors, as many as you can.

- (2 Kng 4:4) Then go in and shut the door, and you and your sons start pouring oil into all these vessels."
- (2 Kng 4:5) So she started pouring and they started bringing empty vessels to her.
- (2 Kng 4:6) When all the vessels were full, and they had no more, then the oil stopped flowing.
- (2 Kng 4:7) When she told Elisha, he said; "Go, sell the oil and pay your debts, and you and your sons can live on the rest."

She was in a sad plight. Husband dead, no money and bill collectors at the door; she had no choice but to offer her sons to work it off.

Her expectation for God's provision was

understandably limited at first; and she responded: "I have nothing . . . except a jar of oil."

Sound familiar? I think I remember when Jesus asked His Apostles what they had to feed 5,000 men (not counting women and children), and they replied: "Not much! Just a little lunch from one little boy".

And that was all that was needed! In fact, that was not needed specifically; but The Lord always lets us get involved in His Work - needed or not! That's the kind of God we serve!

A "jar of oil" is more than enough for God! What do you already have that God can use? When the widow did what Elisha asked, God provided for her needs from what she already had; and it was enough to pay off the debt and live off of it too.

THE LESSON:

WHATEVER YOU HAVE IS MORE THAN ENOUGH FOR GOD TO USE IN HIS WORK!

2. JOCHEBED: A mother whose choice is still on-going today.

(Heb 11:23) - By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents (Amram and Jochebed), because they saw that the child was beautiful, and they were not afraid of the king's edict.

(Heb 11:24-25) - By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting

pleasures of sin.

(Heb 11:26) - He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward.

(Heb 11:27) - By faith he left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king, for he (Moses) endured as seeing Him (God) who is invisible.

Jochebed, an Israelite, gave birth to Moses while her nation was subject to Egyptian slavery and during a time when all male babies were under sentence of death.

Yet her faith in the midst of distressing circumstances stands as a model to us all.

Scripture tells us Moses:

(Ex 2:2) - . . . was a fine child . . .

(Acts 7:20) - . . . was beautiful in God's sight.

There was, no doubt, something about him that was unique. Even so, by law Moses should have been executed - and going against the Pharaoh's command would have meant certain death for Jochebed.

Yet the Bible is clear:

(Acts 5:29) - we must obey God rather than man.

Even Jesus taught the value of life over law when He healed on the Sabbath:

(Matt 12:11) - Which one of you who has a sheep, if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not take hold of it and lift it out? Of how much more value is a man than a sheep! So it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath.

(Heb 11:23) - By faith (in God) Jochebed hid her son for three months (an act that set in motion

Moses' life within the Egyptian community and his eventual leading of Israel out of slavery).

By God's miraculous design, after Jochebed protected her son by sending him down the Nile in a basket where he "just happened" to be "coincidentally" found by the king's daughter (Ex 2:7-10).

"Just happened"? Yeah, right!

And, if that wasn't enough, Jochebed was asked to be Moses's "nannie"! And during that time, although it is speculative, there can be no doubt that Amram and Jochebed passed their faith and trust in God along to their son:

(Heb 11:24) - By faith, Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's

daughter....

(Heb 11:27) - By faith he left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king, for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible.

Jochebed's decision to follow the faith of her ancestors — Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob — impacted her son, who later led Israel out of Egypt; and that act tremendously impacted the entire world even to this day!

It's an example for not just mothers but all parents (biological, adopted, or "spiritual") of the impact that their quiet faithfulness can have on the lives of many.

THE LESSON:

We have the opportunity to

share our Faith with others; which can potentially impact many generations!

3. An unnamed widow who provided for Elijah

(1 Kng 17:8) - Then the word of the Lord came to him (Elijah), saying:

(1 Kng 17:9) - "Arise, go to Zarephath, in Sidon (Modern day Lebanon), and dwell there. Behold, I have commanded a widow there to feed you."

(1 Kng 17:10) - So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, a widow was there gathering sticks. And he called to her and said, "Bring me a little water in a vessel, that I may drink."

(1 Kng 17:11) - And as she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, "Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand."

(1 Kng 17:12) - And she said, "As the Lord your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. And now I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, so that we may eat it and die".

(1 Kng 17:13) - And Elijah said to her, "Do not fear; go and do as you have said. But first, make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterward make something for yourself and your son.

(1 Kng 17:14) - For thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, 'The jar of flour shall not be spent, and the jug of oil shall not be empty, until the day

that the Lord sends rain upon the earth."

(1 Kng 17:15) - And she went and did as Elijah said.

And she and he and her household ate for many days.

(1 Kng 17:16) - The jar of flour was not spent, neither did the jug of oil become empty, according to the Word of The Lord that He spoke by Elijah.

God had told Elijah (who was fleeing from Ahab; (1 Kng 17:1) to seek help from a Gentile widow who was gathering sticks so that she could prepare the last handful of flour she had left for herself and her son to eat as a last meal.

Elijah commanded the woman to make him a small cake from the flour first (what nerve!). His request for food and water during a famine no doubt put this non-Jewish, financially challenged

woman in a very awkward position.

Yet as Spurgeon wrote, "God chose her for a purpose; not just to be saved out of the famine but to feed His Prophet. Despite her situation, she believed the Lord's Promise of provision and trusted Him when Elijah said, "Do not fear".

This Gentile woman did as this Jewish Preacher asked her to do, and Scripture says "she and Elijah and her household" ate for many days; in fact, just as God had said!

THE LESSON:

God's Grace is ALL sufficient for ALL He chooses to do, whether He lets us participate or not!

A NOTE FROM BROTHER TOM

Whatever you NEED; He IS!

I don't know where I first saw that powerful statement, or when I first used it; but, like two of the three Biblical examples of "Mothers on Mission" in this message, they are unnamed (as far as we are concerned); but NOT UNKNOWN (as far as God is concerned)!

I am deeply indebted to the many preachers and teachers whose ministries I have followed in my sixty years of ministry. Sadly, much of what they said has been taken down but who said it has been misplaced. No claim is ever made for total originality of these messages in this ministry!

God bless you!

Tom Mooty; Newport, Tenn (2025)



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