

## Take Care of Your Mother

It wasn't a pretty sight. A battered, bruised and bloodied Jesus hung on the cross for the final minutes of life. Jesus' mother stood at the foot of the cross, in as much emotional pain as her son's physical pain. Jesus looked down and *He said to her, "Woman, behold your son, for whom, from now on, you must have a motherly affection," and to John, "Behold your mother, to whom you must pay a sonly duty." And so from that hour, that hour never to be forgotten, that disciple took her to his own home (John 19:26-27).* At the time of extreme suffering Jesus was looking out for His mom, making sure that her needs would be taken care of in the future. He appointed and trusted John to care for her.

We can learn a lesson from Jesus' concern for His mother. Today – Mother's Day – we honor and show our love for our moms, whether or not they are physically with us. After all, it is our mothers who brought us into the world, nurtured us and guided us through the formative years. For many of us our mothers played a key role in shaping the persons we are today. Chances are our mom's core values have become our core values. And now, in adulthood our mothers continue to be dedicated to help us in any way they can. *Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it (Proverbs 22:6).*



I have observed first-hand how children learn from their moms. We are fortunate to spend considerable time with our grandchildren. It is interesting to hear the older granddaughter guiding and encouraging her younger sister, saying many of the things her mom said to her. In effect, the older one is emulating a parental role for her younger sister. The same is true of the older grandson, as he relates in a loving way to his younger brother. Mothers have a great influence on the values of their children and how they treat their younger siblings. More than we realize, they were watching how their mother guided and loved them. And they have adopted the same tendencies.

A passage from Proverbs reads like a job description on the role of a mother. It is not an easy job but one that involves sacrifice, love and wisdom. The life of a mother involves commitment and the ability to juggle many tasks at the same time. The Bible says: *She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue. She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: "Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all." Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate (Proverbs 31:26-31).* In the Bible verse the husband acknowledges his wife in raising the children. How about you? Do you take the time to praise your spouse and mother?

Although my mom passed away 15 years ago, the lessons learned from her remain vivid in my heart and mind. You, too, may have pleasant memories of a mother no longer with us. While we no longer can have a daily interaction with our mothers, our interactions with others in daily life very much reflect our mom's teachings.

On this Mother's Day, let us remember to love and honor the ones who gave us life. Just as Jesus made sure that His mother was cared for, you too, can care for and honor mothers in your life.

**The Bible Says:** *Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you (Exodus 20:12)*

**Question:** In what ways are you honoring the existence or memory of your mother?

**Prayer:** Dear Lord. We praise and thank you for the gift of life and for the mothers you placed in our lives. Let us honor them today. Amen.