

"THE PHILOSOPHY OF LEMUEL'S MOTHER"

Prov. 31:1-31

The book of Proverbs is one of the most practical books in Scripture. Every Christian should read this book several times each year just to adopt its truth into our every day lives. Many of its portions have already become familiar to us:

- Guidance - 1. Proverbs 3:5-6 "Trust in the Lord... life verse.
Evang → 2. Proverbs 11:30 "He that winneth souls is wise"... Evang.
Sin 3. Proverbs 14:9 "Fools make a mock at sin"...
4. Proverbs 16:7 "When a man's ways please the Lord, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him."
P. Relations 5. Proverbs 18:24 "A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly..."
Character Building 6. Proverbs 22:1 "A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches..."
Paragogy ← 7. Proverbs 22:6 "Train up a child in the way...
Discip. ← 8. Proverbs 29:18 "Where there is no vision, the people perish..."

Also, in this great book, one of the most informative chapters on motherhood. In the early portion of the book the repeated phrase... "forsake not the law of thy mother" 1:8 and 6:20ff.

Who Was Lemuel? Commentators disagree.

1. Solomon using a pen name
2. Solomon using a name his mother gave him--"dedicated to God"
3. A king of a neighboring country, another tribe, whose mother was an Israelite.

No definite answer, though the last appeals to me. This chapter deals with those lessons a king's mother taught him. "taught"--"to correct, instruct, discipline, correct the moral nature.

Lemuel's mother taught him 3 general principles in this chapter.

Instruction about Morals--v.3-6

Means--v.7-9

Mate--v.10-31

Question: What advice shall I give this son whom I have dedicated to the Lord?

I. INSTRUCTION ABOUT MORALS--v.3-6

There are 2 cardinal sins for a king to guard against:

A. Uncleanliness:

"strength"--valour, riches. The wealth or riches of ones character and morality is something money can't buy--guard your character and life.

"strange women" -- Solomons downfall.

1 Kings 11:1-6

Proverbs abounds with instruction to the young on this vital subject: Prov. 5:3, 8, 20-21.

Prov. 6:23-24

Prov. 7:27

Proverbs answers that oft proposed question ...By What Standard?
The standard is clear but men close their eyes---make themselves
or public the standard of what is right and wrong. If every-
body in the world said it is right to murder--- steal....
plunder....would this make it right? All sine is ultimately
against God.

B. Drunkenness --v.4-5

It is not befitting royalty to give themselves to drink.
Honor to uphold. Temptation for kings living in the lap of
luxury.

1. 1 K_{ings} 16:9 ---Elah-- one year reign.
2. Ben-hadad--loss of army-- 1 K_{ings} 20:16
3. Daniel 5:1 ff.

Some might call this mother old fashioned, puritanical, and
other names derived to mock at drink--but read the newspaper
and magazines and see where drunkenness leads. Name one benefit
of drinking--an escape from the realities of life. People who
have no satisfying God...a shallow religion.

I would like to take some of the youth who might be on the
fence about this thing to the broken homes, death, sorrow,
loss of character, money that excess drink has brought.

**Alcoholism is a massive world problem... Ch. Science Mon.
4th most serious health problems in America..heart disease,
cancer, mental health.

U.S. recently moved ahead of France as the with the worlds
largest or highest evidence of alcoholism.

1 out of 15 drinkers in America is an alcoholic... of our
75, 000,000 who drink.

Our society accepts drunkenness as the norm---social pressures
to drink.

***Monument to a Fool. Why the quietness from the pulpit--
recently evicence that many church leaders in a prominent
denomination did not think it wrong to drink--- preachers
too cowardly to speak out on the Bible.

II. INSTRUCTION ABOUT MEANS--v.7-9

Concern for poor---v.7

Concern for justice---v.8

Rich fool and Rich man--Lk.16 problem was self.

If our christiana peopel display this attitude--think of
unsaved.

III. INSTRUCTION ABOUT A MATE**v.10-31

These verses written in the form of an acrostic each verse
beginning with a letter of the Heb. alphabet--- for memory
purposes.

Cannot cover every verse--3 areas:

A. Her Husband

1. v.11-12 Confidence and comfort. Spoils of war unnecessary. Also might indicate his income is sufficient because she is a careful spender.
2. v.23-- Help to her husband's advancement--her good influence. He free from domestic anxieties to advance his ~~work~~ work.
(Doesn't call him at work when the dog just dug up her favorite flower--or junior got a splinter in his finger--what shall I do--hurry home.)
3. v.28-- Recognizes her value and contribution to the home.
Word to husbands--dinner out once in a while.
Flowers once in a while.
Commendation about her new hair do, clean house, good dinner....praiseworthy!

B. Her Household

1. v.15
2. v.27 This woman is not idle...good housekeeper.

C. Her Heritage

Comprehensive usage of to pass something from parents to children... strength of character and love of God.
Her daughters reflect her good traits.

Point:

Mother has more than a physical responsibility to her family--a spiritual one!

Begins with your own acceptance of Christ.

G. Campbell Morgan had 4 sons who were preachers. Whole family at home when a friend called. Circle by fireplace. Friend to one of the boys--"Who is the best preacher in the family." All eyes turned in the eyes of the Doctor himself..suprise when he said--Why mother, of course!

Mother--vow to God that the Devil won't get one of your children!

" MAGNIFICENT MOTHERS "

Prov. 31:30

The word "magnificent" suggests something or someone who is grand or stately, beautiful. Its simple definition is to do great.

There is a sense in which this word applies to almost every mother who has any sense of duty and love to her family. There is a magnificence about motherhood which is unexplainable.

Examples:

Tucker

1. Even the lowest kind of individual can understand this idea. Park Tucker the chaplain at Atlanta. Preaching to the men, trying to reach them for Christ. The dearest word in all the English vocabulary---- "mother" tears to the hardest of men.

Spurgeon

2. It is not difficult to understand why Spurgeon became such a great preacher when you read of the great women who had influence in his life. His grandmother promised him a penny for every hymn of Isaac Watts he could perfectly repeat. Learned so fast had to be cut to $\frac{1}{2}$ a penny. His mother who prayed so earnestly for her strong willed son. Her prayers aroused concern in his soul. Spurgeons father told of returning to the house--up the stairs heard the voice of wife in prayer pleading for her son Charles in prayer. Monica for Augustine. Every Sunday Mrs. Spurgeon gathered her children about her and read the Bible and would explain the verses. Then prayed--never forgot. ***No more Spurgeons because no more mothers like that? **I read about a campus beauty queen recently who had

Graham

been hurt in a serious auto accident. The girl's last words to her mother were: "Mother, you have taught me everything I needed to know in college. You taught me how to light my cigarette, how to hold my cocktail glass, how to be permissive in sex without fear of. But mother, you never taught me how to die. You had better teach me quickly, because I am dying.

I. MAGNIFICENT IN FAITH--Heb. 11:23

Ex. 2:3--"she could no longer hide him
"she took for him an ark of..."

A. Moses Mother Faith In God

The command of Pharaoh. Every son cast into the river. She did her best--then turned it all over to God.



Moses had the same kind of faith. By faith...he...

B. Mothers Have Missed Something Who Do Not Pass On This Kind of Faith To Their Children.

2 Tim. 1:5

"When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Enice; and I am persuaded that in thee also."

II. MAGNIFICENT IN PRAYER-- 1 Sam.2:1

"And Hannah prayed..."

Hannah prayed that Samuel would be born. She prayed that God would use him. This unselfish woman wanted her son in the service of God.

Spurgeon's mother.

Augustines mother.

Susanna Wesley: "Once asked about her 2 sons in the gospel ministry, leaving her behind.." Had I 20 sons, I should rejoice that they were so employed, though I should never see them again."

Truman's mother-- disappointed he became president--wanted him in the ministry.

The mother of Jesus. Most interesting to trace her influence on his life. Acts 1:14

She was in the place of prayer.

III. MAGNIFICENT IN EVANGELISM--Acts 16:14-15

"and her household"

This verse does not teach that children enter into the covenant benefits of the parents as some teach. I would suggest that Lydia made sure her household heard about the Lord.

A. Our Children Will Live Somewhere Forever

If mothers really believed the Bible about some of these matters it would alter their emphasis in life.

Our children are the most important possession we have.

We spend 99% of our time preparing for their education, * security, happiness.*

Not only for this life, but the life to come.

B. Cannot Tell Them About Something Do No Know Personally.

IV. MAGNIFICENT IN BIBLE INSTRUCTION --2 Tim. 3:15

1. Wm. Carey-- "The Father of Modern Missions"

"Edmund and Elizabeth Carey attended church with scrupulous regularity and took their children with them. At home, they possessed a Bible, and they used it. Bible were not numerous..and expensive for humble folk.

"Carey: From my infancy I was accustomed to read the Scriptures."

2. Billy Graham:

Beyond all else Billy Graham studies the Bible

Biographies seem to be the same: The Word of God
Wesley, Meyer, Spurgeon, McCheyne, The Word of God.

MOTHERS --- PAST AND PRESENT

How they reach the prisoners at Atlanta Fed. Pen. Park Tucker. Dearest word in the English vocabulary. Three Things You Do Not Question: (Old Southern gent.)

- A. The deity of my Lord
- B. The purity and integrity of my wife
- C. The godliness and honesty of my mother

Since the beginning of time mothers have always been different. (Story..Adam,Eve, Sons, "Theres where your mother ate us out of house and home)

Some mothers are cruel, dominering, possessive, others are carless, indifferent and irresponsible. (Prof. Mrs. Thelma Meyers)

Others are loving, kind, thoughtful. "God could not be everywhere, so He gave us mothers." Mother love is the nearest thing we can know humanly speaking to help us understand the love of God.

Newspaper man who had gained success and fame, wealth and prosperity...returned to his farm home and mother to rest for first time in years..simplicity.)

There have always in the course of human history been two kinds of mothers. For example those who would cast their children into the river in sacrifice, or in the fires of sacrifice. Then those who would die to protect their own.

Let us turn to the Bible and see in the remaining minutes several kinds of mothers.

I. EXOD. 2:2-3 : FEARLESS AND FULL OF FAITH
Heb. 11:23

A. God always honors faith.

- 1. Faith to defy the command of Pharoah.
- 2. Faith that force could not destroy.

*(Faith of Our Mothers)

Moses had that great type faith in his character years later. How important faith is in these matters. *Mother's inst. into children*

- 1. Faith to believe God watches and protects his own. *Cindy - Mt. 18:10 - In fly to*
- 2. For us, maybe faith to lay hold of the promises of God to believe he will save a wayward son or daughter.

*Heb. 11:6 anything short of this type faith will fail.

ENOCH'S GREAT FAITH WAS WHAT PLEASED GOD.

II. L SAM. 2:1 "And Hannah prayed" PRAYING MOTHERS

A. She prayed for him to be born...dedicated him to God. A praying mother is an unselfish mother when it comes to giving our children to God.

1:27, 28

Are your children on the altar?

See Moses
Yonder when
I milled
a great

Bette
Elliptt
daughter

Think that rocks the cradle
rules the world.

B. The need today. If were true would be a diff. world. Cursing all young hear. Jesus Christ a curse word to many. *M.F.S. over N.Y.*

C. Leave you with this question: "Have your children ever heard you call their name in prayer?" Don't blame preacher, church, God if they aren't saved. *(MRS. Coy) (I have a husband)*
*Augustines mother prayed years for him to be saved.

III. 2TIM. 1:5 cf. 3:15 SCRIPTURE TEACHING MOTHERS

(Arabs) A. We have no idea how impt this is. Psa. 119:105
Testimonies of how the word of God learned in
youth have come back to them in a crucial point
in life to change the whole course of life.
(Eggemyers)

IV. ACTS 16:14 and 15 (implication) SOUL WINNING MOTHER

you child live for eternity somewhere
A. Remember that a child is in three parts.
Body, soul, spirit. 99% of our effort on the body. I ask you which is more impt. prepare for this life or the life to come?
Of course, you can't lead them to a knowledge of something you know nothing about.
"What shall it profit a man if...." *Send children to S.S. church*

V. 2CHRON. 22:13 UNGODLY MOTHER

- A. The majority of mothers in America fall into this category. Not all like Athaliah. "ungodly" simply mean without God. Thru Jesus Christ. (Morality doesn't count.)
- B. Mothers reap the sin of their lives in their children. Lana Turner. *cf. Del 6:5*
- C. Parent are responsible to God for the spiritual welfare of thier children.

A True Mother. Solomon and the Two Mothers

Have you settles the sins of your own life, in the blood of Christ.

you have an eternal resp. to God! God will hold you responsible!

mother here, today - I would rather be able to say - mother knows the Lord - and prays for her boy daily - than anything else in the world...

(None Counsel)

Several weeks ago, I was out of this pulpit and confined to the sickbed for a few days. During that time, I read a book which has been on my shelf for several years--The Journal of John Wesley. One of the moving chapters of the book which deal with the life and ministry of this great preacher has to do with the death of his mother. He records the event of the last moments of her life as she had called her children around her bed and her parting request was this: "Children, as soon as I am released, sing a psalm of praise to God." Perhaps the reason we do not have more men like Wesley is because our generation does not produce women of Susanna Wesley's character. It was said of her when she was asked about her two sons in the gospel ministry--leaving her behind--"Had I twenty sons, I should rejoice that they were so employed, though I should never see them again." (Interesting to hear mothers today and what they want their sons to be--not many thing of the ministry in this regard! The \$ has even blinded the eyes of believers to the point of missing some kind of real purpose in life.)

I. MOTHERS WHO ENTRUST THEIR CHILDREN TO GOD--Heb. 11:23

- * A. The Circumstances Were Out of Her Hands-- Ex. 1:22
The strength of Moses was not the result of his education in Egypt. He was raised at his mother's knee thought in the Court of Pharaoh--when the crucial choice of life came--Moses decided to follow his conviction rather than his convenient way.
- B. The Circumstances Were Altered By God--Ex. 2

Application:

Have you ever turned your children over to the Lord? Missionary? Preacher? Evangelist? or wherever or whatever he shall decide? Once they are on the altar--don't try to get them off! (Abraham.)

II. MOTHERS ENCIRCLE THEIR CHILDREN WITH PRAYER-- 1 Sam.2:1

Some time ago, we were undergoing some difficult testing. We had returned to our home in W.Va. Mother--"I have felt you were in distress--have prayed for you more this year than any other time since you entered the ministry."

This meant more to me than anything she had ever said! Who knows how many victories wrought in the Lord's work thru the prayers of godly mothers?

- A. Pray For Their Character and Conduct
B. Pray ^r For Their Salvation
C. Pray For Their Station in Life.

There is little doubt in my mind that the prayers of Augustine's mother followed him until the day he surrendered to Christ. (recount the story.)

~~**Recently~~ came into the living room--heard the prayers of children and wife--nothing more important in life than that!

III. MOTHERS WHO ENCOURAGE THEIR CHILDREN IN THE THINGS OF GOD

A. The Matter of Their Salvation—Acts 16:14-16

B. The Matter of The Scriptures—2Tim.1:5 3:15

The testimonies of how verses learned in youth have come back to remembrance in the crisis hours of life are many. A simple matter like a Bible story book in which children learned the great characters and stories of the Bible. (My own experience—mother not a Christian at that time—remember the times she read me the Bible stories—Perhaps her Scotch Presbyterian background. Never forgot these. Dad took me to Sunday School—he might have played cards all night or have been drinking but for a 2 year period never missed a Sunday.)

Mother: ~~Your relationship to God will probably be the same course your children will travel.~~ (Some exceptions but not the rule.) *"As is the mother, so is her daughter"*
One of the oldest stories about this is that of ~~the famous newspaper man~~ who had gained success in the world of business. Wealth, respect. Under the stress of a critical hour returned home ... to remember the real values in life. 21
16.44

The abandoned baby on T.V. this week. Terrible. Something worse--abandoned spiritually--children who will miss heaven....

" THREE CERTAIN WOMEN OF THE BIBLE "

Acts 16:1,2,14,16

Revised. May 1940

Today we honor the mothers of America. There is no one quite like mother. In fact, wives sometime grow weary of hearing how much better mother seemed to do in almost everything. To these discouraged wives I would submit the following poem:

"He criticized her pudding, he didn't like her cake;
He wished she'd make the biscuits his mother used to make.

She didn't wash the dishes, and she didn't make the stew; and she didn't mend his stockings like his mother used to do.

So when one day he went the same old rigamarole thru, she turned and boxed his ears, (just) like mother use to do."

Truman
The important role of motherhood has been stressed many times. Presidents have spoken in grateful tones about the influence of their mothers--Lincoln and Eisenhower. Thomas Edison once remarked: "My mother was the making of me. She was so true, so sure of me, that I felt I had someone to live for, someone I must not disappoint." The students of Church History will remember the impact Augustines praying mother had on his early wayward life. Schaff says of her: "Monica the mother of Augustine, is counted among the most noble and pious women who adorn the temple of Church history." Thru her godly life and gentle character her husband and son were both won to Christ.

I am sure there are many mothers in our country who seek to raise their children in the best possible way. Regretfully our attention fastens on the mother who is the social butterfly who moves from one activity to another who is more concerned about the society page of the newspaper than she is about the spiritual wellbeing of her children.

In the 16th of Acts there is a repetition of a phrase: "a certain woman"...this will be the basis of our study in the Scripture this Mother's Day.

I. A CERTAIN WOMAN NAMED EUNICE--v.1-2

(HER FAITH AFFECTED HER FAMILY)

We learn Timothy's mother's name from 2 Tim. 1:5

"When I call to remembrance the ^{genuine} unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice, and I am persuaded that in thee also."

The text says she "believed". All of these verses suggest first of all that Eunice:

A. An Example of Faith To Her Son--v.1-2

Let me emphasize the word..."example."

The name Eunice appears only 1 time in N.T.

SHE Believed
That SHE
SHOULD BE

"Believed"

(What did you say to him? Don't get off (stop) but sitting out of you) -26-

The faith Eunice wanted her son to have---she had first! Some parents underestimate the perceptive powers of their children. Kids are great psychologists. They see the parents who stumble out of bed in/on Sunday drive them to Sunday school--let them out. They will one day begin to weigh values--if Mother and Dad do not care enough to go with me, it surely can't be very important and somewhere in the early teens, just when they need training and ties in the church most, they give it up! Parents wring their hands and cry--"Where did we go wrong?" This type of procedure is bad---but there is another kind which is worse--tis the "let Jr. choose his own faith philosophy." Many times negligent parents offer this old tired excuse--- "I let Jr. make up his own mind--if he wants to go o.k. if not o.k. Question: "Do you let him make up his own mind about school on Monday morning?" Doesn't this tell him what the parent thinks is more important? (MRS. CRAIG)

B. She Believed Her Son's Salvation Should Not Be Left To Someone Else. 2 Tim. 3:15

"And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."

Where did/how did Timothy learn these Scriptures? No Sunday School, no copies of the Bible to read, no Child Evangelism, no Bible Clubs, no Youth For Christ, no summer camps, Bible schools.

He learned the Scripture in his home.

We would not dare trust the physical health of our children to happenstance/teeth/eyes/education and yet men will ignore the soul of a child as if it did not exist or was not important! The most important matter in the life of a child is their relationship to God thru Jesus Christ.

C. She Believed The Scriptures Were Important To Her Son's Spiritual Well Being --2 Tim. 3:15

The mind of a young child is very impressionable. They remember so much and their character is formed so early in life. *** (Policeman in Detroit told me of a boy who could strip a car in a matter of minutes---he was 12 years old!)

My early Christian training was not in a Bible preaching church--but I can remember those stories from a Bible story book about the great characters of the Bible read to me as a small child.

The time one spends with a young child in this area is not wasted time:

There is a supposed true story of how Regina Hartman was taken by Indians from Pa. to upper N.Y. after a raid by the Indians in 1754. Her mother was at the mill and her brother/father/

her sister all killed. Her mother spent 11 years searching for her. At the close of the French and ~~Ind~~ Indian War, word came that a group of white girls had been taken from the Indians. Mrs. Hartman along with many other anxious mothers looked thru the ranks of the captives but unable to find her daughter. About to give up when the officer in charge asked if Regina had any distinguishing marks on her body--none. Did you ever sing to your little girl? A hymn? There was a hymn she was fond of--begin to walk along the line and sing it---she had but reached the second verse of the hymn when a girl burst from the ranks and ran to her mothers arms.

(HER FAITH AFFECTED
HER EMPLOYEES.)

II. A CERTAIN WOMAN NAMED LYDIA--v.14

The early beginning of the Philippian Church--one of the finest and most generous in the N.T. Over and over this church came to Paul's assistance. (Comment: interesting to notice a contrast in this chapter. Lydia was waiting and ready to be saved---an easy conversion. The jailer was rebellious and hard--but both were wonderfully saved! Don't be discouraged by initial reaction.)

A. Lydia Was A Wealthy Woman

The text does not declare this but it is implied. A "seller of purple" suggests she was a businesswoman who dealt with dye/fabric which was used in the official togas of Rome. She is said to have had a "household"..v.15 implies more than a family--but workers, servants. Glad the Bible reaches the "up and out as well as the down and out." The poor rich people of the world--who need the riches of God's grace in Christ.

B. Lydia Was a Religious Woman-- "worshipped God."

She worshipped God before she was saved! v.15 It is not enough to go to church, be active, be involved in community affairs, one may do all of these things and be utterly lost! She was like Nicodemus, Cornelius, Saul....all religious but not saved until they trusted Christ!

C. Lydia Led Others To Christ By Her Example-- "and her household"

This is not on a covenant basis but on a personal basis. When a person is really saved-- that conversion will touch other lives.

There is one outstanding feature about the conversion of Lydia which comes back to mind over and over again "whose heart the Lord opened!" God reached down and did a work in her heart....anything short of that is not Bible salvation. Today, many substitutes for this wonderful way of saving souls. (Many)

Lesson in
witnessing

Oversimplification: Many
Lord calls are ---

The Lady
Lydia.

Dye came from
shellfish &
collected one drop
at a time.
Kings, Commanders
magistrates
wore purple
robes

Expensive

Pr. 3 / Pr. 4

(HER FAITH AFFECTED
HER ASSOCIATES (ions)
OCCUPATION)

III. A CERTAIN UNNAMED WOMAN--v.16

The text says this woman was a "damsel" which simply means she was a "young woman." Sometimes used to imply a "slave girl." This girl was in all probability not a mother. But she will represent a type of person who is enslaved to the "god of this world" and the victim of unscrupulous and greedy men.

Think of the many women who have been led along a path of spiritual darkness, being dragged ever downward to the gutters of this world. It would appear that the men in the story were only interested in using this poor unfortunate girl for gain...v.19 He condition of no interest to them--they did not look on her as an individual in need--the daughter of some mother. Paul was probably the first person in all the world who showed interest in her spiritual well being.

Let me use this girl who had fallen under Satan's power as an example of the wrong kind of motherhood in America. We would like to think that all mothers are basically good and have the good of their children at heart but this is not so:

2 Chron. 22:2-3 "... his mother was his counsellor to do evil..."

See
Main
Mother
Out

One of the sadest stories I have ever read had to do with a teen age girl who was seriously injured in an auto wreck late one night. Taken to a hospital and search for her mother who was at a party where whiskey and sorted conversation were in plentiful supply. When the mother was sobbered up enough to get to the hospital told that her daughter probably not live.

"Mother you taught me all of the socially acceptable ways of life--you taught me how to dance, drink, smoke, play cards, catch the eye of men and I have learned all of that well...but now mother I am scared and so alone for you never told me how to die....please mother tell me how to die!

My own mother was converted 1 week after me. It has been a delight to have a Christian mother these past 22 years. I would rather be able to have a Christian mother than all the wealth/honor this world can afford. When I was a student at B.J. heard the chaplain of Federal Penn. at Atlanta...hardened criminals one word would reach them all...mother. I do not know today, but there is a word more precious than that....the name of Jesus.