

And His Mother's Name:

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by C. Benjamin Dill

Good morning, Lighthouse!

Happy Mother's Day to all you moms here this morning.

Our text verses today are from II Kings 18:

2Ki 18:1 Now it came to pass in the third year of Hoshea son of Elah king of Israel, *that Hezekiah* the son of Ahaz king of Judah began to reign.

2Ki 18:2 Twenty and five years old was he when he began to reign; and he reigned twenty and nine years in Jerusalem. **His mother's name also was Abi**, the daughter of Zachariah.

2Ki 18:3 **And he did *that which was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that David his father did.***

Let me congratulate you this morning on being among the best moms on the planet. The fact that you are here in God's house ready to worship the Lord instead of any number of other places you could be speaks volumes about you.

Most people do not understand the role mothers play in the development of our society.

Think for a moment about who it is that really holds the power to make this world a better place.

Many people think that God is anti-women. That, because of the curse; because Eve ate the forbidden fruit and then gave it to her husband – or that for whatever reason; God has just chosen to punish all women.

There are consequences from Eve's action that affect all generations of women; the pain of child bearing, the position of being under the authority of her husband with a sin nature that does not like it – and more. But before you get to feeling too sorry for yourself, I hope you will remember this:

In spite of all those consequences, God has entrusted you with the highest position of influence there is, bar none.

There are hundreds of scientific studies on this and they all come to the same basic conclusion.

Let me quote you one such study from the University of California:

Many people know that a person's character and personality is largely established by the time they are very young. The traits that will define that individual throughout his or her life can be clearly identified when he or she is as little as 7 years old. In a new investigation, scientists show that, by the

time they start going to school, children already exhibit the personality traits that will remain with them throughout their lives. This was clearly established in a new paper, written by experts at the University of California in Riverside (UCR), [LiveScience](#) reports.

It may well be that much of your genetic pattern, the raw material, in other words; comes from your dad, but it is most always mom who plays the greatest role in molding a child into what he or she is going to be; good or bad.

Scientists have never discovered anything that God did not already know. When you read in your Old Testament about the rulers, both good ones and otherwise, that reigned over Israel and Judah, you will notice a pattern of recognizing those responsible for producing these leaders.

Here are some random excerpts:

2Kings 8:25-27

25 In the twelfth year of Joram the son of Ahab king of Israel did Ahaziah the son of Jehoram king of Judah begin to reign.

26 Two and twenty years old was Ahaziah when he began to reign; and he reigned one year in Jerusalem. **And his mother's name was Athaliah**, the daughter of Omri king of Israel.

27 **And he walked in the way of the house of Ahab, and did evil in the sight of the**

LORD, as *did* the house of Ahab: for he was the son-in-law of the house of Ahab.

2Kings 11:21-12:2

21 Seven years old was Jehoash when he began to reign.

1 In the seventh year of Jehu Jehoash began to reign; and forty years reigned he in Jerusalem. **And his mother's name was Zibiah of Beer-sheba.**

2 **And Jehoash did *that which was right in the sight of the LORD*** all his days wherein Jehoiada the priest instructed him.

2Kings 14:1-3

1 In the second year of Joash son of Jehoahaz king of Israel reigned Amaziah the son of Joash king of Judah.

2 He was twenty and five years old when he began to reign, and reigned twenty and nine years in Jerusalem. **And his mother's name was Jehoaddan** of Jerusalem.

3 **And he did *that which was right in the sight of the LORD*,...**

2Kings 15:1-3

1 In the twenty and seventh year of Jeroboam king of Israel began Azariah son of Amaziah king of Judah to reign.

2 Sixteen years old was he when he began to reign, and he reigned two and fifty years in Jerusalem. **And his mother's name was Jecholiah** of Jerusalem.

3 And he did *that which was right in the sight of the LORD*, according to all that his father Amaziah had done;

You will see this pattern of recognition continue in the New Testament as well:

The Apostle Paul speaking to Timothy recognizes where Timothy first learned to trust the Lord.

2Timothy 1:5 When I call to remembrance the 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.

This principle of a mother's influence is evident everywhere you look.

"In an interview, Barack Obama referred to his mother as "the dominant figure in my formative years ... The values she taught me continue to be my touchstone when it comes to how I go about the world of politics."

What a stark contrast one may observe by comparing President Obama's mother; Ann Dunham, Obama, Soetoro, Sutoro with Barbara Bush.

You will see of course the same contrast in the policies and belief systems of our last two Presidents.

Yes, moms, the future of this world, until Jesus comes, is in your hands to be shaped. You have the potential and the opportunity to do more to change it than probably anyone else on the planet.

I don't have any magic formula from the Bible today that will make you a supermom overnight; however, here are three steps you can take that will make a remarkable difference:

I. Accept your responsibility in this and determine to become the best mom you can be. The God who placed those children in your care is also the God who is holding you accountable for how their lives are shaped and molded.

There are basically two ways to look at this:

A. You can view it as a duty, drudgery; something you are stuck with because you had unprotected sex.

1. True; in some cases you may be a mom as a consequence of sin and disobedience.
2. You may be a mom because of a slip-up; what you might call an accident.
3. I got online and looked up some dates the other day; my mom had me when she was 43 years old after giving birth to eleven other children; I am fairly sure I was not planned.

4. Let me point out to you that women don't get pregnant every time they have sex.

5. Sure, the sexual act is what men and women do; but I can clearly prove from the scriptures that conception itself is an act of God.

6. That means that **no child is an accident!**

B. Or - You can and should choose to view your motherhood as a God-given privilege to shape and mold the most precious of all things; a human life.

1. Whatever the circumstances surrounding their birth; you children are not only "not accidents;" each one is a precious gift from God.

2. Not only do you need to instill this truth in them; you need to embrace it for yourself.

3. You can choose either to resent your children; which is a lot more common that you might think – or you can choose to rejoice and be thankful for them as the true and precious gifts they are.

4. You can be sure that whichever choice is in your heart, it will be reflected in your children's lives.

5. I may have not been planned by my mom and dad; but I am no accident!

6. If I remember correctly, neither John the Baptist nor Jesus was planned by their earthly parents either; case in point.

Secondly:

II. Determine to break the cycle of dysfunction and error you were raised up in yourself.

A. Some of you have a lot to overcome:

1. Why do most moms scream and yell at their kids?

2. Simple; because their mom screamed and yelled at them.

3. What's worse; it didn't work when your mom did it and it doesn't work when you do it either.

4. What is that definition of insanity; "Doing the same things over and over expecting different results."

5. Basic dishonesty, little lies, substance abuse (whether drugs or alcohol or food); disrespect, lack of submission to your husband; there is a long list of basic character flaws and just plain sin that have become simply a part of our lives.

6. These things become multiplied in our children; you have heard that “Whatever you do in moderation, your children will do in excess;” well, it is true.

B. There is only one kind of school here in this world where you can learn to overcome these traits; only one will even call it what it is!

1. Your Church is not only here to make sure you are saved; we are here to teach you how to overcome your own history of dysfunction.

2. Some of you came here with a family life more like a war zone than a home.

3. Slowly and surely God is replacing war with peace, and dishonesty with integrity, and lies with truth.

4. We started our Preschool to influence the lives of children; little did I know how that God would be using it to retrain mothers as well.

5. Some of you moms have made enormous progress in just a short time here at Lighthouse.

III. Determine to become the student and servant of God it takes to pass on truth and Godliness to your children.

A. What does it take to be the kind of mom who can and will mold her children’s lives after the Lord?

1. It takes a life that is genuinely dedicated to the Lord.

2. There are three areas of faithfulness that not only teach you how to be a Godly and effective influence; they place your children on the same road.

3 Dedication to the Lord is:

a. Dedication to the Word. Your children need to see you and hear you in the Word and they need to see you practicing what it says.

b. Dedication to the Work. Your children need to see you faithfully involved in the work of the Lord under the leadership of the Holy Spirit; for life!

c. Dedication to your Church which is the Body of Christ. Your children need to see you faithful and loyal to your Church.

Psalm 27:4 One *thing* have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple.

B. A faithful mom; a Godly mom; a scripturally educated mom can pass on truth and

Godliness even to her children's children and to other moms as well.

1. Those of you who are the students of the Word today; provided you are loyal and faithful and willing to give your lives to the building up of God's house; will become the servants of the Word tomorrow.

2. **Titus 2:3-5**

3 The aged women likewise, that *they be* in behavior as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things;

4 That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children,

5 *To be* discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.

3. Some of you younger moms are being transformed by what you are learning from other older women in the Church.

4. Who will be there to teach the new Christians of tomorrow if you are not faithfully dedicated to today?

In Conclusion:

Every member is placed here by the Lord for a purpose; that purpose is not something that can happen in a year or two

or ten; for the truly effective ones it is a life's work.

Eph 2:19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

Eph 2:20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner *stone*;

Eph 2:21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto a holy temple in the Lord:

Eph 2:22 In whom ye also are builded together for a habitation of God through the Spirit.

Will Lighthouse be a University of Motherhood in the years to come or will our moms do their own thing and go their own way and be all about themselves like the rest of the world?

Here is what I think:

Hebrews 6:9-12

9 But, beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak.

10 For God *is* not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love, which ye have showed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

11 And we desire that every one of you do show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end:

12 That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

Happy Mother's Day!

By the way; my mother's name was Ruby Itress Dill; she was born April 23, 1907; she married my dad on July 4, 1924 and died on my birthday, June 7, 1979.

Go enjoy a great day and then go change the world!