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**Several thousand years in our past, God created the heavens and the earth in six days:**

On the 6<sup>th</sup> day of the creation, God created his grandest and highest creation, the man, and the woman. Genesis 1:26-27, Psalm 100:3

Note that at the end of (C1), God saw everything that He had made, and behold it was VERY GOOD. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

In Genesis 2:7, we're back on that 6<sup>th</sup> day of creation; here, we are given the specific details of how the woman was created. Genesis 2:7, 18-25

In Genesis 3:20, after the fall, Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. She, who was first called "Ishah", or a woman, was now called "Chavah" or Eve, meaning life giver, or mother of all living.

Eve was the first woman to bring forth life from her own body; (this was the miraculous work of God within her after she and Adam came together as husband and wife); this new life would be formed within and born from her own body. Psalm 139:13-16, Jeremiah 1:5

**Since the creation, literally millions of girls have grown up to become women, who have also become mothers.**

As men, we cannot and do not know, neither can we understand the attachment and bond that exists between a mother and her children; those little lives which have come forth from her own body.

Because of that profound attachment that exists between mothers and their children, "Momma" YOU ARE VERY influential in the YOUNG lives of YOUR children as they grow, learn, and mature in life.

Momma, you should USE YOUR INFLUENCE and the responsibility that God has entrusted to you as a mother to point your children to Christ all the days of your earthly life. As a mother, a grandmother, and even as a mother-in-law! Oh, and lest I forget this important truth:

God did not declare all His creation to be VERY GOOD until the end of the sixth day of creation, which was AFTER He had created the woman from the man's rib!

**Adam and Eve lived in an unfallen state (without sin) for a very short time as man and woman, husband, and wife.**

By the time the man and woman would procreate children, sin had already entered the world; EVERY HUMAN that would be born from Adam and Eve and EVERYTHING that God created was now affected by the curse of man's sin, to include every woman who would be a mother.

EVERY CHILD would enter this life, a sinner. SIN, to this day is the continuing sorrow and travail of every woman who bares children.

Genesis 3:16, Psalm 51:5, 58:3, Job 5:7, 14:1

Thus, the challenge and task of motherhood is before you mommas. To bare and then "TO MOTHER" and care for YOUR little ones, and to influence them away from sin and the world and toward that which is good and right in the sight of God!

Let me say here that I am not diminishing the role of fathers in the raising of children; but today, this Lord's Day, we are considering "Mother's".

Momma: I have said this already: Understand that YOU hold a POWERFUL INFLUENCE upon the lives of your children, there is a connection between you and your children that men know nothing of....but THIS CONNECTION is diseased by sin.

**Sin has affected motherhood; we see this in examples from the scriptures of bad mothers, who influenced and taught their children (by their bad examples) to sin and commit wickedness!**

**Remember Lot's wife**, who was also a mother to two daughters. Lot's wife was an unbeliever and a lover of Sodom, a city and a society that was full of wickedness and sin. (Sodom = Snapshot). Lot's wife was not a good mother! She loved her sins and the world; we know this from what is written: Genesis 19:14-26. What kind of a mother was she? You would have thought she would have been making sure her daughters were safe!

**Maachah, Asa's mother**: 1 Kings 15:9-14. Here was a good son of a bad father and a bad mother, who both worshipped false gods.

**Jezebel, wife of Ahab**: Here was a wicked King in Israel, who married a wicked woman and terrible mother who influenced both her husband and sons to wickedness and sin. 1 Kings 16:29-31, 22:51-53

**Consider Herodias**: Because she hated John the Baptist, she influenced her daughter to sin by dancing provocatively before Herod and his lustful friends, and then, because of her anger toward John for telling Herod the truth about his sins, instructed her daughter to have John the Baptist beheaded.

These are examples from the Word of sinful and bad mothers who influenced their children to sin and to do wickedness.

Learn, mothers, from these bad examples of motherhood, don't teach your children to sin! Now let us learn from mothers who teach us the best examples of motherhood.

**If you would be a good (godly) mother, and a good influence upon your children, you must first be a woman who reveres and honors God and loves the Lord Jesus Christ.**

**First**, momma, you must be a woman of God, a lover of Christ! YOU MUST LOVE GOD, not based on your husband's relationship with God, (or not), but based SOLELY on you! It's a sad fact that there are godly women who are married to ungodly men. But that must not stop you women and mommas from loving God!

1 Samuel 25:2-3, 23-35. As regrettable as it was that Abigail had married Nabal, she did not allow him to influence her with his godlessness or to rob her of love for God and dissuade her from her virtue and godliness!

**Second**, if you would be a good (Biblical) momma to your children, you MUST first be a woman of prayer and humility and dependence upon God for all your mothering and wisdom and influence with your children! There is no doubt that Hannah was a praying mother and a godly influence on young Samuel. 1 Samuel 1:9-18, 27-28, Proverbs 31:1-2

**Third**, if you would be a good and Biblical momma, you must be a woman who is determined to follow Christ with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength, no matter the circumstances, no matter the cost.

Ruth was a young Moabite woman who married one of Elkanah/Naomi's sons, who died, along with her brother-in-law and father-in-law. She was then left with nothing and no children. She was actually LEFT with that which was best! A godly mother-in-law!

She therefore forsook her family and her native land and home, and her false gods to follow (her mother-in-law) Naomi, and Naomi's God back to Israel and to a people whom she did not know.

What AN INFLUENCE toward God Naomi had with Ruth, who was her mother-in-law. Ruth 1:11-18, 2:10-12, 4:10-22

**In closing: Momma; YOU be one of the strongest influences in the lives of your children toward loving Christ!**

If you would be a good and Biblical mother, one who honors God in all your mothering and care of your children:

**First**: You must be a lover of Christ; Jesus said, if ye love me, keep my commandments! Let your children see an example love to Christ in YOU, momma! If Christ is your first love, your love for your children will be much greater than a momma who does not love Christ.

**Second**: PRAY for your children! The effectual fervent prayer of a "righteous woman" availeth much! You must be a woman of prayer and humility and dependence upon God for your wisdom momma!

**Third**: Let your children see in you an ardent and loving determination to follow Christ with all of heart, soul, mind, and strength, no matter the circumstances, no matter the challenges/difficulties; but let that determination be coupled with Christ-like determination and affection for your children, to this end, that they might know the God of their mother!

**And finally**, take Naomi as an example of a godly "mother-in-law", mommas, you don't have to be one's biological mother, to be a mother to a child who does not have a godly mother.

Proverbs 31:10-12, 25-31, 2 Timothy 1:5, 3:15