

GOOD MOTHERS and BAD MOTHERS

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Mother's Day

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This is Mother's Day, 2011 and for those of you, whose mother is living remember her today and tell her you love her; and if she is sitting next to you, do it now.

No one except Jesus Christ will ever love you as much as a godly mother.

God's particular love for His people is *agape* love; unconditional love; love that does not originate from an expectation of receiving anything in return. That is the same kind of love that a good mother has for her children.

It is the nature of a good mother's love to be unconditional. How often do we see a mother on TV whose grown child has been accused of committing a most heinous crime and she will not admit that it is possible for her child to have done such an evil thing. And even when the child is proven to be guilty she still loves the child. That is unconditional love.

There is a family that I know that the son killed his father.
Yet his mother, the wife, visits her son in prison on a regular basis.

This morning I want to honor good mothers on this special day.

Mother's Day was not invented by, but was co-opted and is promoted by the sellers of greeting cards, boxes of candy, and florists.

Giving such tokens of love to your mother is most appropriate; and be sure to honor her with your life.

When did Mother's Day originate?

“Anna Jarvis of Philadelphia, whose mother had organized women's groups to promote friendship and health, originated Mother's Day; on May 12, 1907, she held a memorial service at her late mother's church in Grafton, West Virginia. Within five years virtually every state was observing the day, and in 1914 President Woodrow Wilson made it a national holiday. Although Jarvis had promoted the wearing of a white carnation as a tribute to one's mother, the custom developed of wearing a red or pink carnation to represent a living mother or a white carnation for a mother who was deceased. Over time the day was expanded to include others, such as grandmothers and aunts, who played mothering roles. What had originally been primarily a day of honour became associated with the sending of cards and the giving of gifts, however, and, in protest against its commercialization, Jarvis spent the last years of her life trying to abolish the holiday she had brought into being.”

Encyclopedia Britannica

That is the origin of Mother's Day in America.

A good mother is an amazing creature and a mere male person cannot ever really understand how a mother thinks.

Motherhood and marriage and bearing children and raising children and teaching them right and wrong and being a wife and chauffeur and a nurse and a cook and a janitor and the hundreds of other things that mothers do is too often unappreciated.

With that as an introduction I want to look at several examples in the Bible of some “Good Mothers and Bad Mothers.”

The last time I spoke on Mother's Day I devoted the entire message to Eve. In this message I will only use her as an example of a good mother.

The opening chapters of Genesis tell us where man came from. Creation by God makes infinitely more sense than some accident that “just happened” billions of years ago.

God created the heavens and the earth and the plant and animal life and He created a significant man. By significant I mean a mature and intelligent human being that was not the result of “evolution.”

God caused all of the animals to come before Adam and he named them. But among all of the animals there was not found a companion suitable for man.

And so God put Adam into a deep sleep and took one of his ribs and God fashioned a perfect helper for man.

Man is incomplete without a companion suited for him.

“Nevertheless, neither is man independent of woman, nor woman independent of man, in the Lord. For as the woman was from the man, even so the man is through the woman; but all things are from God.”

1 Corinthians 11:11-12

Adam not only named all of the animals as God caused them to come before him but Adam also named his wife.

And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.

Genesis 3:20

Eve, the mother of all living:

Eve was created from the man's rib. This shows us that no other living creature can properly serve as a man's companion.

Adam was delighted when he first saw Eve.

Imagine what Adam thought when he awoke from the deep sleep that God had put him in and saw this beautiful creature before him.

Adam recognized that Eve corresponded to him and exclaimed, “This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh. She shall be called Woman because she was taken out of man.”

Actually Eve was given two names; woman and Eve.

The **first** name that Adam gave her was “Woman.”

Hebrew: *ishshah* [literally, “man – ess”]

Dr. John Whitcomb, a Hebrew scholar, co-author of “The Genesis Flood” said, “Woman meant man with a womb.”

Woman then is her generic description that refers to her relationship to the man.

The **second** name is Eve, Hebrew: *chawwah* [literally, “life”]

Eve is the “the mother of all living,” the mother of the human race, or the “Mother of all Mothers.”

Her function is to produce “life.”

Eve was a good mother.

It is true that Eve was deceived by Satan and that she ate of the forbidden fruit and then she gave it to her husband who was with her and he did eat.

Following Eve’s deception by the serpent, which resulted in the one sin of the man Adam, and the consequential fall of mankind into the helpless condition of sin?

The LORD spoke to the serpent and He prophesied about the story of redemption.

Genesis 3:15:

**And I will put enmity
Between you and the woman,
And between your seed and her Seed;
He shall bruise your head,
And you shall bruise His heel.”**

The rest of the Bible is the record of this prophecy being fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ and His Substitutionary death of the cross of Calvary. The “head” of the serpent was crushed and the “heel,” the humanity of Christ, was “bruised.”

It was that bruising of the heel of the Seed of the woman, His death, which provided the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. No cross, no redemption!

Childbirth is painful, so I am told, and we are informed as to why that is so.

“Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.” Genesis 3:16

The evidence that Eve believed God’s promise to produce a “seed” from her body who would bruise [destroy] the head of the serpent is found in Genesis 4:1.

Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, "I have acquired a man from the LORD."

Eve acknowledged that the Lord gave her this baby. She was taken out of man and now a man is taken out of a woman. And so it will be until the Lord returns and there is no more need for children to be born.

Genesis is the Book of Firsts

This amazing **first** woman, Eve, gave birth to the world’s **first** baby and she had no mother or sister or aunt to tell her what to expect or what to do! No doubt the LORD Himself must have informed Eve when she was “walking in the garden in the cool of the day.” But the Bible is silent about that and we can only guess at what she knew. The point is that she believed the LORD God and named her first-born after God’s promise.

Eve named her first-born son “Cain” which means “acquired.”

Speaking of “firsts” did Cain have the first belly button? Adam and Eve would not have had one as a process of birth but the Lord may have given them one anyway. That question is not very high on my list of things to which I must know the answer.

Deuteronomy 29:29

The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.

Back to some more “firsts.”

Not only did Eve experience the first birth she had to endure the grief of knowing that her first son, Cain, was the **first** murderer.

She would be comforted in the fact that her second son, Abel, was the **first** saint to go to heaven.

And Eve is the **first** person to speak the name of our covenant God.
"I have acquired a man from the LORD."

OT:3068

[OT:3068](#) יהוה **Yehovah** (yeh-ho-vaw'); from [OT:1961](#); (the) self-Existent or Eternal; Jehovah, Jewish national name of God:

KJV - Jehovah, the Lord. Compare [OT:3050](#), [OT:3069](#).

(Biblesoft's New Exhaustive Strong's Numbers and Concordance with Expanded Greek-Hebrew Dictionary. Copyright © 1994, 2003, 2006 Biblesoft, Inc. and International Bible Translators, Inc.)

So in my understanding Eve was a good mother.
But who are you going to compare her with?

Mrs. Noah

There must have been millions of mothers from the time of Eve until Mrs. Noah.

There is almost nothing in the Bible about Mrs. Noah but you can draw some obvious conclusions about her motherhood.

She had three boys, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, and apparently they were raised to be obedient sons. She had to have been instrumental in their early training.

When the flood came, M r. & Mrs. Noah and their three sons and their wives, all entered the ark.

Mrs. Noah was a good mother.

Sarah

Abraham's wife, Sarah, was sometimes good and sometimes not so good.

We must be very careful about making such assessments of good and bad.

Sarah favored her son Isaac and Abraham favored Ishmael, his son by Hagar.

When Sarah saw Ishmael taunting the younger boy, Isaac, she cast out Hagar.

Now the reason we must be careful here is because the Apostle Paul says this action was a prophetic act. This was an allegory of the rejection of ethnic Israel because of their rejection of Jesus of Nazareth as Messiah.

Galatians 4:21-31

²¹ Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not hear the law? ²² For it is written that Abraham had two sons: the one by a bondwoman, the other by a freewoman. ²³ But he *who was* of the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and he of the freewoman through promise, ²⁴ which things are symbolic. For these are the two covenants: the one from Mount Sinai which gives birth to bondage, which is Hagar — ²⁵ for this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and corresponds to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children — ²⁶ but the Jerusalem above is free, which is the mother of us all. ²⁷ For it is written:

*"Rejoice, O barren,
You who do not bear!
Break forth and shout,
You who are not in labor!
For the desolate has many more children
Than she who has a husband."*

²⁸ Now we, brethren, as Isaac *was*, are children of promise. ²⁹ But, as he who was born according to the flesh then persecuted him *who was born* according to the Spirit, even so *it is* now. ³⁰ Nevertheless what does the Scripture say? *"Cast out the bondwoman and her son, for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman."* ³¹ So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman but of the free.

Overall, Sarah was a good mother.

Rebekah

Isaac's wife, Rebekah, had twin boys.
Rebekah favored Jacob and Isaac favored Esau.

Jacob was a "momma's boy" and Esau was "man's man."

Rebekah was the schemer behind the deception of Isaac. After Esau had sold his birthright to Jacob for a bowl of beans, she wanted Jacob to receive the blessing and she was able to make it happen.

Genesis 27:1-17

Now it came to pass, when Isaac was old and his eyes were so dim that he could not see, that he called Esau his older son and said to him, "My son."

And he answered him, "Here I am."

² Then he said, "Behold now, I am old. I do not know the day of my death. ³ Now therefore, please take your weapons, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field and hunt game for me. ⁴ And make me savory food, such as I love, and bring *it* to me that I may eat, that my soul may bless you before I die."

⁵ Now Rebekah was listening when Isaac spoke to Esau his son. And Esau went to the field to hunt game and to bring *it*. ⁶ So Rebekah spoke to Jacob her son, saying, "Indeed I heard your father speak to Esau your brother, saying, ⁷ 'Bring me game and make savory food for me, that I may eat it and bless you in the presence of the LORD before my death.' ⁸ Now therefore, my son, obey my voice according to what I command you. ⁹ Go now to the flock and bring me from there two choice kids of the goats, and I will make savory food from them for your father, such as he loves. ¹⁰ Then you shall take *it* to your father, that he may eat *it*, and that he may bless you before his death."

¹¹ And Jacob said to Rebekah his mother, "Look, Esau my brother *is* a hairy man, and I *am* a smooth-skinned man. ¹² Perhaps my father will feel me, and I shall seem to be a deceiver to him; and I shall bring a curse on myself and not a blessing."

¹³ But his mother said to him, "*Let* your curse *be* on me, my son; only obey my voice, and go, get *them* for me." ¹⁴ And he went and got *them* and brought *them* to his mother, and his mother made savory food, such as his father loved. ¹⁵ Then Rebekah took the choice clothes of her elder son Esau, which *were* with her in the house, and put them on Jacob her younger son. ¹⁶ And she put the skins of the kids of the goats on his hands and on the smooth part of his neck. ¹⁷ Then she gave the savory food and the bread, which she had prepared, into the hand of her son Jacob.

That's enough of the story to give you a picture of Rebekah.

This is just one example of how God uses the wickedness of men [and women] to bring about His purpose.

Romans 9:6-13

⁶ But it is not that the word of God has taken no effect. For they *are* not all Israel who *are* of Israel, ⁷ nor *are they* all children because they are the seed of Abraham; but, "*In Isaac your seed shall be called.*" ⁸ That is, those who *are* the children of the flesh, these *are* not the children of God; but the children of the promise are counted as the seed. ⁹ For *this is* the word of promise: "*At this time I will come and Sarah shall have a son.*"

¹⁰ And not only *this*, but when Rebecca also had conceived by one man, *even* by our father Isaac ¹¹ (for *the children* not yet being born, nor having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works but of Him who calls), ¹² it was said to her, "*The older shall serve the younger.*" ¹³ As it is written, "*Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated.*"

It would be a huge mistake to do something that you know is evil and think it is okay because God can bring a good outcome from it.

What happened is that God took the bad act of Rebekah and used it that His purpose according to election might stand.

A good outcome does not make a bad act a good thing.

Bible quiz: Who can tell me the names of Moses' mother and father?

Jochebed and Amram

Exodus 6:20

Now Amram took for himself Jochebed, his father's sister, as wife; and she bore him Aaron and Moses.

And we also know that there was Miriam, the sister of Moses and Aaron.

Jochebed was a good mother. Not many mothers have the opportunity to lose a child and then have him returned to her care.

Exodus 1:15-22

¹⁵ Then the king of Egypt spoke to the Hebrew midwives, of whom the name of one was Shiphrah and the name of the other Puah; ¹⁶ and he said, "When you do the duties of a midwife for the Hebrew women, and see *them* on the birthstools, if it *is* a son, then you shall kill him; but if it *is* a daughter, then she shall live." ¹⁷ But the midwives feared God, and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the male children alive. ¹⁸ So the king of Egypt called for the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this thing, and saved the male children alive?"

¹⁹ And the midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women *are* not like the Egyptian women; for they *are* lively and give birth before the midwives come to them."

²⁰ Therefore God dealt well with the midwives, and the people multiplied and grew very mighty. ²¹ And so it was, because the midwives feared God, that He provided households for them.

²² So Pharaoh commanded all his people, saying, "Every son who is born you shall cast into the river, and every daughter you shall save alive."

Exodus 2:1-10

And a man of the house of Levi went and took *as wife* a daughter of Levi. ² So the woman conceived and bore a son. And when she saw that he *was* a beautiful *child*, she hid him three months. ³ But when she could no longer hide him, she took an ark of bulrushes for him, daubed it with asphalt and pitch, put the child in it, and laid *it* in the reeds by the river's bank. ⁴ And his sister stood afar off, to know what would be done to him.

⁵ Then the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river. And her maidens walked along the riverside; and when she saw the ark among the reeds, she sent her maid to get it. ⁶ And when she opened *it*, she saw the child, and behold, the baby wept. So she had compassion on him, and said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children."

⁷ Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and call a nurse for you from the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for you?"

⁸ And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Go." So the maiden went and called the child's mother. ⁹ Then Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child away and nurse him for me, and I will give *you* your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed him. ¹⁰ And the child grew, and she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. So she called his name Moses, saying, "Because I drew him out of the water."

Jochebed was a good mother.

Zipporah

Ex 4:21-26

²¹ And the LORD said to Moses, "When you go back to Egypt, see that you do all those wonders before Pharaoh which I have put in your hand. But I will harden his heart, so that he will not let the people go. ²² Then you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says the LORD: "Israel is My son, My firstborn. ²³ So I say to you, let My son go that he may serve Me. But if you refuse to let him go, indeed I will kill your son, your firstborn.'"

²⁴ And it came to pass on the way, at the encampment, that the LORD met him and sought to kill him. ²⁵ Then Zipporah took a sharp stone and cut off the foreskin of her son and cast *it* at Moses' feet, and said, "Surely you *are* a husband of blood to me!" ²⁶ So He let him go. Then she said, "*You are* a husband of blood!" – because of the circumcision.

It would seem that Zipporah was a good mother and a rebellious wife.

Samson's mother

In Judges 13 there is the story of a good mother. We are not told her name but we are told of her dedication to the LORD. Samson was dedicated as a Nazarite and was one of the Judges.

Ruth was a good mother and was the Great-Grandmother of David.

Hannah

One of the best mother's, in my opinion, was Hannah who was the mother of Samuel. In First Samuel, chapter One, she is childless, and she prays for a son and vows to give her son to the service of the LORD if she is blessed to have a son.

Eli the priest watched her praying; her lips moved, but there was no voice, and he accused her of being drunk.

1 Samuel 1:1-28

Now there was a certain man of Ramathaim Zophim, of the mountains of Ephraim, and his name was Elkanah the son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite. ² And he had two wives: the name of one was Hannah, and the name of the other Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children. ³ This man went up from his city yearly to worship and sacrifice to the LORD of hosts in Shiloh. Also the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, the priests of the LORD, were there. ⁴ And whenever the time came for Elkanah to make an offering, he would give portions to Peninnah his wife and to all her sons and daughters. ⁵ But to Hannah he would give a double portion, for he loved Hannah, although the LORD had closed her womb. ⁶ And her rival also provoked her severely, to make her miserable, because the LORD had closed her womb. ⁷ So it was, year by year, when she went up to the house of the LORD, that she provoked her; therefore she wept and did not eat.

⁸ Then Elkanah her husband said to her, "Hannah, why do you weep? Why do you not eat? And why is your heart grieved? *Am* I not better to you than ten sons?"

⁹ So Hannah arose after they had finished eating and drinking in Shiloh. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat by the doorpost of the tabernacle of the LORD. ¹⁰ And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed to the LORD and wept in anguish. ¹¹ Then she made a vow and said, "O LORD of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will give Your maidservant a male child, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and no razor shall come upon his head."

¹² And it happened, as she continued praying before the LORD, that Eli watched her mouth. ¹³ Now Hannah spoke in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard. Therefore Eli thought she was drunk. ¹⁴ So Eli said to her, "How long will you be drunk? Put your wine away from you!"

¹⁵ But Hannah answered and said, "No, my lord, I *am* a woman of sorrowful spirit. I have drunk neither wine nor intoxicating drink, but have poured out my soul before the LORD. ¹⁶ Do not consider your maidservant a wicked woman, for out of the abundance of my complaint and grief I have spoken until now."

¹⁷ Then Eli answered and said, "Go in peace, and the God of Israel grant your petition which you have asked of Him."

¹⁸ And she said, "Let your maidservant find favor in your sight." So the woman went her way and ate, and her face was no longer *sad*.

¹⁹ Then they rose early in the morning and worshiped before the LORD, and returned and came to their house at Ramah. And Elkanah knew Hannah his wife, and the LORD remembered her. ²⁰ So it came to pass in the process of time that Hannah conceived and bore a son, and called his name Samuel, *saying*, "Because I have asked for him from the LORD."

²¹ Now the man Elkanah and all his house went up to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice and his vow. ²² But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, "Not until the child is weaned; then I will take him, that he may appear before the LORD and remain there forever."

²³ So Elkanah her husband said to her, "Do what seems best to you; wait until you have weaned him. Only let the LORD establish His word." Then the woman stayed and nursed her son until she had weaned him.

²⁴ Now when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, with three bulls, one ephah of flour, and a skin of wine, and brought him to the house of the LORD in Shiloh. And the child was young. ²⁵ Then they slaughtered a bull, and brought the child to Eli. ²⁶ And she said, "O my lord! As your soul lives, my lord, I *am* the woman who stood by you here, praying to the LORD. ²⁷ For this child I prayed, and the LORD has granted me my petition which I asked of Him. ²⁸ Therefore I also have lent him to the LORD; as long as he lives he shall be lent to the LORD." So they worshiped the LORD there.

In the great example of the wisdom of Solomon we have the story of a good mother and a bad mother in one event.

1 Kings 3:16-28

¹⁶ Now two women *who were* harlots came to the king, and stood before him. ¹⁷ And one woman said, "O my lord, this woman and I dwell in the same house; and I gave birth while she was in the house. ¹⁸ Then it happened, the third day after I had given birth, that this woman also gave birth. And we *were* together; no one was with us in the house, except the two of us in the house. ¹⁹ And this woman's son died in the night, because she lay on him. ²⁰ So she arose in the middle of the night and took my son from my side, while your maidservant slept, and laid him in her bosom, and laid her dead child in my bosom. ²¹ And when I rose in the morning to nurse my son, there he was, dead. But when I had examined him in the morning, indeed, he was not my son whom I had borne."

²² Then the other woman said, "No! But the living one *is* my son, and the dead one *is* your son."

And the first woman said, "No! But the dead one *is* your son, and the living one *is* my son."

Thus they spoke before the king.

²³ And the king said, "The one says, 'This *is* my son, who lives, and your son *is* the dead one'; and the other says, 'No! But your son *is* the dead one, and my son *is* the living one.'" ²⁴ Then the king said, "Bring me a sword." So they brought a sword before the king. ²⁵ And the king said, "Divide the living child in two, and give half to one, and half to the other."

²⁶ Then the woman whose son was living spoke to the king, for she yearned with compassion for her son; and she said, "O my lord, give her the living child, and by no means kill him!"

But the other said, "Let him be neither mine nor yours, *but divide him.*"

²⁷ So the king answered and said, "Give the first woman the living child, and by no means kill him; she *is* his mother."

²⁸ And all Israel heard of the judgment which the king had rendered; and they feared the king, for they saw that the wisdom of God was in him to administer justice.

Can we make any application of this story to women today who will kill their babies in abortion chambers rather than allow the baby to live with someone else?

The good mother thought only of the child.

Mary the mother of Jesus

We could spend much time talking about Mary as a good mother. Mary heard Simeon prophesy in the temple and she kept these things in her heart. She attended a wedding in Cana of Galilee and told the attendants to do what Jesus said in the matter of the shortage of wine. Mary was a good mother.

Herodias

One of worst mothers in the Bible was Herodias.
What a bad example for her daughter.

Mark 6:21-29

²¹ Then an opportune day came when Herod on his birthday gave a feast for his nobles, the high officers, and the chief *men* of Galilee. ²² And when Herodias' daughter herself came in and danced, and pleased Herod and those who sat with him, the king said to the girl, "Ask me whatever you want, and I will give *it* to you." ²³ He also swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, up to half my kingdom."

²⁴ So she went out and said to her mother, "What shall I ask?"

And she said, "The head of John the Baptist!"

²⁵ Immediately she came in with haste to the king and asked, saying, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter."

²⁶ And the king was exceedingly sorry; *yet*, because of the oaths and because of those who sat with him, he did not want to refuse her. ²⁷ Immediately the king sent an executioner and commanded his head to be brought. And he went and beheaded him in prison, ²⁸ brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl; and the girl gave it to her mother. ²⁹ When his disciples heard *of it*, they came and took away his corpse and laid it in a tomb.

Some mothers are too ambitious for their children.

Matt 20:20-28

²⁰ Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Him with her sons, kneeling down and asking something from Him.

²¹ And He said to her, "What do you wish?"

She said to Him, "Grant that these two sons of mine may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on the left, in Your kingdom."

²² But Jesus answered and said, "You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?"*

They said to Him, "We are able."

²³ So He said to them, "You will indeed drink My cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with;* but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but *it is for those* for whom it is prepared by My Father."

²⁴ And when the ten heard *it*, they were greatly displeased with the two brothers. ²⁵ But Jesus called them to *Himself* and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. ²⁶ Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. ²⁷ And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave — ²⁸ just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

Let's close with an example of a good mother.

Timothy's mother and grandmother

2 Tim 1:3-7

³I thank God, whom I serve with a pure conscience, as *my* forefathers *did*, as without ceasing I remember you in my prayers night and day, ⁴greatly desiring to see you, being mindful of your tears, that I may be filled with joy, ⁵when I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also. ⁶Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. ⁷For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

All the mothers that I see in this place are good mothers.
You teach your children about Jesus and about life.

This was not a well-organized sermon with three points, a strong introduction, an organized story-line, and several poignant applications.

But if we can learn anything from these mothers in the Bible; follow the good examples and shun the behavior of the bad examples, perhaps it will have been worth a few minutes of consideration.

Amen.