

1 Kings 3:16-27; 1 Timothy 5:3-8; Matthew 15:1-9 NIV

Love between Mothers *and* Children: *It Is a Two-Way Street!*

Sunday, May 11 at 8:00 & 10:45 + Monday, May 12 at 7 PM

Fourth Sunday of Easter; Mother's Day – 2014

[Our Summer Schedule, June – August, begins on June 1](#)

[Sundays: Service 9; Refreshments 10:10; Classes 10:30](#)

[Mondays: Service 7 PM](#)

Introduction: Dear friends: Who make the best mothers and children? Those who *know Jesus and are growing up in Him!*

Think about a Christian mother:

- She knows God is her creator!
- She trusts in Jesus as her Savior!
- She loves and learns God's Holy Word!
- She sees her child as a precious gift from God!
- She loves her child by ♦protecting him, ♦feeding him, and ♦teaching him—*especially about Jesus!*



Then the children of Christian mothers; they:

- Know God as creator and Jesus as Savior!
- Continue to learn and live God's Holy Word!
- Give thanks for and gladly help their mothers!

So knowing Jesus results in a wonderful two-way street! Today, *as we see a mother's love for her child*, let us also respond to God's call to us – *as children and grandchildren* – to help their mothers in their time of need!

1. **How Far Will a Mother Go for Her Child?** A summary of today's OT reading from **1 Kings 3:16-27**:

- Two women living in the same house gave birth to babies three days apart. Sadly, *during the night*, one mother accidentally lay on her child and he died. Then, *having discovered what she had done*, she secretly switched her dead child with the other woman's living child. When the woman awoke, she was very sad to see that her child had died; then, *upon looking at him in the morning light*, she could see he was *not* her child.
- Their dispute was taken before King Solomon. Since each woman held fast to her story, the king said: ²⁵ *"Cut the living child in two and give half to one and half to the other."* ²⁶ The woman whose son was alive was filled with compassion for her son and said to the king, **'Please, my lord, give her the living baby! Don't kill him!'** But the other said, 'Neither I nor you shall have him. Cut him in two!' ²⁷ Then the king gave his ruling: 'Give the living baby to the first woman. Do not kill him; she is his mother.'"
 - Using his God-given wisdom **and** calling for radical action, Solomon discovered who the real mother was – *the one who was willing to do anything*, even give her child to her adversary, *so that he could live!*
 - The love of a *Christian mother* is *sacrificial love*, so she says "no" to her own desires *in order to provide what is best for her child!* Let us praise the LORD for mothers who know and love Jesus; *then*, in turn,

sacrificially love their children – not giving them what they want, but what is best!

2. **How Far Should a Child Go for His Mother?** A summary of today's epistle reading from **1 Timothy 5:3-8**:
 - a. Long ago most widows had no way of supporting themselves, so there were *two options* for *faithful Christian widows*:
 - i. For those who had relatives, those relatives were supposed to provide for the needs of their widowed relative.
 - ii. For those who had NO relatives, the church, *thus the community of believers*, was supposed to provide for their needs.
 - b. But since the fall into sin *people have been sinners*, so all of us, according to our sinful nature, *desire to do for ourselves more than for others*.
 - i. So Paul wrote these words to Timothy to instruct him about ♦the proper care of widows and ♦the responsibility of children and grandchildren: ⁴ *"...if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God."*
 - ii. So what are we doing as children and grandchildren; have we thought about our own existence? Without our grandparents, *we would have no parents*; and without our parents, *we would not exist!* So, *when they are in need*, we should care for them – even

sacrificially, even saying “no” to our wants in order to say “yes” to their needs! For those who ignore such needs, Paul wrote: ⁸ *"If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever."* Caution: We do not act to be saved, *but because we are saved!*

3. **Are Our Excuses Legitimate or Lame?** A summary of today's gospel reading from **Matthew 15:1-9**:
 - a. When some Jewish leaders criticized Jesus' disciples for breaking a man-made tradition – *not washing their hands before eating*, Jesus criticized them for breaking God's command – *"for teaching that one could avoid financial support of parents by vowing this money to God as a gift."* (TLSB, 1613) Jesus said to them: ⁶ *"...Thus you nullify the word of God for the sake of your tradition."* So let us examine our excuses; *are they legitimate or lame?*
 - b. The *key ingredient* in giving *proper help* is our *saving relationship with Jesus!* Since He took *extraordinary action* to save us, those who trust in Jesus will take *extraordinary action* to help others!

Conclusion: So the Bible does teach a two-way street between mothers and children! It is good and pleasing to God when mothers and children → know God as Father, → trust in Jesus as Savior, and → take action to help each other in time of need! **Amen!**

