

**MOTHER'S DAY 2018**  
**May 13, 2018**  
**A Mother's Influence**  
**BCC in Midway**

Mother” Every time you’re naughty I get another grey hair.

Son: Wow, Mom, you must have been a terror when you were young...just look at Grandma.

Many years ago when Pierre and Ria still lived in South Africa, Ria decided to send her mother an unusual and expensive gift for Mother’s Day. The owner of a pet store told her of a mynah bird worth well over 20,000 dollars. “What makes this bird so valuable?” asked Ria. “This mynah bird is the only one in the world that can recite the Lord’s prayer, the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm, and I Cor. 13.”

I’ll take it said Ria. I don’t care how much it costs. Mother is worth it and will get so much comfort hearing it recite Scripture. So she wrote a check and had the sent off to her mother. The Monday after Mother’ Day she called her. “Did you get my present?” “I certainly did, and thank you.” And how did you like the bird?” “Oh, Ria, it was delicious.”

What is the first thing that comes to your mind when you hear the word, “Mother?”

I used to take for granted that everyone had a good mother. Probably because I was so very blessed with the mother that I had. However I do realize now that not everyone was blessed with a good mother.

Judy and I just finished reading through the book of 2 Chronicles together this week. We noticed that when a new king was introduced sometimes his mother’s name was mentioned with his.

Mothers have a big influence on their children.

I believe that mothers had an influence on the kings of Israel and Judah.

2 Chronicles 22:2-3:

Ahaziah was 22 years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem one year. His mother’s name was Athaliah, a granddaughter of Omri.

He too walked in the ways of the house of Ahab, for his **mother encouraged him in doing wrong.**

“for his mother was his counsellor to do wickedly” (NASB).

Moms often are great counsellors because they are good listeners and they give good advice. My mother would never have been comfortable with the term counsellor. My mother was easy to talk with. If I had a concern or problem growing up she always had a listening ear.

My mother’s counsel was always given with my best in mind. It was given with a desire that I might walk in God’s ways. She always counselled me to do and live right.

I thank God for my heritage.

The writer of this book deliberately takes the time to mention not only the mother of Ahaziah, but also what she encouraged him to do.

He mentions here how her influence affected the direction of the king's life.

Note the way the text reads: "He too walked in the ways of the house of Ahab, FOR his mother encouraged him in doing wrong."

Note what the writer of 1 Kings adds: **1 Kings 22:52: *He (King Ahaziah) did evil in the eyes of the LORD, because he walked in the ways of his father and mother...***

**Mothers – you are influencers for good or for evil.**

Maybe you are here this morning and you did not have a good mother.

Have you been blaming your mother for your present circumstances?

You don't need to anymore.

"It is a terrible thing to follow a bad example and listen to foolish advice. Ahaziah had a poisoned heritage and surroundings. His grandparents were Ahab and Jezebel. His mother was godless Athaliah, who served as his chief advisor. Regardless of what our spiritual heritage has been, however, we must accept responsibility for our own lives and our relationship with God" (NLT notes on 2 Chron. 22).

Regardless of what our spiritual heritage has been, we must accept responsibility for our own lives and our relationship with God.

### **A.A Mother's Influence**

**Can you think of the name of some mothers in Scripture who had a good influence on their children?**

Jochabed – Moses' mother

Hannah – Samuel's mother

Elizabeth – John the Baptizer's mother

Mary – Jesus' mother

Eunice – Timothy's mother:

#### **1. Timothy's mother, Eunice – Sincere Faith:**

I am reminded of your **sincere faith**, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well (2 Timothy 1:5).

Paul knew about Timothy's heritage and he focuses on sincere faith. Obviously his grandmother and mother were a good influence on his life.

Each of these women was a woman of faith.

#### **2. Moses' mother, Jochabed – Fearless Faith:**

Moses' mother, Jochabed knew the edict of the Pharaoh – every Hebrew male child was to be killed.

They kept Moses hidden for 3 months and then realized they could not do it anymore.

They came up with a plan. They had a **fearless faith** that God would look after their son. They built a little boat for him and then trusted God with the results.

**Hebrews 11:23: By FAITH Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw that the child was beautiful, and they were not afraid of the king's edict.**

#### **3. Samuel's Mother, Hannah – Persevering Faith**

Hannah desperately prayed for a child.

Why did she pray? Because she believed that God could answer her prayers.

She was a woman of faith – **persevering faith**.

At one point she made this vow to God: O LORD of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your servant and remember me and not forget Your servant, but will give to Your servant a son, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and no razor shall touch his head (1 Samuel 1: 11).

God granted her a son and Hannah kept her promise to God.

After the child is weaned she brings him to Eli the high priest. She tells him:

For this child I prayed, and the LORD has granted me my petition that I made to Him. Therefore I have lent him to the LORD; as long as he lives, he is lent to the LORD.

Mother, you have influence.

There are 7 references in the book of 2 Chronicles to the mother of a king.

13:2 (right); 22:3 (evil); 24:1 (right); 25:1 (right); 26:3 (right); 27:1-2 (right); 29:1-2 (right).

Note that in every case (except one) where the mother is mentioned, the kings walked in the ways of God.

Is this coincidental?

### **B.To be a mother of influence you need to:**

#### **1. Place your faith in the only true and living God.**

You need to believe that He loves you and has good plans for you and for your family.

You need to give yourself to Him. You need to turn the reins of your life over to Him.

You need to die to self and live for Christ.

“That mother is great and she alone who owns a greatness not her own.”

#### **2. Nurture your faith through Bible reading**

By spending time reading and obeying the Truth – the Scriptures.

Romans 10:17: Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God.

Faith comes through hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ (ESV).

Mother you cannot be a good influence if you yourself are not influenced by the Word of God.

You will be a good influencer if you are a woman of faith – faith in the only true and living God. Then you will be an encourager for your children to live right.

#### **3. Grow your faith through prayer.**

READ YOUR BIBLE PRAY EVERY DAY AND YOUR CHILDREN WILL GROW, GROW, GROW.

“Faith mighty faith the promise sees and looks to God alone. Laughs at impossibilities and cries it shall be done.”

**My Story:** I am walking with God today because of my mother’s influence.

She trusted in God all of her life even though she lived through very difficult circumstances.

She went through WW2.

She met my father after the Second World War, in a refugee camp.

They were married in that camp.

They set off alone – with no other family to the land of Paraguay to begin a new life.

She lost her first child.

She suffered deep depression and the people in the close knit town in the middle of the bush wondered if maybe she was demon possessed because Christians don't get depressed.

They barely survived. The land and the climate were harsh.

If it were not for 5 dollars sent from her own mother in Canada it looked quite hopeless.

But they both had a faith in God.

She got tuberculosis when I was 9 months old and was isolated in hospital for 3 months.

I could go on and on and tell you the many difficulties she had, BUT she had a great influence on me because:

1. **She had placed her faith in Jesus Christ**
2. **She read her Bible daily**
3. **She prayed much**

My mother had a sincere faith – a faith that was often tested.

The greatest undeveloped resource is faith.

The greatest unused power is prayer.

“To be a mother is the greatest vocation in the world. No being has a position of such power and influence. She holds in her hands the destiny of nations; for to her is necessarily committed the making of the nation's citizens”

Hannah Whitall Smith.

“The spiritual state of the women is a sensitive barometer of the moral state of any nation” – Unger's Bible Handbook, 325

Mothers, grandmothers, you wield great influence and we are very thankful for you.

**Prayer of Blessing: Ron MacDonald**

**HYMN: In Christ Alone**

Prayer: