

Happy Mother's Day

Mom and Mrs. Zebedee

5/9/2010

Matthew 20:20-23

A wise mother will ...

1. Bring her children to Jesus.

“Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and...” V 20

A. Teach the kids to humble themselves before God

“Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and kneeling down...”

B. Teach the kids to believe in prayer.

“Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and kneeling down, asked a favor of him.”

2. Pray that her kids will be a part of the Kingdom of God.

“What is it you want?” he asked. She said, "Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom." V 21

Her request appears to be rather selfish but I do like the starting point of their discussion and that is: “My two boys will be in Heaven.” Can you say that about your kids? I know they are gonna be in heaven.

Most parents seem very committed to being our kids:

Teachers, disciplinarians, maids, cooks, nurses & doctors & psychologists & counselors & chauffeurs & coaches, developers of personalities, molders of vocabularies, & shapers of attitudes.

All of these are very important and there will be a reward for all of these but is it possible that we have neglected the most important responsibility, that is, to bring them into the Kingdom?

3. Pray that her kids would be involved in the work of His Kingdom

“What is it you want?” he asked. She said, "Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom." V 21

What kind of authority do you want your kids to have in Heaven? We want them to be doctors, lawyers, teachers, bankers and entrepreneurs but when it comes to heaven our desire for the success of our children is almost non-existent.

If the baby is sick, mama will do anything and everything to help that baby get well. Are we doing what we can to help our children stay spiritually healthy by encouraging them to be involved in serving the Lord?

Let's brainstorm together. What kind of things can we be doing to help our children to be involved in the Kingdoms work?

4. Have big expectations.

“What is it you want?” he asked. She said, "Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom." V 21

A word of caution:

Expectations can be dangerous. If I am saying to a child that I expect something GREAT from you, and the child believes that

your love is contingent upon their performance, then that is a disaster and totally inappropriate.

What we need to be communicating is, I expect GREAT things from you but at the end of the day your performance has absolutely nothing to do with my love for you. I am not gonna love you more if you get an A in math class then I am if you get a C.

The message a Mom can communicate to her child is that I expect you to do YOUR BEST. Often times, a Mom knows when a child is being lazy, or is sick, or in need of an attitude adjustment that is affecting their performance.

Healthy expectations (those where your love is not connected to their performance) produce awesome results and often times you will get exactly what you expected!

Jesus never granted nor did He deny Mrs. Zebedees requested.

"You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said to them. "Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?" "We can," they answered.
V 22

ILL. The story is told - out of WW 2 & the holocaust that took the lives of millions of people - of Solomon Rosenberg & his family. It is a true story.

Solomon Rosenberg & his wife & their 2 sons & his mother & father were arrested & placed in a Nazi concentration camp. It was a labor camp, & the rules were simple. "As long as you can do your work, you are permitted to live. When you become too weak to do your work, then you are exterminated."

Rosenberg watched his mother & father marched off to their deaths, & he knew that next would be his youngest son, David, because David had always been a frail child.

Every evening Rosenberg came back into the barracks after his hours of labor & searched for the faces of his family. When he found them they would huddle together, embrace one another, & thank God for another day of life.

One day Rosenberg came back & didn't see those familiar faces. He finally discovered his oldest son, Joshua, in a corner, huddled, weeping, & praying. He said, "Josh, tell me it's not true." Joshua turned & said, "It is true, poppa. Today David was not strong enough to do his work. So they came for him."

"But where is your mother?" asked Mr. Rosenberg. "Oh poppa," he said, "When they came for David, he was afraid & he cried. Momma said, 'There is nothing to be afraid of, David,' & she took his hand & went with him."

CONCL. That is motherhood. Mothers, this is your day. May God bless you in it. And I pray that if there is someone here who has never experienced the love of God that is so close to the love of a mother, that this will be your time of decision.

I pray that if you have felt that you have had to walk through that valley alone so many times, that you will recognize that there is a hand reaching out to you, saying, "There is nothing to be afraid of. I'll go with you."

And I pray that you will recognize that that one has already gone through the valley of the shadow for you, & made it possible for you to live forever.