

Title: “What’s A Mother To Do”

Date: May 11, 2014

Text: Proverbs 31:1-9

Place: DCOG

Theme: A Life That Counts

There is no question that June Cleaver of the old television show LEAVE IT TO BEAVER nor Olivia Walton of THE WALTON’S television drama are no longer the typical examples nor role models of today’s woman. Today’s airwaves are filled with the images of singers Madonna, Pink, Beyonce and Mariah Carey whose sultry and sensual personas propel them into successful careers. Today’s woman must be as smart as Condeleeza Rice and as shapely as Sophia Vergara. Homemakers...well; they are denigrated in today’s advanced society.

Lemuel had a supermom who instructed him in the ways of God concerning the family. The book of Proverbs closes with the wise words of Lemuel’s mom with which she had instructed her son.

Moms have a tough job. It has been said that there are four things that no one can accomplish: neither inherit character, buy true friendship, purchase respect, nor out give God. King Lemuel’s mother knew that the Spirit of God was required to plant into Lemuel the words of life. She could do something – and she did.

On Mother’s Day, no words could be more fitting. What is a mother to do? Let’s listen in on this conversation. Lemuel’s mom takes her role seriously as should every mom today.

I. TEACH HIM TO DESIRE BIBLICAL MORALITY.

Proverbs 31:3a

Do not spend your strength on women,...

* In a day such as ours when 70% or more of high school seniors are sexually active and 40% or so of teenagers have dabbled in the occult, straight talk from a mom is a critical need.

A. Mom taught him an “oracle” (massa’ – a weighty message from the root of “to lift up” referring to using one’s voice.)

* Today’s popular trend of letting children determine truth for themselves and living a life of tolerance was foreign to Lemuel’s family.

B. She told it like it should be rather than how it was!

C. She told him to not “give his strength to women”.

* Samson in the Old Testament is an excellent example of giving your strength away.

From birth Samson was committed to a Nazarite vow. He was not to cut his hair nor drink any wine or fermented drink. What was his weakness...women.

He chose to marry a Philistine woman and it created great conflict. He killed 30 men and stole their coats to pay off a debt created by a lost wager. Even though the others cheated, this was not a pleasant experience, resulting in a loss of his wife and a raise in conflict.

And of course, who could forget Delilah. Here was another woman, who through deceit, discovered Samson’s secret for great strength. She cut off his hair while he was sleeping, his strength was lost and he was captured by the Philistines. They put out his eyes and forced him into slave labor.

I’d say he gave his strength to a woman.

- a. Purity in moral terms was what Lemuel’s mother meant and he knew it.
- b. She told him that he would destroy himself with immorality.

* John Freeman wrote an article for Harvest USA in December of 2013. He said in, "Sex and the Silence of the Church," that “We

don't have to go looking for ways to stain our hearts; it comes looking for us!

He wrote about having lunch with a businessman from his church.... "About halfway through lunch the businessman brought up his Internet pornography usage. What happened next was a microcosm of what is happening throughout the church."

John asked him when it started. *When he was 10 years old.* How often do you look at porn? *Several times a week, for a couple of hours at a time.* Anyone know about this? *No.* Are you in a men's group at church? *Yes.* Does this topic ever come up for discussion? *No.* Would you be willing to bring it up? *No way!*

Then the man started to backpedal, saying it's not really that big a problem nor is it that damaging.

John said he is not usually blunt with someone, but did say, "What I hear coming from your mouth is addict-speak. You're far worse off than you can possibly imagine. Can you believe that Jesus longs to enter this area of life with you?" He looked at John like a deer caught in the headlights. John didn't think they will be having lunch again anytime soon.

DESIRE BIBLICAL MORALITY!!

II. TEACH HIM TO AVOID PERSONAL COMPROMISE.

Proverbs 31:3b-5

...your vigor on those who ruin kings.

[4] "It is not for kings, O Lemuel--
not for kings to drink wine,
not for rulers to crave beer,

[5] lest they drink and forget what the law decrees,
and deprive all the oppressed of their rights.

- A. Essentially Lemuel's mother told him to avoid "wine" and to control his desires for "strong drink".
 - a. The result of a life controlled by drink would be the forfeiting of a steady hand in dealing with the lives of others and a tendency to forget the "decrees" of God.

- b. Those who would suffer the most from inept governing by Lemuel would be the ones who were “afflicted.”

* At \$4 million per 30 seconds, commercial time during this year's Super Bowl was by far the most expensive air time on television in the world. Even if you weren't one of the estimated 111.5 million people who were watching the Super Bowl, these ads have national and global appeal.

One of the ads was about a couple's compromise and a new pet called a "Doberhuahua," a dog with a Chihuahua's body and a massive Doberman's head. This is a cautionary tale against compromise.

Compromise can create chaos. The ad starts innocently enough—a couple in a pet shop can't decide which dog breed to buy. The horror begins with a simple suggestion from the salesman to breed a Chihuahua and a Doberman together. The compromise produces the grotesque and aggressive "Doberhuahua," which then overruns the world with its tiny terror. The chaos ends with a simple message from Audi: "Compromise scares us too." Not all compromise is bad, but some things should never be "cross-bred."

Like the essentials of doctrine with lies. Like a holy life with sin. Or like Dobermans and Chihuahuas.

B. Compromise is tempting enough without the external stimulates of wine to further weaken the judgment of a person in authority.

DO NOT COMPROMISE !!

III. TEACH HIM TO PURSUE SELFLESS CHARACTER.

Proverbs 31:8-9

"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves,
for the rights of all who are destitute.

[9] Speak up and judge fairly;
defend the rights of the poor and needy."

- A. Lemuel's mother taught him the incredible value of servanthood.
- a. She taught him to help those who could not help themselves.

* I like the words and actions of the Apostle Peter...

Acts 3:6

Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk."

What do we have that can help others around us?

- b. She said, "open your mouth for those who cannot speak for themselves and for the rights of the unfortunate."

* Her message also instructed him to keep a sharp eye for the "needy" (e'byon – those who were easy prey for the dishonest).

- B. Lemuel's mother insisted that Lemuel be one who "judges righteously" and who serves justice in a Godly fashion.

* There are roles that call for the dispensing of justice. When it is necessary it should be done in righteousness.

Conclusion: Moms who take their roles seriously as if they are to speak the very words of God will see their children mature into ambassadors for the living Christ.

Praise our Lord for Godly moms! When a mom speaks – listen!!

* In Elizabeth Strout's novel *The Burgess Boys*, a young woman named Susan has a miscarriage. After learning that the baby was a girl, her husband tries to comfort her by saying, "I hope the next one's a boy." But Strout describes how many women feel after a miscarriage:

They were not toys on a story shelf, one falling and breaking, the next coming in one piece. No, she had lost her daughter! And she learned—freshly, scorchingly—of the privacy of sorrow. It was as though she had been escorted through a door into some large and private club that she had not even known existed. “Women who miscarried.” Society did not care much for them. It really didn't. And the women in the club mostly passed each other silently. People outside the club said, "You'll have another one."

Women who have miscarried do not take birth lightly. They do not minimize the role of motherhood for they know how quickly life can be taken.

Mom's...Christians...let us not take our roles gingerly but choose to grab hold of life, to grab hold of Christian life in such a way that those for whom we stand responsible grow to know of Jesus.

That's what a mother is to do!