

The Ministry of Motherhood

A few words about God's direction for us regarding our parents:

We are commanded to honor our father and mother (Ex 20:12/Matt 15:4)
- Which can be hard at times! Not every one has had an easy relationship.
- Which can mean a major break (Mtt 10:32-36, Lk 12:51-53).

Those who dishonor their parents will be cursed (Dt 27:16)

Each of us must respect our parents (Lev 19:3)

We need to listen to our parents (Prv 2:8)

We need to be gentle and respectful toward them (1 Tim 5:-12)

Parents have a vital ministry. For two examples of moms:

The widow of Zarepath 1 King 17:7-24 She Led by Example

1. God sent her and her son an unexpected visitor - a prophet (Elijah)

- a. It was during a famine and food was scarce.
- b. God had prompted her heart to obey.
 - She was destitute and resigned to die.
 - Elijah had a message for her from God.
 - * Fear not.
 - * Obey.
 - * God will provide.
- c. She obeyed and God cared for the needs of her, her son and the prophet.
- d. God revealed Himself to her in a crisis.
 - Her son became ill and stopped breathing.
 - She immediately assumed she was being punished for her sins (See Jn 9:1-5).
 - God raised the boy up and restored him to his mom.
 - She was strengthened in her faith.

**She obedient and hospitable even during uncertainty
Parenting teaches by example
Our kids learn how to live by living with us**

Mary, the Mother of Jesus A Ministry to the World

1. What did she know about her son?

- a. He would be great: (Lk 1:26-38)
 - He'd be called the Son of the Most High.
 - He'd rule on David's throne over an eternal kingdom.

- b. She learned that He would be destined to cause the fall and rising of many in Israel (Lk 2:25-35)
 - That He was God's salvation for all people and glory for Israel.
 - He would be a sign that would be spoken against.
 - She would know pain (To see her son rejected, reviled, hounded, slandered and killed must have been awful).

2. What vital thing did she have to learn?

- a. He would be rejected by their own people. Lk 4:14-30
 - He made sure that people knew, that she knew, that no one had a special claim on Him.
 - She had to learn that *she* and her family had no exclusive claim on Him. He came for everyone. Mtt 12:46-50, Mk 3:20-21, 31-35.

- b. She watched it all happen and was there at the end: Lk 23:49-55,
Mtt 27:55, Mk 15:40-41
 - She followed Him to the cross along with Mary the wife of Clopas, Mary Magdalen and others.
 - She was cared for by the Lord (Jn 19:25-27)
 - * John took her into his home.
 - * John was the only apostle who died of old age.

**She learned that parenthood was more than about her.
What will your son or daughter become?
Who will they influence?
How will it effect the world?
And she learned that there is both joy and pain in this ministry**