

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

"From the Beginning to the Present!"

- Moms of the Bible:

> **EVE** – **BE FRUITFUL & MULTIPLY!** - **Genesis 1:26-31** – Ladies you are “*very good!*”
Oops! – **Genesis 3:1-13**; Ouch! – **Genesis 3:14 – 21** – What a responsibility, “*the mother of all living.*”

- **Observation for consultation:** In Genesis 4, Eve gives birth to two children, Cain and Abel. Life is truly like a box of chocolates; you just don't know what you're gonna get. For Eve she received a curse and a blessing, Cain was self-willed and Abel was a worshipper of God.

- **Life lesson:** Don't blame yourself for your children's life long decisions, do your best and commit the rest to God. **Eve was a woman of FAITH, HOPE & LOVE.** Her next son was Seth (**Gen 4:25-26** - *And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and named him Seth, "For God has appointed another seed for me instead of Abel, whom Cain killed." And as for Seth, to him also a son was born; and he named him Enosh. Then men began to call on the name of the LORD*). Seth, the father of Enosh (or Enos) and an ancestor of Jesus Christ (Luke 3:38), Seth died at the age of 912.

> **SARAH** – **MIRACLE MOM!** – Ladies always maintain a sense of humor – **Observe Genesis 18:9-15.**

- When Sarah was 90 years old, far beyond her childbearing years, she gave birth to a son, Isaac- the child of promise - **Genesis 21:1-3** - *And the LORD visited Sarah as He had said, and the LORD did for Sarah as He had spoken. For Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him. And Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him -- whom Sarah bore to him – Isaac (Laughter).*

- **Side notes on Sarah** – In the New Testament the apostle Paul pointed out that "the deadness of Sarah's womb" (Rom 4:19) did not cause Abraham to waver in his faith; he believed the promise of God (Rom 9:9).

The apostle Peter cited Sarah as an example of the holy women who **TRUSTED** in God, possessed inward spiritual beauty, and were submissive to their husbands (1 Peter 3:5-6).

The writer of the Epistle to the Hebrews also includes Sarah as one of the spiritual heroines in his roll call of the faithful (**Heb 11:11** - *By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised.*)

The prophet Isaiah declared Abraham and Sarah as the father and mother of the Hebrew people: "*Look to Abraham your father, and to Sarah who bore you*" (Isa 51:2). **Sarah was a mother of FAITH, HOPE & LOVE!**

- **THE MOTHER OF MOSES** – **SPECIAL DELIVERY!** – **Exodus 2:1-10** – The great lesson once again is **FAITH, HOPE & LOVE!** Moses may have said, “**I owe it all to my mother.**”

Look at Hebrews 11:23-29. A Pastor once said, "When God wants an important thing done in this world, or a wrong righted, He goes about it in a very singular way. He doesn't release His thunderbolts nor stir up His earthquakes. He simply has a tiny, helpless baby born, perhaps in a

very obscure home, perhaps of a very humble mother. And He puts the idea or purpose into a mother's heart. And she puts it in the baby's mind, and then - God waits!"

- **NEW TESTAMENT SNAPSHOTS of FAITHFUL, HOPEFUL & LOVING MOTHERS**

- **Elizabeth** trained up a young man who was so on fire for God that he spent most of his time in the water, his name, **John the Baptist**.

- **Mary** the mother of Jesus is commended for her **FAITH** in **Luke 1:45** - *Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord.*"

Mama Mary is filled with **HOPE** in **Luke 1:47-48** - *And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant; for behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed.*

Mary's **LOVE** was committed to the end - **John 19:26-27**- *When Jesus (hanging from the cross) therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son!" Then He said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home.*

- Paul, the apostle commends **Timothy's godly mother and grandmother** in **2 Timothy 1:3-6** - *I thank God, whom I serve with a pure conscience, as my forefathers did, as without ceasing I remember you in my prayers night and day, greatly desiring to see you, being mindful of your tears, that I may be filled with joy, when I call to remembrance the **genuine faith** that is in you, which dwelt first in your **grandmother Lois** and your **mother Eunice**, and I am persuaded is in you also.*

- **A MOTHER'S INSIGHT** - It's so easy to get bogged down with the grind of daily activities in the home, isn't it? There can be times when you feel you are stuck in the mire with no hope of accomplishing anything. Yes, the practical and physical labor of mothering can be wearying, but it is our attitude toward homemaking and mothering that imprisons or frees us.

It is how we value our task as a mother that determines whether we will be depressed or joyful. I believe it is important for us to get a long-term vision of our divine calling of parenthood. It is often hard to feel that you are accomplishing very much staying at home - changing diapers, wiping noses, cooking meals and daily training little children. It is important to see beyond the frustrations of your everyday tasks and look ahead.

You are not only training children for today, but for the future. Your influence is powerful and far-reaching. As you diligently teach God's ways to your children, you are establishing principles and guidelines for future generations.

God's ultimate plan is for godly generations. He has commanded each generation to pass on His ways and His laws to the next generation. Psalm 145:4 says, *"One generation shall praise thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts."*

> **Examples of passing the torch to the next generation:**

- **William & Catherine Booth** were the founders of the Salvation Army. Catherine Booth was used of God to win thousands into the kingdom of God through her preaching, but she was first and foremost a mother. As a young person she stated, "I intend to make myself fit to be a mother and being that in every sense, I shall be ready for any destiny that God may put upon me." As she was dying, she cried these words, "Try to raise up mothers...mothers are the want of the world."

William and Catherine had eight children and they were faithful to train them for God. Every one of those eight children served God in a mighty way. Not only did they train their children, but also the intensity of their training continued into the following generations. They had 45 grandchildren and every one of them also served God with all their hearts, many on the mission field. Even their great-grandchildren continued as missionaries.

- **Jonathon & Sarah Edwards** – Let's catch the vision of Jonathan and Sarah Edwards. You may remember Jonathan Edwards for his famous sermon, "*Sinners in the hands of an angry God.*" Jonathan and Sarah had 11 children and were ardent in training their children for God.

- In 1900 A. Winship tracked down 1400 descendants of this family. By 1900 this godly marriage had produced...

13 college presidents

65 professors

100 lawyers and a dean of an outstanding law school

30 judges

60 doctors and a dean of a medical school

80 holders of public office including

3 United States Senators

3 Mayors of large cities

3 State governors

Vice President of the United States, and

Controller of the United States Treasury.

- Members of the family wrote 135 books and edited 18 journals and periodicals.

They entered the ministry in platoons, and sent 100 missionaries overseas as well as stocking many mission boards with lay trustees.

- They directed banks, insurance companies, owned coalmines, iron plants and vast oil interests. Winship states, "There is scarcely any great American industry that has not had one of this family among its chief promoters."

- Because of the responsibilities of Jonathan Edwards' ministry, Winship goes on to say, "Much of the capacity and talent, intensity and character of the Edwards family is due to Mrs. Sarah Edwards." The influence of one godly mother has continued down through the generations to affect the destiny of a nation! Oh how far reaching is the power of a godly mother!

- In contrast to the Edwards family, 1200 of the Jukes family were tracked down. They originated with one immigrant who settled in upstate New York in 1720 and produced a tribe of "idleness, ignorance and vulgarity." Only 20 of the 1200 Jukes ever had any gainful employment and all the others were criminals or lived on state aid.

> **What makes the difference in these two families? 1 Cor 13:13 gives us the answer,**

“And now abide FAITH, HOPE, LOVE, these three; but the greatest of these is LOVE.”

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