

## MOTHERS' DAY

### INTRODUCTION:

1. There is a Jewish saying: That God could not be everywhere, therefore He made mothers.
2. Exodus 20:12: "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you."
3. Prov. 23:22: "Listen to your father who begot you, and do not despise your mother when she is old."
4. Prov. 23:24-25: "The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice, and he who begets a wise child will delight in him. Let your father and your mother be glad, and let her who bore you rejoice."
5. Prov. 1:8: "My son, hear the instruction of your father, and do not forsake the law of your mother."
6. John 19:25-27: Jesus on the Cross made provisions for his mother.
  - A. Influence of the Fifth Commandment.
7. Eph. 6:1-3: "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 'Honor your father and mother,' which is the first commandment with promise: *that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.*"

### I. THE FOOT THAT ROCKS THE CRADLE ROCKS THE WORLD.

They say that man is mighty,  
He governs land and sea,  
He wields a mighty scepter  
O're lesser powers than he.

But mightier power and stronger,  
May from his throne be hurled,  
For the foet/hand which rocks the cradle  
Is the hand/foot that rules the world.

W. R. Wallace

1. Timothy Learned the Scripture From His Grandmother, Lois, and His Mother, Eunice.

Paul-To

"I thank God, whom I worship, as my forefathers did, with a clear conscience, as I ceaselessly remember you in my prayers. Because I remember the tears you shed for me, I am always longing night and day to see you again, that I may feel the fullest joy on being reminded of your genuine faith, a faith that first found a home in the heart of your grandmother, Lois, then in the heart of your mother, Eunice, and now in yours too, I am sure."

### SHE MADE HOME HAPPY

"She made home happy," these words I read  
Within a churchyard, written on a tombstone;  
No name, no date, the simple words alone,  
Told me the story of the unknown dead.

A marble column lifted high its head  
Close by, inscribed to one the world has known;  
But ah! that lonely grave with moss o'ergrown  
Thrilled me far more than his, who armies led.

She made home happy, through the long sad years,  
The mother toiled and never stopped to rest,  
Until they crossed her hands upon her breast,  
And closed her eyes, no longer dim with tears.  
The simple record that she left behind  
Was grander than the soldier's to my mind.

## II. MOTHER, THAT QUEEN OF THE HOME, IS A BULWARK OF STRENGTH.

### A. She Works With The World's Most Valuable Material.

1. Living beings, little bundles of great possibilities, immortal souls. No workmen with gold, silver or precious stones can even begin to approach her in working with values.  
Q
2. Daniel Webster wrote, "If we build upon marble, it will perish; if we work upon brass, time will efface it; if we rear temples, they will crumble into dust. BUT, if we work upon immortal minds, if we imbue them with high principles, with the fear of God and love of their fellowmen, we engrave on those tablets something which no time can efface but which will brighten all eternity."
3. Mother's responsibility weighs like a mountain upon her:
  - (a) The mind of the child is pliable and easily influenced.

- (b) Tender plants can be directed to grow in any direction.  
Apply weight on a little bush to the south, it will grow in that direction; to the north, it will grow in that direction. IF YOU STEP ON IT, IT WILL DIE.  
Some children like tender plants have been stepped on.  
(Proverbs 22:6)

↙ If you have a gray-haired mother  
In the old home far away,  
Sit down and write the letter  
You put off day by day.

Don't wait until her weary steps  
Reach Heaven's pearly gate,  
But show her that you think of her,  
Before it is too late.

If you have a tender message,  
Or a loving word to say,  
Don't wait till you forget it,  
But whisper it today.

Who knows what bitter memories  
May haunt you if you wait?  
So make your loved one happy  
Before it is too late.

The tender word unspoken,  
The letters never sent,  
The long forgotten messages,  
The wealth of love unspent;  
For these some hearts are breaking,  
For these some loved ones wait;  
Show them that you care for them  
Before it is too late.

B. Munich, Germany 50 Years Ago, War Just Over in Europe.

1. Soldiers on Sunday morning going to get drunk to celebrate.

- (a) Soldier from Nashville, Tennessee would not go. He told them, "No, I am not going. My old mother will be worshipping at Charlotte Avenue Church of Christ today and she will be praying for me."

Note: A mother's love and prayers had reached a son's heart from Nashville to Munich, Germany.

### III. A WORTHY MOTHER WHO CAN FIND - MORE PRECIOUS THAN RUBIES.

#### A. If I Could Only Hear My Mother Pray Again.

1. I learned how to pray from her.
2. I learned how not to hold grudges from her.
3. I learned how to love others from her.
4. Though she worked 12 hours a day in a hosiery mill, we lived in a clean house. Cooked on a wood-burning/coal-burning stove, washed clothes with Octagon soap and a scrub board and wring them out by hand. Clothes were clean and patched - plenty of patches.
5. I learned to "go to church" from her. She went, and my three sisters and I went. Four times on Sunday - Sunday school, worship, Epworth League for teenagers, and worship Sunday night. Monday night was men and boys' prayer meeting, Tuesday was cottage Bible classes, Wednesday nights were Prayer meeting and Bible study, Friday nights were Socials - rotating from home to home. Candy pullings. Sitting down in a plate of hot candy.

BATH/NA  
WASH TUB  
ON  
SATURDAY  
NIGHT

#### B. The Story of Rizpah Recorded in 2 Samuel 21:1-11.

1. The Gibeonites wanted to hang seven sons of Saul.
2. Two of those sons were born of Rizpah, Saul's concubine.

Verses 7-11 - "But the king (David) spared Mephibosheth the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, because of the Lord's oath that was between them, between David and Jonathan the son of Saul.

So the king took Armoni and Mephibosheth, the two sons of Rizpah the daughter of Ai ah, whom she bore to Saul, and the five sons of Michal the daughter of Saul, whom she brought up for Adriel the son of Barzillai the Meholathite.

And he delivered them into the hands of the Gibeonites, and they hanged them on the hill before the Lord. So they fell, all seven together, and were put to death in the days of harvest, in the first days, in the beginning of barley harvest.

Now Rizpah the daughter of Ai ah took sackcloth and spread it for herself on the rock, from the beginning of harvest until the late rains poured on them from heaven. And she did not

allow the birds of the air to rest on them by day nor the beasts of the field by night. And David was told what Rizpah the daughter of Ai ah, the concubine of Saul, had done.

Note: From barley harvest till the first rains was from two to three months.

(a) RUTH - THE MOABITE EXAMPLE OF DAUGHTER-IN-LAW. "Entreat me not to leave thee . . ."

#### IV. BEING A MOTHER IS A FULL-TIME PROFESSION - JOB - INVESTMENT.

A. This is Doubly Hard When Mother Works Outside the Home.

1. I know, for Mama did it for many years.

B. My heart goes out to mothers who have to work outside the home to make ends meet. However, she needs to wait until children are in high school if she can. Preferably college.

C. SINGLE MOTHERS have a real burden to bear. How to make ends meet - and being ever-present as a mother for small children.

#### V. IN THE EVENING YEARS, MOTHERS NEED OUR STEADFASTNESS.

A. When the hair has turned to silver, body wracked with pain, living on a fixed income, maybe home alone.

She needs her children: the letters, their phone calls, their money sometimes, their care during sickness.

They must stand like a rock in the waning hours of death.

She needs assurances that her life has not been in vain, wasted, but that she can see her home reproduced in the children and grandchildren who have gone from it.

CRUX

HOME - WHAT A WONDERFUL WORD.

MOTHER - WHAT A LOVELY TEACHER, FRIEND, SCOTCH.

B. Children Who Have Godly Mothers Are Blessed Indeed.

"If I were hanged on the highest hill,  
Mother o' mine, O mother o' mine!  
I know whose love would follow me still,  
Mother o' mine, O mother o' mine.

If I were drowned in the deepest sea,  
Mother o' mine, O mother o' mine!  
I know whose tears would come down to me  
Mother o' mine, O mother o' mine!

If I were damned of body and soul  
Mother o' mine, O mother o' mine!  
I know whose prayers would make me whole  
Mother o' mine, O mother o' mine!"

Kipling

The foot that rocks the cradle surely rocks the world.

Let us give thanks for our mothers today - or let us give thanks for  
the memory of a lovely godly mother.

C. Sons and Grandsons Are To Take Care of Mother-Grandmother.

"Honor widows who are really widows. But if any widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show piety at home and to repay their parents; for this is good and acceptable before God. . . . But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever."

1 Tim. 5:1-8

Hell will not be too hot for sons, grandsons, fathers, and husbands who do not obey this command.

- SOME TIME -

By Eugene Field

/ Last night, my darling, as you slept,  
I thought I heard you sigh,  
And to your little crib I crept,  
And watched a space there by;  
Then, bending down, I kissed your brow -  
For, oh! I love you so -  
You are too young to know it now,  
But some time you shall know.

Some time, when, in a darkened place  
Where others come to weep,  
Your eyes shall see a weary face  
Calm in eternal sleep;  
The speechless lips, the wrinkled brow,  
The patient smile may show -  
You are too young to know it now,  
But some time you shall know.

Look backward, then, into the years,  
And see me here tonight -  
See, O my darling! how my tears  
Are falling as I write;  
And feel once more upon your brow  
The kiss of long ago -  
You are too young to know it now,  
But some time you shall know.