

Mother's Day 2020

"Encouragement for Moms"

Introduction: Happy Mother's Day to all the moms who are listening to this message today. I hope you have a blessed day.

I prayed about what God would have me to share with you all this morning and for a while I had many considerations. Then I read something that brought to my mind what I needed to share. The thought behind what I read was "Moms are NOT Perfect". I thought about bringing a message by selecting certain Scriptures to show you what a perfect mom would look like, but then I began to think about something. Moms are not perfect, and they already know that. They place themselves under a great amount of pressure trying to do the best they can. They make mistakes and they carry the guilt for their mistakes. You moms don't need added pressure and added guilt. You need encouragement.

When we look back and see the TV shows like Leave it to Beaver with June Cleaver or Brady Bunch with Carol Brady, we get the image of the perfect mom. She never gets frustrated, she always looks her best, the kids are always good, her husband adores her, there is rarely a problem in the home, the kids most always get along and if they don't they are quick to make up, and all that happy stuff. That is not reality. When you compare that with how things are in your life, you're left crying on the couch eating ice cream. But that doesn't stop all you "regular" moms from trying to live up to that image. **It's time to stop beating yourself up and realize that all moms are not perfect, and that God uses imperfect moms.** Today I am going to take you on a journey through God's Word to show you some imperfect moms and the mistakes they made.

Before we get to the moms of the Bible let me give you something to consider:

1. You are doing better than you think you are.

Moms have the tendency to compare themselves to their own mother or their grandmother or another mom who is a friend. This is how moms often measure themselves. They try to pattern their lives after someone they know or someone whom they knew in the past. When you do not measure up to the other person then you are extremely critical of yourself. You look at another mother and they seem to have it all together. Their kids do well, her husband is there to help and she just seems to have it all together.

Then there is you. You have one of those strong-willed kids that opposes almost every command you give. You don't get very much help from your husband maybe because he works long hours so that you and the kids can eat. Maybe you don't get much help because your husband is tired from work. Or maybe you are a single mom and there is no husband in

the picture. Whatever the situation is you are very critical of yourself because you are not like them.

Let me just encourage you for a moment. You are not required to be like someone else. God has made you different and that is ok. Your children are not like all other children and that is ok too. Your husband is not like other men because God made us all different. Just because there are all these differences does not make you a bad mom. You only need to be the person God made you to be.

Illustration:

There was a time when I was very critical of myself and my preaching because I could not do what others could do. My ministry was different. When I finally came to realize that I did not need to be like someone else, but I could just be me as God made me then there was a peace in my life.

That what you need to realize also mom. God just wants you to be you. Stop measuring yourself by what others do. Just do what God has called you to do and that is invest in your children and teach them the Word of God and let God bring about the results. Listen to the words written by one mother:

"The pieces of my unique story—being raised by a mother who'd lost her own mother as a toddler—fell into place, oddly enough, while browsing through popular women's magazines from the 1940s and 50s. As a nation desperately tried to regain "normalcy" in the wake of war, the idealized mothers symbolized the domestic anchor of stability.

"Perfect" mothers, a la June Cleaver, raised perfect children and kept perfect homes—ideally wielding a shiny new Hoover vacuum cleaner. That perfect mother is the one who guided my grandmother as she raised the girl who raised me. Even today we can still cling to an idealized, and often unattainable, version of motherhood.

So, keenly aware of my own imperfections, I'll likely squirm on Mother's Day if praise is lauded on those of us who have raised, or are raising, children. For days, TV ads will have featured glimpses of sacrificial mothers who ask for no more than a four-dollar greeting card as thanks for squeezing out a kid, changing his diapers, preparing meals and cleaning toilets.

Though I've grudgingly done all those things, the more pressing awareness with which I live—and perhaps my children do as well—is of the areas where I fail. Like all mothers, I do the best I can. Sometimes I succeed.

So, while I'll probably bristle at any prayers blanketing me as the giver of noble sacrificial mother-love, I'll find myself included in ones that ask God to help mothers love like He loved us. Especially when we fail. On Mother's Day, the best we can do is keep it real."

Let us now notice some mothers who were not perfect and gather some lessons for moms.

1. Sarah

Notice Genesis 16:1-6

Abram and Sarai both became impatient as they looked for the fulfillment of God's promise. It was in the midst of the impatience that Sarah presented her husband with a plan. She offered her handmaid to Abram so that he could father a child through Hagar. Abram accepted the offer and after Hagar conceived there was strife within the family. Sarah blamed Abram and then she treated Hagar in a way that made her feel inferior. The treatment from Sarai was so sharp that Hagar fled until God told her to return.

Notice Genesis 21:1-11

After Sarah gave birth to Isaac there was tension between Ishmael and Isaac and Sarah told Abraham to put out Hagar and Ishmael. This command broke his heart for this was his son.

Application:

Sarah made a very poor choice when she gave her handmaid to her husband. She then later demanded that her stepson be removed from her house. What I want you moms to understand is that Sarah was a woman who made some poor choices. Because of her choice's others experienced emotional pain. **But in the midst of all of this she was greatly used by the Lord.**

Maybe you have made some poor choices along the way and your choices have caused pain that you wish would have never happened. The enemy continues to bring up your poor choices and certain people just refuse to let them in the past. So, there are times in your life when you feel completely defeated because of poor choices you have made. Let me give you some encouragement.

A. God can still use you.

There is not one person on this earth today that has lived to be a mother who has not made poor choices along the way. Let me show you another mother who made poor choices, but she was also used by the Lord.

Genesis 27:8-16

⁸ Now therefore, my son, obey my voice according to that which I command thee.

⁹ Go now to the flock, and fetch me from thence two good kids of the goats; and I will make them savoury meat for thy father, such as he loveth:

¹⁰ And thou shalt bring it to thy father, that he may eat, and that he may bless thee before his death.

¹¹ And Jacob said to Rebekah his mother, Behold, Esau my brother is a hairy man, and I am a smooth man:

¹² My father peradventure will feel me, and I shall seem to him as a deceiver; and I shall bring a curse upon me, and not a blessing.

¹³ And his mother said unto him, Upon me be thy curse, my son: only obey my voice, and go fetch me them.

¹⁴ And he went, and fetched, and brought them to his mother: and his mother made savoury meat, such as his father loved.

¹⁵ And Rebekah took goodly raiment of her eldest son Esau, which were with her in the house, and put them upon Jacob her younger son:

¹⁶ And she put the skins of the kids of the goats upon his hands, and upon the smooth of his neck:

Rebekah led her son Jacob to deceive his father in order to receive a blessing. This was a poor choice. God intended the blessing to go to Jacob but not through deception.

Both Sarah and Rebekah had failed in the choices which they had made but God still used them. God will still use you also.

B. God forgives you for sinful choices.

I point this out because I am sure that there are mothers who carry the guilt of sinful choices. You have confessed them but there always seems to be someone who brings them up every so often. The Devil often reminds you of them and when this happens you come under a great weight of guilt.

Let me explain that you are carrying a weight that God does not want you to carry.

1 John 1:7, 9

⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

⁹ *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

Psalm 103:10-12

¹⁰ *He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.*

¹¹ *For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him.*

¹² *As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.*

Let me show you what the writer of Hebrews recorded.

Hebrews 11:11-13

¹¹ *Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised.*

¹² *Therefore sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead, so many as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable.*

¹³ *These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.*

There is no mention here of the poor choices because they are forgiven and forgotten.

2. Rahab

Notice Joshua 2:1-13

Rahab was a prostitute who turned to God and trusted in Him for salvation. I want you to notice what Matthew recorded concerning the genealogy of Jesus Christ.

Matthew 1:5

⁵ *And Salmon begat Booz of Rachab; and Booz begat Obed of Ruth; and Obed begat Jesse;*

Rahab was the mother of Boaz who was the great grandfather of David. She finds herself in the genealogy of Jesus Christ.

Application:

I show you this because some moms have a past which they carry upon their shoulders and they think because of how sinful their past was they cannot be very effective. The Bible

tells us that no matter what your past is God can use you to show forth Jesus Christ. Let me remind you what God has done in you.

2 Corinthians 5:17

17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

You are a new creation. The past is gone and in Christ you stand in perfection.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

9 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,

10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

Let us remember what Paul wrote in Ephesians.

Ephesians 2:5-7

5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

You will bring glory to God for all eternity.

Conclusion:

I would like to remind the moms who are listening that you are doing KINGDOM work as you raise your children. You are not perfect, and neither is anyone else. Listen to the words of one mom:

"We moms don't get performance reviews. There's no boss standing by giving objective encouragement and constructive criticism. It's so easy to lose perspective and think that I

am the only one barely surviving some days of this wonderfully exhausting role called motherhood.

On Mother's Day, I don't need a standing ovation, but I do need affirmation and support. I need to hear that my role as a mom to young children is hard, valuable, kingdom work. Remind me that my unseen sacrifices and struggles are seen and valued by the Lord. I often feel undervalued, misunderstood and looked over by a culture that applauds outward and visible contributions to society.

So much of my work as a mother is hidden away in the unseen moments of grace with my children. As I bend over with my tremendously pregnant body to pick up the thousandth crayon, I receive no applause. When I respond patiently toward a tantrum throwing toddler, no one says "Way to keep your cool!"

I sacrifice and struggle because of love, and loving others is kingdom work. I also need to hear that my work as a mom is valued by the church. Remind me that I don't need to be involved in a million ministry commitments when I have my hands full nurturing several souls. Encourage me to give the small, the ordinary, and the mundane things to God and watch him bless and multiply my efforts. Thank me for sowing the seeds of love in the souls of the youngest among us."