

Sermon Mark S. Aites  
**HONOR THY MOTHER**  
(Based On Sermon By R.AuBuchon)

**TEXT: PROV. 6:20-22**

**INTRODUCTION:**

1. This is a wonderful day, in that we have been blessed with the privilege of worshipping God, and to enjoy the national holiday of honoring our mothers.
2. Scripture certainly encourages us to honor them:

**Eph. 6:1-3** *Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.*  
**6:2** *Honor thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise;*  
**6:3** *That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.*

3. I hope that you enjoyed in the bulletin the section I put in there about what my mother taught me? I want to share those with you for just a moment:

My mother taught me . . .

*Medicine* ... If you don't stop crossing your eyes, they're going to stay that way!

*Humor* ... When that lawn mower cuts off your toes don't come running to me.

*Logic* ... "If you fall out of that swing and break your neck, you're not going to the store with me."

*Genetics* ... "You are just like your father!"

*My roots* ... "Do you think you were born in a barn?"

*Anticipation* ... Just wait till your father gets home!

*Receiving* ... You are going to get it when we get home.

*Becoming an adult* ... If you don't eat your vegetables, you'll never grow up.

*Wisdom of Age* ... When you get to be my age, you will understand.

4. Mothers have such a strong impression on our lives, and sometimes it can be expressed with a little humor.
  - 1) It was Mark Twain who wrote: "My mother had a great deal of trouble with me but I think she enjoyed it."
  - 2) Or even from the mother's perspective, as the late Erma Bombeck wrote: "Never lend

your car to anyone to whom you have given birth."

5. We can chuckle and enjoy a good laugh, but we know that a godly mother is priceless.
6. We look at our mothers and realize that their teaching has effected virtually every area of our lives.
7. The wisdom that can be gleaned from one's mother is actually stressed by God.
8. **Prov. 6:20-22** *My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother:*  
**6:21** *Bind them continually upon thine heart, and tie them about thy neck.*  
**6:22** *When thou goest, it shall lead thee; when thou sleepest, it shall keep thee; and when thou awakest, it shall talk with thee.*
9. The instruction of the wise man affords us three things to consider.

## **DISCUSSION:**

### **I. THE PLEA.**

**6:20** *My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother.*

- A. Take note in this passage that the writer is admonishing his children to not neglect or forsake the teaching of their mother.
  1. Some may not care to admit it, but there are times when a mother's counsel and advice are better than the father's.
  2. One writer suggests that "they are more compassionate, kinder, gentler, and they have that women's intuition in their favor!" (R.AuBuchon)
  3. This is not to suggest that the counsel is always sound; but generally speaking, a godly mother's counsel is priceless.
- B. The wise man expresses his desire in **verse 20** in the form of a plea.
  1. He knows the value in a mother's care.
  2. He pleads with his children not to forsake or cast off, neglect, or think nothing of what they would learn from their mother.
- C. Abraham Lincoln: "No man is poor who has had a godly mother."
- D. Earlier in this book, in discussing the value of wisdom, the writer personifies or illustrates it as a woman:

**Prov. 4:6-7** *Forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee: love her, and she shall keep thee.*

**7** *Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.*

1. Of course, when we are younger, we may not see the wisdom in what our mother has to say.
2. But, believe it or not, when you get older, you will be amazed at how wise your mother really was in what she told you.
3. Perhaps we can use the application that Mark Twain once spoke concerning his father:
  - 1) When he was young, he didn't think much of his father's wisdom.
  - 2) But he mentioned that when he got older, he was amazed at how much the old man had learned.
  - 3) Crudely expressed, we may find the same thing when we ourselves get older; we may find that our mother was a whole lot smarter than we thought.
4. **Prov. 9:6** *Forsake the foolish, and live; and go in the way of understanding.*
  - 1) Sometimes a young person will reject the counsel of their parents in favor of their friends.
  - 2) Such reminds us of Rheboam, the son of Solomon, who chose to oppress the people, based upon the advice of his peers, rather than listening to the wise counsel of those who were older.
  - 3) Too often, a young person learns something the hard way because they are convinced that mom and dad don't know what they are talking about.
  - 4) And instead they listen to the fools.
5. **Prov. 15:20** *A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish man despiseth his mother.*

D. To obey your mother's godly teaching is to honor her.

1. Israel learned this: **Exod. 20:12** *Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.*
2. If you honor your mother through obedience you will bring a blessing to your own life, and to hers.

3. **Prov. 23:25** *Thy father and thy mother shall be glad, and she that bare thee shall rejoice.*
4. Similar expression: **3 John 4** *I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.*
5. A godly mother's joy most certainly is in seeing her children be obedient to the truth.

## **II. THE PREREQUISITE.** (a necessity/requirement)

A. Notice **vs 21**: *Bind them continually upon thine heart, and tie them about thy neck.*

1. To bind means to tie or join together.

Clarke: **Keep them constantly in view. Write them upon the table of thine heart-let them be thy moving principles; feel them as well as see them.**

2. **Deut. 6:4-9** *Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD:*  
**6:5** *And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.*  
**6:6** *And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:*  
**6:7** *And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.*  
**6:8** *And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes.*  
**6:9** *And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.*
2. The words of godly counsel need to be knitted together into your life.
  - 1) That was the basic thought of what was stated in **Deut 6.**, and also in our text.
  - 2) This is something which is to be at the heart of your life.
3. And being at the heart of your life, we are speaking of the inwardness of your life!
4. The word *tie* as it is used in **Prov. 6:21** means "to lace up or fasten."
5. The thought here is that these are things which we need to make a part of us, and we need to ponder and meditate upon them.
6. We would be foolish not to attach ourselves to them. We would be foolish to treat them as though they were unimportant!
7. Remember here, it is not just any type of counsel to which we refer, but that which

is godly, that which is pleasing before God.

- B. How do you regard the godly wisdom of a mother: do you see it as a noose or necklace?
1. Unfortunately, some would see the godly advice of their mothers as being restrictive.
  2. What young person likes to initially hear their mother say “no” to something?
  3. But, deep down, you know that she is right.
  4. How often have you read the newspaper columns of Dear Abby or Ann Landers, and read about a young person who wished that their mother had said “no” to them -- be it with dating, drinking, drugs, sex, etc.
  5. We may not always appreciate it when a parent says no to going to a dance, or a parent says no to running around with other young people late at night, etc.
  6. Do we regard the loving words of wisdom as a noose or a necklace?
- C. **Prov. 1:8-9** *My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother:*  
**1:9** *For they shall be an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck.*
- C. How do I fasten them to my life? How do they become an ornament about my neck?
1. When I allow them to affect the manner of my life.
  2. In other words the outwardness of life, the actions of my life.
  3. Earlier I mentioned the importance of these words, that we would meditate and ponder them; which speaks of the inwardness of our life.
  4. But in this portion of the study, we turn to the outwardness of our life; making sure that the things we learn, the wise counsel we receive, becomes an active part of our life!
- D. One writer mentions some things that he learned from his mother that affected his life: (Ibid.)
1. Don't talk about others...it doesn't feel good. (based on biblical admonitions not to gossip or backbite).
  2. Love others and yourself. (here was the importance of respect, for others and yourself, and also the badge of discipleship **John 13:34-35**).

3. Go to church (looking back I don't regret it).
  4. Forgive and go on. (the wise counsel of true biblical forgiveness)
- E. This same author mentions things that his boys are learning from their mother.
1. Don't fight with each other. (Now I know boys will be boys; but they are working to truly love and respect each other)
  2. Love one another.
  3. Don't repay evil with evil, but overcome it with good.
  4. Love God's Word.
  5. Brush your teeth (4 out is 5 isn't bad).
- F. The application we draw from this is that not only is the godly wisdom valuable, but we need to take that wisdom and allow it to permeate our life and our actions.

### **III. THE PROFIT.**

**6:22** *When thou goest, it shall lead thee; when thou sleepest, it shall keep thee; and when thou awakest, it shall talk with thee.*

- A. The power in the wise counsel leads one in life.
1. One of the things that all of us need and desire is that of direction.
  2. The wise and godly counsel upon which we meditate and ponder, which of course is based upon Scripture, helps to direct our lives.
  3. **Jer. 10:23** *O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.*
  4. **Psa. 119:105** *Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.*
- B. Looking again at **Prov. 6:22**, we note that when one sleeps it is that godly counsel that brings peace and rest; a peace of mind, an assurance that actually helps us to rest.
1. **Phil. 4:6-7** *Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.*  
**4:7** *And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*
  2. And when we awake, it comes to our mind that we start the day afresh.

- C. We profit from our mother's teaching, and her example, and it stays with us constantly.
- D. Croft Pentz: "A godly mother will point her children to God by the force of her example as much as by the power of her words."
- E. If you are blessed to have a godly mother, or to have been raised by one -- it is absolutely priceless.
- F. You young women, who are causing our numbers here to swell through child birth -- please be impressed that you can make a tremendous contribution to a human life.
  - 1. You can impress upon that young life godliness.
  - 2. And when that child grows older, we would see the profit, in that in many instances, they will impart those blessings to their children.
  - 3. The profit in this affects your life, and the lives of others.

**CONCLUSION:**

- 1. In this wondrous day in which we worship God and honor mothers; I would pray that you would honor the godly counsel of your mother.
- 2. And if it be that you were not so blessed, pay honor to those mothers in the faith whom you treasure and respect and love.
- 3. There is no greater blessing and respect a child can pay to his or her mother, than to become a Christian, and live for Christ.