

Super Mom

Mother's Day 2011

Mothers, think about some of the gifts that you have received on Mother's day. Maybe some of them were like the following:

Eight-year-old Mary wrote her mother a note for Mother's Day. "Dear Mother, here is the box of candy I bought you for Mother's Day. It is very good candy. I know, because I already had 3 pieces."

Eight-year-old Carol also wrote her mother said, "Dear mother, here are 2 aspirins. Have a happy Mother's Day."

Six-year-old Johnny and his four-year-old sister Suzy presented their mom with a Mother's Day present; a small, spindly house plant. While it wasn't the finest looking specimen, they had bought it with their own money and Mom was thrilled. She hugged and kissed her children and told them she loved them for thinking of her.

Johnny said, "There was some other flowers we wanted to buy for you, Mom, but we didn't have enough money." "Yeah," said sister Suzy, "they had a real nice bunch of flowers at the shop that we were going to buy."

"But I love this plant," said the happy mother. "I know, Mom," said Johnny, "but these flowers would have been perfect for you. They were in a wreath and they had a

ribbon that said 'REST IN PEACE', and you are always asking for a little peace so you can rest."

Busy, busy, busy; technology has helped us pack more into our day and make many of the routine tasks easier, but I fail to see that it has made our lives any happier or changed what has always been most important.

⁴ Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵ Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. ⁶ These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. ⁷ Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. ⁸ Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. ⁹ Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates. (Deut 6:4-9)

⁸ Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching. ⁹ They will be a garland to grace your head and a chain to adorn your neck. (Proverbs 1:8-9)

Scripture is clear that we are to pass on to our children what we have learned from listening to wisdom or from the school of hard knocks.

Thought the Bible makes it clear that both parents are to do the teaching and set the example, mom is usually the one that spends the most time with the children.

No one can say for sure, but the last one hundred years may have been the century that the world has changed the most as far as industry, technology, education...and the home.

Just think of the changes: microwave ovens, icemaker refrigerators, dishwashers, mini vans, computers; and the list goes on.

Possibly, the individual that these changes have impacted the most is mom. In spite of all the changes that supposedly add to the convenience of the home, moms today are probably busier than ever.

Today, she is expected to not only cook the bacon, she has to help bring it home as well. Even though she may work 40 hours plus, she is still expected to be the main housekeeper. She is often expected to keep the house, cook the meals, wash the clothes, and take care of the children. Her day is often from sunup to sundown plus.

The old saying that a woman's work is never done has probably never been truer.

Today, we have what is known as the 'super mom.' This is the woman that

attempts to have it all, a good education, a great career, and be a great mother as well. Many women are finding that this is not that easy. Regardless of time schedules, and calendar organizers, there is still only 24 hours to work with in a day.

With all that is expected of them, many women try to cut corners in order to make time for a busy day. The problem with this is that one aspect that often gets cut or overlooked is that of the spiritual.

Knowing that this would happen, because nothing surprises God, he saw to it that Proverbs would have 31 chapters. Proverbs begins with mom and dad giving instruction to a child and ends with the description of the ideal wife and mother. So, all you have to do is read the instructions, right?

That would be in the ideal world.

Liz Curtis Higgs says that "The ideal woman was described 2,500 years ago in Proverbs 31--and she is still intimidating her sisters."

Realistically, as you read through the verses describing this woman, it almost sounds like this comes from fairy tale.

Beginning with a question, and then placing a value on the answer:

A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies. Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value. (31:11-12) Her

husband can completely trust in her. She will in no way embarrass him.

She selects wool and flax and works with eager hands. She is like the merchant ships, bringing her food from afar. She gets up while it is still dark; she provides food for her family and portions for her servant girls. (31:13 – 15) She is not afraid of work. She works hard and long. She feeds and clothes and her family well.

She considers a field and buys it; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard. (31:16) She keeps her eye open for good deals. She is diligent in business. (Skipping down a few verses)

She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue. She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. (31:26 – 27) She watches her speech and her behavior.

I believe that all women should strive to achieve the idealistic description given in Proverbs 31. But, most of us live in a realistic world. Here is what I mean by that.

How many of you ladies got up while it was still dark and cooked breakfast for your family and your servant girls?

If you had servant girls, who would be getting up while it was still dark and cooking?

In the ideal world, mom gets breakfast in bed as often as she cooks breakfast for the

rest of the family. Everything ends with "And they all lived happily ever after."

Realistically, broken dreams are often the norm and some things never get fixed (let alone breakfast in bed).

In the ideal world, mom will have a perfect body even after having four or five kids.

Realistically, mom knows that she will never see size 8 or 10 again except maybe in a shoe size.

In the ideal world, a mother would expect to attend her child's graduation as he or she graduates with honors.

In the real world, there are gangs, guns, and drugs in our schools. Mom may be posting bail or going to a funeral rather than a graduation.

In the ideal world, mom has a masters degree and an office in the business district as well as a home office where she can work and spend time with her family.

In the real world, mom may have never finished high school; may have had to drop out and take what ever job she could find to help take care of the rest of the family.

In the ideal world, mom lives in a castle-like setting on a hill overlooking a beautiful valley, or in the little cottage with the white picket fence and everything neatly in its place.

In the real world, mom may live in a run down drug-infested neighborhood, or be homeless.

Ellen and I watched the Hallmark movie “Beyond the Blackboard” based on the memoir by [Stacey Bess](#) titled *Nobody Don't Love Nobody*.

The following is part of the movie review:

“In the beginning we are introduced to a little girl, whose name is Stacey Bess. She loves school because it is a safe place. At home, her parents fight all the time. Stacey has to leave high school at the age of 16, due to her expecting a baby. She marries and has two children – a boy and girl, during this time she earns her GED and a College Degree and pursues her dream of teaching.... which leads her to teaching a large group of homeless children, who range in all sorts of various ages.”

The story takes place in 1987 and follows a young teacher and mother of two who, fresh from college, ends up teaching homeless children at a school in an old abandoned warehouse; a school without a name. With the support of her husband, she overcomes fears and prejudice to give these children an education.

In an ideal world, what Stacy Bess lived wouldn't happen to any mother. But, we don't live in an ideal world, do we?

The Leave it to Beaver Cleaver families only exist in fairy tales, poems, or movies. The rest of us live in reality.

Sitting in this building in Medway and all across America today are real moms living in the real world. We give them cards, flowers, and various gifts this weekend for Mother's Day, but what do most mothers really need?

Mom needs what we all need. She needs forgiveness; forgiveness for all of the times she wasn't able to meet the idealistic expectations; for all the mistakes and bad choices, big and small; Forgiveness for the sins she has committed against God, for all have sinned; yes, believe it or not-even mom.

Mom needs grace; grace to understand that no one is perfect in a real world; grace to accept that whatever she has done is done – she can't go back, live in the past; there are no do-overs in the real world. Grace to understand that she is never alone; her God will never leave her all alone.

Mom needs mercy; mercy to deal with a broken heart or a broken home. To know that there is a God of reality aware of her situation.

In an ideal world, mom would always make the good and right choice, and have no regrets. And there would never be any broken hearts or broken homes. But, that's not the real world; in the real world, mothers are:

Blowers of noses and washers of ears,
Smootherers of bumped spots and wipers of tears.

Scrubbers of dishes and wielders of mops,
Grandmas for dollies and winders of tops.

Bathers of babies and umpires of spats,
Finders of boots, mittens and hats.
Helpers with lessons and makers of beds,
Shakers of dustclothes and combers of heads.

Button-sew-oners and winders of clocks,
Menders of dresses and darners of socks.
Tellers of stories and readers of books,
Judges and juries of conduct and looks.

Doctors for heartaches and hearers of prayers,
Generals, directing all family affairs.
Tenders of home fires and builders of men,
Oh, for the gift of an adequate pen!

Johnny and Suzy are grown now.
Remember that they are the two in the opening stories that bought the spindly houseplant, but wanted to buy the wreath with the ribbon that said 'REST IN PEACE.'

Johnny and Suzy collaborate and send mom a spindly houseplant along with a card

containing a letter that read something like this:

Mom, thank you for teaching us that "everyone is equal in this world." That not one person is better than another. That we are all human and that we all make mistakes.

Mom, thank you for teaching us to "never go to bed angry at someone." That there is always tomorrow to discuss it over and come to some kind of agreement. To kiss and love the person anyway because we never know when they will be taken from us.

Mom, thank you for teaching us that "you can catch more flies with honey than with vinegar." That you should be kind and soft-spoken instead of using harsh words. That anger just makes things worse.

Mom, thank you for teaching us that "if you haven't got anything nice to say don't say anything at all." That it is much better to remain silent than to say something that you will regret later on and cannot take back.

Mom, thank you for teaching us that "patience is a virtue." That in this world you will need to wait sometimes and that instant gratification just makes your heart want more.

Mom, thank you for teaching us that "good things come to those who must wait." That if it is meant to be it will happen. That if it is not meant to be then

there is a reason even though we do not know why. That someday we will understand when the time is right.

Mom, thank you for teaching us to "treat others as you would like to be treated." That "putting yourself in someone else's shoes" will open your eyes to how they must feel.

Suzy and I hope that you enjoy the flower and now that we are on our own that you get the rest and find the peace that you looked for when we were young.

Happy Mother's Day.