

Introduction

There are certain holidays of the year that are dear to my heart. Thanksgiving is special because we are taught by God to give thanks in everything and at all times. We enter His gates with thanksgiving. God tells us that He does not need bulls or sacrifices from us, but our offerings of thanksgiving honor Him. Singling out a single day to focus on giving thanks is special. Thanksgiving is one of my favorite holidays of the year.

(1 Thess 5:18) “in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.”

(Eph 5:20) “always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father;”

(Ps 100:4) “Enter His gates with thanksgiving *and* His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him, bless His name.”

(Ps 50:12-14) “If I were hungry I would not tell you, for the world is Mine, and all it contains. {13} "Shall I eat the flesh of bulls or drink the blood of male goats? {14} "Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving and pay your vows to the Most High;”

(Ps 50:23a) “He who offers a sacrifice of thanksgiving honors Me...”

Father’s Day is another holiday that is special. They play the U.S. Open the same week as Father’s Day, but that is not why I like the holiday. God tells us to honor our father and mother so that our days may be prolonged. I believe that we learn honor in the home. We are to honor our Heavenly Father also. I like a day to focus on honoring fathers.

(Ex 20:12) ""Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the LORD your God gives you."

Today is Mother’s Day. Like Father’s Day, it is special to me. We are to honor mothers 365 days a year, not just one day, but I like to take a day to honor mothers. My mother is here and I want to honor her today. She put up with a lot of foolishness raising me and she deserves to be honored for that. My wife is here and she raised ten of our own children, two foster children, and for a brief time, an adopted girl. In Proverbs 31, it says that mothers that fear the Lord should be honored by their husbands and their children. Her children should rise up and bless her. The Hebrew word for rise that is used is “qum,” which means to stand up. Her husband also should stand up and bless her. Let’s take a minute to honor all the mother here at our service or on zoom. We want to honor all of the mothers this morning.

(Pr 31:28-31) “Her children rise up and bless her; Her husband *also*, and he praises her, *saying*: {29} "Many daughters have done nobly, but you excel them all." {30} Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, *but* a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised. {31} Give her the product of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates.”

We have been going through the gospel of Mark. We are in the middle of Jesus’ arrest and crucifixion. Our next text is about the mocking that Jesus experienced before being crucified. As I studied every passage in the Bible that dealt with mocking, one of the verses I found was in Proverbs 30. Solomon wrote that the eye that mocks a father and scorns a mother, the ravens of

the valley will pick it out, and the young eagles will eat it. In other words, when a child mocks his mother, he loses vision for his life. As I reflected on that the opposite of mocking and scorning is to honor and obey parents, which is clearly what the Scriptures teach us to do. I also thought about this particular holiday that we are celebrating today, Mother's Day, and decided to give a message about honoring mothers. Then, the Holy Spirit led me to ponder how Jesus honored His mother in the gospels. I thought about how He honored her as a child and young man. Then, I meditated on how Jesus honored His mother in His adult life and ministry. Honoring our parents does not stop when we reach a certain age or leave the house; we are to continue to honor our parents all of our days. Finally, I thought about the scene in John 19 where Jesus honored His mother in His final breaths of life on the cross. This morning we will look at how Jesus honored His mother.

(Pr 30:17) "The eye that mocks a father and scorns a mother, the ravens of the valley will pick it out, and the young eagles will eat it."

1. Jesus Honored His Mother as a Child (Luke 2:40, 3 John 4, 2:46-51)
2. Jesus Honored His Mother as an Adult (John 2:1-12, Mark 7:9-13, 1:29-31)
3. Jesus Honored His Mother at His Death (John 19:25-27)

1. Jesus Honored His Mother as a Child (Luke 2:40, 3 John 4, 2:46-51)

There is not a lot of scripture that deals with Jesus' boyhood, but Luke mentions a couple things that we will address. In Luke 2:40, we read that the Child continued to grow and to become strong, increasing in wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.

(Luke 2:40) "The Child continued to grow and become strong, increasing in wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him."

In Proverbs 10:1, we find that a wise son makes a father glad, but a foolish son is a grief to his mother. Mothers and father are full of joy when their children grow in wisdom, but when they are foolish, they bring grief to their mothers. John wrote that there is no greater joy than to hear that your children are walking in truth. Mothers are honored when their children grow in wisdom, and walk in truth. They are grieved and dishonored when they act foolishly. Jesus grew and increased in wisdom and truth, and the grace of God was upon Him. He brought joy to His parents and honored them in this way.

(Pr 10:1) "The proverbs of Solomon. A wise son makes a father glad, but a foolish son is a grief to his mother."

(Pr 14:13) "Even in laughter the heart may be in pain, And the end of joy may be grief."

(3 John 1:4) "I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children walking in the truth."

I can tell you that as a young man I did not grow in wisdom and truth, and God's grace was not upon my life. My behavior did not honor my mother, but brought grief to her. It was after I received Christ and began to grow in wisdom that I began to honor my mother. But that was not the case with Jesus. He honored His mother while He as a young boy. In Ephesians 6:1-3, Paul mentions one of the ten commandments, that we are to obey our parents, for this is right, and he goes on to quote, "Honor your father and mother, which is the first commandment with a

promise, so that it may go well with you.” Perhaps it was well with Jesus and the grace of God was upon Him because He was obedient to His parents and honored them with His obedience.

(Eph 6:1-3) “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. {2} HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER (which is the first commandment with a promise), {3} SO THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH.”

There are a number of ways that we can honor our mothers. It is clear in Ephesians 6 that one of the ways that a child can honor his mother is by obeying them. We also saw that when a child grows in wisdom, it honors his parents. Let’s take a look at another scene in Jesus’ youth and see how He honored His mother. In Luke 2:46-51 we have the account of Jesus going to Jerusalem with His parents for the Passover Feast. When His parents left to go back to Nazareth, they thought He was with friends and relatives that were in their caravan. After a full day of travel they realized that Jesus had been left behind. So, they traveled a full day back to Jerusalem, and they found Him on the third day in the temple. Let’s pick up the account in verse forty-six.

(Luke 2:46-51) “Then, after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. {47} And all who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers. {48} When they saw Him, they were astonished; and His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You treated us this way? Behold, Your father and I have been anxiously looking for You." {49} And He said to them, "Why is it that you were looking for Me? Did you not know that I had to be in My Father's house?" {50} But they did not understand the statement which He had made to them. {51} And He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and He continued in subjection to them; and His mother treasured all these things in her heart.”

Jesus was listening to the religious leaders and He was also asking them question. They asked Him, “Son, why have You treated us this way?” Jesus answered, “Did you not know that I had to be in My Father’s house?” The King James Version says, “How is it that ye sought Me? Wist ye not that I must be about My Father’s business?” Jesus was pursuing the Father and that honors our mothers. The part that I want to emphasize is in verse fifty-one. Jesus “went down with them and came to Nazareth, and He continued in subjection to them.” One of the ways that we honor our parents is through our obedience and submission to their authority. That is what Paul said in Ephesians 6, “Children obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right, honor your father and mother...” Our obedience and submission honors our mothers, and that is what Jesus did.

Another way that we can honor our parents is by giving thanks for what they do for us. We have a debt of gratitude that we owe our mothers for laying their lives down for us. Our mothers did not sleep much while carrying us in their wombs. They did not sleep much after we came out, getting up at all hours of the night, feeding us and changing our diapers. They continued to serve us by cooking meals, clothing us, and taking care of us. We owe our gratitude to our mothers.

In Psalm 50:23, God told the Jewish people that if He were hungry, He would not tell them. He told them that all the cattle already belong to Him. He went on to tell them that they could honor Him by offering a sacrifice of thanksgiving and by ordering their ways aright. Just as we honor God with our thanks, we can honor our mothers as children by giving thanks.

(Ps 50:23) “He who offers a sacrifice of thanksgiving honors Me; and to him who orders *his way aright* I shall show the salvation of God.”

2. Jesus Honored His Mother as an Adult (John 2:1-12, Mark 7:9-13, 1:29-31)

Jesus honored His mother while a child and young man. After He was grown He continued to honor His mother. One of the earliest accounts that we have of Jesus honoring His mother was at the wedding in Cana. This was in the beginning of His earthly ministry, and He was about the age of thirty at that time. John records that this was the beginning of His signs that Jesus did, so it was very early in His ministry.

(John 2:11) “This beginning of *His* signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory, and His disciples believed in Him.”

Jesus and His disciples were invited to this wedding. We don't know whose wedding it was, but it may have been a relative since Jesus, and His mother had been invited. I want to pause there for a minute. Jesus' father, Joseph, had died, and Jesus, as the oldest son, is responsible for taking care of His mother. He accompanied His mother to this wedding. He stopped His earthly ministry and made sure that He attended it with His mother. This was important to her, and He honored her by accompanying there. One of the ways that we can honor people is by being with them. In the last few years that my father was alive he had dementia, and carrying on a good conversation was difficult. But, I honored my father by going to his house, and later to the senior care facilities that he was in. I honored my mother by accompanying her and helping her take care of my father. We honor people when we spend time with them, and that is what Jesus did. Karen honored her mother by calling her on the phone every week. Karen honored her mother by going to visit her whenever she could. Karen honored her mother in the way she spoke to her mother. She never said anything against her mother. She always honored her mother with her words. I am blessed to be married to a woman who honored her mother, and has also honored her mother-in-law, my mother.

(John 2:1-2) “On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there; {2} and both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding.”

At the wedding the wine ran out. We don't know if they did not order enough, or whether the guests drank too much. We just know that the wine ran out, and that Jesus' mother went to Jesus and told him that they had no wine. This was embarrassing for the hosts and Mary knew that Jesus could do something about it, even though He had not done any public miracles up until that time. When she told Jesus about it, He answered, “Woman, what does that have to do with us? My hour has not yet come.” That may sound odd, but Jesus was talking about His hour to die for the sins of the world. He was going to shed His blood and initiate a new covenant with us. When we take the Lord's Supper, we drink the wine, which represents the blood of Christ and the new covenant that we have in His blood. It was the beginning of Jesus' ministry; the hour had not come for Him to die just yet. He was not dishonoring His mother; He was just prophesying about His death in three years.

(John 2:3-4) “When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus *said to Him, “They have no wine.” {4} And Jesus *said to her, “Woman, what does that have to do with us? My hour has not yet come.””

His mother was undeterred, and said to the servants, “Whatever He says to you, do it.” Mary knew that Jesus would do something if she asked Him. She knew that Jesus would honor her, because He always honored her. And Jesus did exactly that, He told the waiters to go fill the waterpots with water from the six stone waterpots, and when they did, the water changed into wine. When the headwaiter tasted it, he told the bridegroom, “Every man serves the good wine first, and when the people have drunk freely, then he serves the poorer wine, but you have kept the good wine until now.” Jesus honored His mother by doing His first miracle at her request.

(John 2:5-10) “His mother *said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it." {6} Now there were six stone waterpots set there for the Jewish custom of purification, containing twenty or thirty gallons each. {7} Jesus *said to them, "Fill the waterpots with water." So they filled them up to the brim. {8} And He *said to them, "Draw *some* out now and take it to the headwaiter." So they took it *to him*. {9} When the headwaiter tasted the water which had become wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the headwaiter *called the bridegroom, {10} and *said to him, "Every man serves the good wine first, and when *the people* have drunk freely, *then he serves* the poorer wine; *but* you have kept the good wine until now.”

Jesus did not just honor His mother, but He honored all mothers. He also taught people to honor their mothers. In Mark 1:29-31, Jesus went to the home of Simon and Andrew. Peter’s mother-in-law was sick and they told Jesus that she was sick. He went to her and took her hand and raised her up, and the fever left her. He honored Peter’s mother-in-law.

(Mark 1:29-31) “And immediately after they came out of the synagogue, they came into the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. {30} Now Simon's mother-in-law was lying sick with a fever; and immediately they *spoke to Jesus about her. {31} And He came to her and raised her up, taking her by the hand, and the fever left her, and she waited on them.”

In Mark 7:9-13, Jesus and His disciples had been criticized for eating without ceremoniously washing their hands. Jesus corrected them, saying, “You are experts at setting aside the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition.” Then He quoted Moses, “Honor your father and your mother, and he who speaks evil of father or mother is to be put to death.” Then, He showed them how they dishonored their mothers and fathers. When their parents needed financial help, they would say that whatever they had was “Corban,” which means dedicated or given to God. They used loopholes in their traditions to get out of giving money to help their parents, and they invalidated the word of God by their traditions. Jesus did not just honor His mother and other mothers, He taught people to honor their mothers. One of the ways that we honor our mothers is to make sure they are financially taken care of. I would add that we are to make sure that our mothers are taken care of in all respects. We need to make sure their physical, spiritual and other needs are taken care of. That is another way of honoring them.

(Mark 7:9-13) “He was also saying to them, "You are experts at setting aside the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition. {10} "For Moses said, 'HONOR YOUR FATHER AND YOUR MOTHER'; and, 'HE WHO SPEAKS EVIL OF FATHER OR MOTHER, IS TO BE PUT TO DEATH'; {11} but you say, 'If a man says to *his* father or *his* mother, whatever I have that would help you is Corban (that is to say, given *to God*),' {12} you no longer permit him to do anything for *his* father or *his* mother; {13} *thus* invalidating

the word of God by your tradition which you have handed down; and you do many things such as that."

In 1 Timothy 5, Paul taught that we are to honor widows who are widows indeed. He said that children and grandchildren should learn to practice piety in regard to their own family. These widows that Paul is referring to are their mothers and grandmothers. Families need to honor their mothers by taking care of them financially and otherwise. In verse eight Paul concludes by saying, "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." Those are strong words. Honoring mothers is not just for children. As we grow older, and our mothers grow older, we are to practice piety and honor them by providing for them.

(1 Tim 5:3-8) "Honor widows who are widows indeed; {4} but if any widow has children or grandchildren, they must first learn to practice piety in regard to their own family and to make some return to their parents; for this is acceptable in the sight of God... {8} 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."

3. Jesus Honored His Mother at His Death (John 19:25-30)

Jesus honored His mother as a child and as an adult. He honored her right up until the time He died on the cross. Let's pick up the account in John 19:25-27. Jesus was on the cross, and His mother was standing by the cross watching her son suffer and die. When Jesus saw His mother and the apostle John, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold, your son! Then He said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" From that hour John took her into his own household. At that point Jesus' brothers were not believers. Jesus was the oldest son and he had the responsibility of taking care of His mother. Since He was dying, He needed to make sure His mother, who was a widow, was properly taken care of. So, He entrusted her to the care of John. I believe that Jesus did this for more than just financial provision. Jesus had several brothers who could have taken care of her, but Jesus wanted to make sure she had a proper spiritual covering. Jesus put John in charge of His mother so that she would be spiritually covered. Even though the scriptures do not say anything about this, I believe that this was eventually changed. Jesus' half-brother, James, became the leader of the church in Jerusalem. I believe that when James became a believer, Mary was placed back under his care. Again, the scriptures do not record that, but it is my opinion.

(John 19:25-27) "Therefore the soldiers did these things. But standing by the cross of Jesus were His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the *wife* of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. {26} When Jesus then saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He *said to His mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" {27} Then He *said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" From that hour the disciple took her into his own *household*."

Right after Jesus had given His mother to John, and John to His mother, He knew that all things had been accomplished and said, "I am thirsty." A jar full of sour wine was given to Him on a sponge and when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And Jesus bowed His head and gave up His spirit. The main point here is that even on the cross, in His final moments before dying, He was looking out for the welfare of His mother. He honored His mother until the minute He died. Honoring our mothers is not just for children. It is something that we are commanded to do all the days of our lives, which is what Jesus did.

(John 19:28-30) “After this, Jesus, knowing that all things had already been accomplished, to fulfill the Scripture, *said, "I am thirsty." {29} A jar full of sour wine was standing there; so they put a sponge full of the sour wine upon a *branch of hyssop* and brought it up to His mouth. {30} Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.”

Conclusion and Applications

This morning we have looked at how Jesus honored His mother as a child and young man. Let me ask the young people here a few questions.

- Do you honor your mother by listening carefully to what your mother says? Do you honor your mother by always obeying her?
- Do you honor your mother by thanking her for all the things that she does for you? Do you thank her for cooking your breakfast? Your lunch? Your dinner? Do you thank her for doing your laundry? Do you thank her for reading books to you? Do you honor your mother by giving thanks to her?
- Do you honor your mother by doing the things that please God? Are you honoring your mother by reading your Bible? Are you honoring your mother by trying grow in wisdom?

We also saw that Jesus honored His mother as an adult and in His ministry. Let me ask the adults a few questions.

- Do you honor your mother by spending time with her? Do you honor your mother by calling her on the phone? Do you honor your mother by sending her cards and reminding her of your love and appreciation for her?
- Do you honor your mother by making sure she has all of her needs met? Do you support her financially when she has needs?
- Do you honor your mother by serving and helping her?
- Do you honor your mother by providing a spiritual covering for her and praying for her? Do you try to protect her from scams and things that people do to take advantage of the elderly? Do you honor your mother by protecting her?
- Do you honor your mother by thanking her for all that she has done for you all of your life? Do you thank her for laying her life down for you?

Church, honoring our mothers is not something just for children. Honoring our mothers is not just for one day a year. Honoring our mothers is something that we must do all the days of our lives.

Father God, we take this opportunity this morning to thank You for all the mothers that are here this morning. We thank You and them for their sacrifices that they made raising children. We want to highly esteem them and show them our appreciation. Father, I ask You to help us to honor them every day, not just today. For those who are still raising children, we ask You to bless them, and to give strength, grace and wisdom. For those whose children have left home, we ask You to bless them, and fill them with fullness of joy as they see their children walking in truth. Lord, You tell us to be a pillar and support of truth. Help all of us be a pillar and support of the role and value of motherhood. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

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