

## **Honour Your Mother**

Mother's Day/Fourth Sunday of Easter - Sermon May 8, 2022

**Scripture Reading:** Proverbs 31:10-31

**Golden Verse:** "Honour her for all that her hands have done" Proverbs 31:31/a.

"The loveliest masterpiece of the heart of God is the heart of a mother." - St. Therese of Lisieux

Today is Mothers' Day, a wonderful opportunity to honour and praise our mothers and our grandmothers. This day reminds us how we should continue to honour them, not only today but also every day. Everyone has a mother, and we must try our best to honour them on this day and for the rest of our lives. Every mother deserves respect and so does every woman, even if she is not a mother.

Some of us may be blessed to have their mother with them on Mother's Day, but many are not. For this, in the first part of my sermon, we will focus on those gifts we received from our mothers. In the second part, we will encourage ourselves to honour our mothers until they are with us.

Mother's Day is a day designed to give our mothers extra honour. Mother's Day is a good time to remember how important our mothers are and thank your mother for her selfless love, all the service she does behind the scenes, and how she is always there for you when needed.

As we celebrate our mothers, we honour God's fifth commandment, which says: "*Honour your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you*" Exodus 20:12. Mothers are called to participate as co-creators of God's creation in and through our lives. No matter what, we all must honour our mothers because it is a commandment from God.

Mothers Are Love. As a child, I could never understand why other people called my mother Theresa, since she was MY MOTHER; or why people called my grandmother ROSE, since she was MY GRANDMOTHER.

For me, it was always a blessing, and enjoyable time to be around them, and they deserve all my respect. Both were loving, caring individuals. Through them I became who I am today.

Unfortunately, all women cannot be mothers, but no matter how many mistakes they made, they all deserve the most respect out of anybody. So many times, mothers raise their children alone, work constantly to provide for them, and even if the words are not said, her love is known by everyone.

A mother is someone who will never complain about her children's faults but yet promotes their self-worth into wonderful adults. A loving mother will never put her children down but find every way to bring them up. A mother will never purposely hurt a child mentally or physically but will bring on reasonable punishment when the need arises. A mother will push her child to be the best they can be and not condone their bad behaviours because it's what all the other women do. A mother will talk to her children about the world we live in and tell them about things they need to know. A mother will not forget what she was taught but become better because of it.

The importance of mothers in building stable families cannot be overstated. They deserve honour for the selfless sacrifices they perform each day. Somebody would complain saying his or her mother was not perfect and has made mistakes but the fact is, we would not exist without our mothers.

Being a mother is one of the most important roles on earth.

Let's look at our mothers' and grandmothers' most important characteristics and the way they raised us.

**As good mothers, they practiced self-sacrifice.** They showed us selfless love. They carried us for nine months—enduring nausea, body pains, bloating, fatigue, headaches, mood changes and more—because she loved us as a baby growing inside her before she saw us. When we were born, they sacrificed the sleep they physically needed in order to care for us.

**They were selfless, resourceful, dedicated, and hardworking in caring for us.** They demonstrated endless self-sacrifice through their entire lives. They gave their time and energy for their families. As faithful mothers, they strived to raise godly offspring, and this made their role much more important.

**Now let us review a few practical ways to honour mothers.**

**Forgive and pray for your mother.** No one has a perfect mother. Treat her with the needed respect and admiration. Your decision to forgive and pray for your mother is pleasing to God.

**Talk about your mother with admiration and respect.** Learn to speak about your mother with admiration and respect. Cover her faults.

**Seek the wisdom of your mother.** Your mother knows some things about you that you may not know yourself. By such deep knowledge, she could offer you valuable advice.

**Care, support, and provide for your mother with tenderness and respect.** God wants us to care and provide for our mothers. Please treat them with tenderness and care. Your mother is your responsibility.

**Find time to help her.** Make yourself busy and do the laundry, run errands, and pick up the groceries for her.

**Celebrate your mother.** Don't forget to celebrate her birthdays.

**Share quality time with her.** Tell her about your day, your hopes and dreams, the important and the not-so-important things that are going on in your life. And listen as she tells you her stories.

**Invite her to your special occasions.** This will honour her.

**Bring her grandchildren to visit.** When the Lord blesses you with children, visit your mother with them.

**Create treasured memories with her.**

**Cook and eat your mother's favourite meals with her.** There is power in eating together.

You will never regret the decision to honour your mother. Be blessed as you honour her!

Again, the Fifth Commandment instructs us to "*honour your father and your mother*" (Exodus 20:12). When we are young, we can show honour and respect for our mom through simple things like cleaning our bedrooms, doing the dishes and picking up dirty laundry. As we grow older, we show honour and respect by seeking our parents' advice, not thinking we know better, coming home on time

and not speaking disrespectfully. As we enter adulthood, we honour them in different ways—such as keeping in touch with them and helping when needs arise.

And if your mother already left this earth, please spend some time at the gravesite of your mother or grandmother. Some of us visit gravesites regularly, while others of us aren't entirely comfortable with it. Remember and respect the beloved woman who gave you birth, who raised you and invested all her life in you but who is now in eternity. Bring flowers with you and spend as long as you are comfortable giving thanks to God for her life.

Go through family albums with your children and your family members. Memory keeping is very important to me. It is a permanent way to preserve life's treasured moments that we may otherwise forget.

As your mother was telling stories from your childhood, please tell stories about your mother or your grandmother to your children and explain a funny or touching moment you recall that will make their personality shine. You will be amazed at how much children will love this activity. This will give more opportunities for you to share your family legacy with them.

Thank you, mothers, and thank you, grandmothers. Your love and examples encourage us to be better people and servants ourselves. Your work to build and strengthen our foundation is not overlooked or forgotten. Thank you for your example. You are very important. We love you! Amen