

# Learning To Be The Mother God Wants You To Be!

*By Dale DuVerney*

Let me start by saying that I do not know about motherhood from personal experience. In one sense it is impossible for a man to know fully about what it means to be a mother. However, we who are men have had mothers — many of us great mothers who loved us, cared for us and saw to it that we grow up to be men of responsibility, respectability and reverent toward God. While I do not know from personal experience what it means to be a mother, the Bible does teach us all about motherhood and the kind of mothers each lady in this assembly should desire to be.

There is no way to adequately reflect in words either the value or the far reaching influence of mothers on our world. ***It is the mother that gives life!*** She is willing to undergo the pain and anguish of childbirth for the joy that is afterwards hers. Jesus said, "A woman when she is in travail hath sorrow, because her hour is come: but as soon as she is delivered of the child, she remembereth no more the anguish, for joy that a man is born into the world" (John 16:21). ***Mothers are uniquely qualified, emotionally, mentally, and willfully, to bear and raise children.*** I want to take the time to honor our mother's with an article about being the mother God wants you to be, and by it teach each of us to be thankful for our mothers and their sacrifice.

## **THE BIBLE TEACHES US ABOUT SOME GREAT MOTHERS!**

### **THE FIRST WE SHALL NOTICE IS HANNAH (1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 11).**

Hannah was without child! Her husband was a wonderful man, but she was still missing something - a child! Her heartache was so great that she would not even eat! What would Hanna do? She vowed a vow! Hannah vowed that if God would give her a child she would give him unto the Lord all the days of his life (1 Samuel 1:11).

Because of her faith and determination the Lord remembered Hannah, and allowed her to conceive a son. She did not forsake her vow, and we have one of the truly great men of the entire Bible in her son Samuel. So much of the greatness of Samuel can be attributed to the attitude of his mother, not only while she was bringing him up, but even to the attitude she had before he was born. Hannah wanted a child, but she wanted one who would serve the Lord! Thus, Hannah raised up a child who would be servant to the Most High! Would to God that we had more Hannah's in the Lord's church!

### **THE SECOND WE SHALL NOTICE IS THE SHUNAMMITE WOMAN (2 Kings 4:8-37).**

Notice in our text that she is first called a "great woman" (4:8). Some have alluded to the fact that this refers to her physical wealth. However, most ancient scholars contend that it refers to being a woman of great credit on all accounts: she feared God and the rest just fell into place naturally!

This woman, like Hannah, had no son! Her greatest desire was for a child! When the prophet of God sought to reward her for her great benevolence, her only request was for a child! (14-17). Sadly, dark days lay ahead for this servant of God — for her son would die. In the field of his father this son was plagued by a headache, perhaps from a stroke, which brought about his eventual death on the very knees of his mother. However, the faith of the mother is seen again in that she seeks for the man of God! When we face dark days, where do we go? Have we sought out the will of God and the help of God in our situation? The man of God Elisha came and the boy was raised to life again! This Shunamite woman is a great example in both servitude to God as well as being a GREAT mother.

### **THE THIRD MOTHER WE SHALL NOTICE IS MARY, THE MOTHER OF JESUS!**

What a blessed privilege it was to be the mother of Jesus. Why did God select her? Mary was not a woman of wealth! She was a obscure peasant girl in Nazareth (Luke 1:26). She gave birth to her son in an obscure and humble place (Luke 2:7). However, there is no question but that Mary had a sterling character.

When the announcement from the angel came, Mary did not ask others what she should do, she did not dread nor decline the Lord's will, but simply said: "behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word." (Luke 1:38). Mary was a virgin when the angel came to visit her — she was pure in mind and body — a virtuous girl (Luke 1:30)! According to tradition, her parents, Jocahim and Anna, were holy! No wonder then that their daughter would also be holy and chaste! How marvelous our world would be if we had the pureness of character, body, and mind that Mary had.

Notice with me some qualities we find in Mary. She knew and acknowledge the presence of God (Luke 1:28). ". . . the Lord is with thee." She was a woman of obedience and taught her son the same. She was a woman who knew God's book (as seen in her hymn of praise: Luke 1:50-55). She was a dedicated mother who "mothered" her son for thirty years. She could not give Jesus wealth, not even in the offering made for him (Luke 2:24). She had no training in the Greek culture of the day, being a poor peasant woman, yet the Bible teaches us that Jesus "increased in wisdom and stature. . ." (Luke 2:52). However, she gave her son the most valuable commodity — her time!

### **THE FOURTH MOTHER IS EUNICE (The mother of Timothy).**

Just as was the characteristic of her mother, Lois, she was dedicated to teaching her son the faith. It was a sincere faith that had been taught from the very beginning, when Timothy was a baby (2 Tim. 1:5; 3:15). *When should a mother start teaching her child?* Just like Eunice and Lois, when they are a babe! How peaceful, pleasant, and faithful to God our world would be if we had more mothers and grandmothers like Eunice and Lois.

## **A LOOK AT GOD'S PROGRESSION TO MOTHERHOOD**

### **MARRIAGE**

Marriage is the first divine institution of God (Mat. 19:3-9). God said it is not good for a man to be alone, so He made woman a suitable partner and companion to man. *God made man and woman suitable to one another: complements.* God ordains that the sexual relationship is to be exercised only in the marriage relationship. Thus any outside activity is immoral (1 Cor. 6:18). The sexual relationship within marriage is not immoral nor "dirty." (Heb. 13:5). From this God-ordained and God-sanctified union comes forth children (Psa. 127:3; Gen. 4:1). Marriage is the foundation of the home and our society. One man and one woman for life! (Matt. 19:9; 5:32). This model brings a stable environment for children to be brought into the world. It was never God's intent to have single moms and dads (though it happens at times because of fornication, death and divorce).

### **THE GREAT JOY OF GIVING BIRTH!**

One of the great joys of life for Bible women was to have a child. They wanted children, and said so. Sarah laughed (no doubt with joy) at the birth of Isaac, which name means laughter (Gen. 21:6,7). When Rebeccah was leaving home to marry Isaac, the family blessing was, "Our sister, be thou the mother of thousands of millions" (Gen. 24:60). Mary rejoiced at the prospect of the birth of Jesus (Lk. 1:46,47). Elizabeth had joy at the birth of John (Lk. 1:14,25,44). There is no shame in being a mother — it is an honor and a gift of blessing! However, just having children a mother it does not make!

## **RAISE UP A CHILD IN THE WAY THEY SHOULD GO!**

As a mother, one must love and respect her children enough to raise them according to God's law. ***There is no better philosophy, or psychology, than that offered on child-rearing in the Bible.*** The younger women are to be taught to love their children (Titus 2:4). Wise parents know how to give good gifts to their children (Mt. 7:9-11). Parents are to provide for their children (2 Cor. 12:14). A home ought to be conducted in such a way that if a child is pulled away into sin, the child will remember and come back home (Lk. 15). One has well said: "If you want to whip the devil, you are going to have to hit him over the head with the cradle." Ezekiel gives us a poignant truth: "As is the mother, so is the daughter" (Ezek. 16:44).

**Mothers must, therefore be honored and respected (Exodus 20:12; Lev. 19:3; Prov. 1:8; 15:20; 19:26; 23:22).** Our mothers are worthy of every honor! Whenever a mother is all she should be to her children, "her children rise up, and call her blessed" (Pro. 31:28).