

A Mother Called by God  
Luke 1:34-38

**Slide 1**

Billy Sunday once said, *“Try praising your wife even if it does frighten her at first.”*

So, let me give you a couple of helpful hints on what not to do for your mother/wife for Mother’s Day.

Do not buy your mother/wife anything that plugs in. If something needs to be plugged in, she will only see it as a tool.

If she doesn’t currently have a membership at the gym, don’t offer to buy her one, or buy her any exercise equipment or videos, because this will lead to six months of her asking you why you think she needs to exercise in the first place. And I guarantee you that you’ll never have the right answer to that one.

And, if you ask her where she would like to eat on Mother’s Day, more than likely she’s going to say that it doesn’t matter, you choose. It does matter. “You choose” means you had better make sure you take her to her favorite restaurant.

Today we’re here to worship the Lord and honor our mothers. Not only are we commanded to honor our mothers; it’s also the sensible and loving thing to do.

But the sad thing is that often times Mother’s Day is just a time when families try to atone for an entire year of neglect, disrespect, and a lack of appreciation.

Now most people agree, whether they’re Christians or not, that we’re living in a post-Christian era. That doesn’t mean that the Church is dead, or that Christianity is dead.

What it means is that the influence Biblical Christianity once had on our nation and our culture has diminished to a point where it wouldn't be recognized by Christians 100 – 200 years ago.

That includes morality, education, social action, and maybe, most importantly, parenting.

Basically, what's happened is that secular, humanistic reasoning has taken the place of Biblical truth when it comes to setting the parameters for the home and family.

Our minds have been darkened by secularism and sin, and most people can't tell if something is Biblical or secular.

The trend that we're seeing in the Church today is that people who attend church are acknowledging the sufficiency of God and the Bible, but they fail to see a need to subject their personal opinions, reasoning, and emotions to the guidelines of Scripture in all areas of life, including what happens in the home.

So, today, I want every mother here to realize how important that she is to God and to her home.

What a wonderful thing that God's Word has so many messages just for mothers, but in reality, they're messages for all parents; mothers, fathers, grandparents, etc.

History's most famous mother was called by God to her task, just as parents today are called by God to their task. So today, we're going to look at these tasks by examining a mother called by God.

## **Slide 2**

First, a mother called by God submits completely to God's will.

When Mary, the mother of Jesus, was only a teen-ager, she was confronted with the challenge to submit completely to God's will.

In the beginning, Mary was stunned when Gabriel gave her the angelic message that she was to carry the Christ Child.

Luke 1:34-38 says, *"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail." "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her."*

Mary never wavered from her complete submission to God's will. Did you hear her answer she gave to the angel? *"I am the Lord's servant."*

- Was she nervous? Certainly.
- Was she unsure of her own abilities? Who wouldn't be?
- Was she anxious about the prophecy that part of her future would include pain? Of course.

Mary was like the mother who sits up late at night, far past her bedtime, waiting for the day to be over.

She's like the parent who says a silent, heart-felt prayer watching their child drive away from the house for the first time.

Mary was like any parent in this room, who only wanted the best for her child... fully aware that life happens, and not all of life is pleasant.

But Mary was unlike a lot of parents in the world today. Mary was first of all completely committed to God.

She was so committed to God; she had no room for commitment to anything else, and that makes her a mother worth imitating.

### **Slide 3**

Next, a mother called by God doesn't have to be perfect. This is great news!

Linda Huckins of Malden, Massachusetts tried perfection on the day her daughter got married. As she tells the story, she went to the front of the church to light one of the three candles.

*“Not realizing the potential hazard, I got too close and set my acrylic nail on fire. Trying not to ruin my daughter's big day, I calmly lit the candle from my flaming nail and then, like a gunslinger with his six-shooter, I blew it out. Needless to say, my blackened nail was the talk of the reception!”*

Dr. Ben Carson, renowned surgeon at Johns Hopkins, tells a moving story about his mother. She insisted that he and his brother Curtis write a book report every couple of weeks.

This wasn't for school – this was for their mother. Ben and Curtis dutifully obeyed. When he was in junior high, Ben finally realized something quite shocking. His mother couldn't read.

For years Ben had read books and scratched out reports, assuming his mother was checking every word, but she didn't have a clue what he had written.

Now consider this: raised by an illiterate mother, Ben grew up to be a world-famous surgeon who has been featured in many articles and has authored several books. He even made a run for President.

His illiterate mother didn't twist her hands over her lack of learning and give up hope of raising intelligent boys.

Instead, she gave her boys what she had – interest, accountability, and the courage to demand extra work.

Mary wasn't perfect, despite the fact she was the mother of Jesus. When Jesus performed His first miracle, Mary's conversation is the most unusual part of the water-turned-into-wine story.

Listen how Scripture records this, John 2:1-5, *“On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, “They have no more wine.” “Woman, why do you involve me?” Jesus replied. “My hour has not yet come.” His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.”*

Jesus said to Mary, *“Woman, why do you involve me?”* In other words, *“It's not my time!”* Think of the awkwardness of this situation.

Mary's request and conversation with Jesus appears to be out of line with what He was ready to do.

Though Jesus performed the miracle, there's a feeling that He did so in part because his mother put him on the spot. If that's not a clear indication of Mary's imperfection, a second case is.

Listen to Matthew 12:46-50, *“While Jesus was still talking to the crowd, his mother and brothers stood outside, wanting to speak to him. Someone told him, “Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to you.” He replied to him, “Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?” Pointing to his disciples, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers. For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.”*

If Mary had understood the task of Jesus, would she have tried to interrupt him, or even agree with his brothers that his ministry needed to be tempered?

Stopping the ministry of Jesus, even for a little while, was a mistake on Mary's part.

Mothers, you've made mistakes in the past, you'll probably make a mistake or two today, and more mistakes tomorrow.

Through it all, God will love you, work with you, and accept you. Through it all, your task of mothering, or of grand-mothering, will be accomplished.

How many women have been discouraged by the last few words of Proverbs 31?

Proverbs 31 speaks of the perfect woman. There are 22 lines in the poem, and each one of them begins with successive letters of the Hebrew alphabet.

It's an acrostic poem that speaks of an imaginary woman. She never sleeps, and she always works.

In the poem, she manages a fleet of ships, she runs a farm, she manages a staff, she sews like a fashion expert, she cooks, cleans, and home-schools her children.

She has a feast waiting for her husband when he arrives home from his much-less demanding job, and she needs no carpool whatsoever.

If we were to see in English what we can't see in Hebrew, it would be a poem that said, "A is for the Apple pie she bakes; B is for the babies she loves; C is for the cleaning of the house;" right on down to "Z is for the Zoo she manages in the back yard."

Any woman who tries to emulate the woman of Proverbs 31 will understand the first line that says, "*A wife like this... who can find her?!*"

#### **Slide 4**

Lastly, a mother called by God never relinquishes the title. John 19:25, *“Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother...”*

Mary didn't stand stoically and passively by at the foot of the cross, as if she were already made of stained glass.

She crumpled at the cross. She fell down to the depths there, moaning and wailing and begging the God of heaven to stop her hell on earth.

The truth of Simeon's prophecy at Jesus' birth was suddenly true. The cross cut deep into Mary's heart.

Despite the pain, however, Mary was there. She was a mother from the beginning, and a mother at the end. A mother called by God never relinquishes the title.

You'll find mothers like that in the halls of children's hospitals, in funeral homes, and in counselors' offices.

Mothers never relinquish the title, even if their child is rebellious, harsh, or cruel. Her heart just won't allow it. Not when she's called by God.

When a woman becomes a mother, there's an instant realization that a day may come when pain will dominate the picture.

The crosses are different for every family, but frankly, the crosses usually come.

There may be a divorce, disease, or death. There may be harsh words, and unacceptable actions.

There may be tough love, and impossible nights. Through it all, mothers called by God never relinquish the title. Never. There is nothing like a mother's love.

## Slide 5

### Conclusion

Mary was the most honored mother in the Bible, the human mother of Jesus, who saved the world from its sins. Although she was only a young, humble peasant, Mary accepted God's will for her life willingly.

She stands highly favored by God, a shining example of obedience and submission to the Father's will. In fact, Mary had a chance to see God's entire plan played out.

She suffered through the crucifixion, celebrated the resurrection, and was even part of the small group that witnessed the powerful presentation of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost.

*Acts 1:14, "They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers."*

What a gift from God, to live long enough for parenting to make sense! Not all parents live long enough to see God's plan for their children.

Some see God working in the lives of their grandchildren. Some only see God's plan from the halls of heaven.

Therefore, if you're going to be a godly mother, stay immersed in God's Word and fully committed to the calling He's given you.

On this Mothers Day, may you have Mary's kind of love and devotion for your children.