

**Remnant Life Church**  
May 12, 2019  
**Mothers: At All Costs**

*Ex. 20:12 - "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you."*

Mothers in the Bible hold a high place of honor

- The word mother is found 320 times
- Throughout the entirety of the Bible – first in Genesis, last in Revelation
- Very first use of the word in **Gen 2:24** – *That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife and the two become one flesh.*
- **Gen 3:20** - Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living.

Two mothers in the Bible who receive little attention and few accolades

- The you know very little about for only a little is written
  - **Ex. 6:20** – a family genealogy
  - **Num. 26:59** – part of a census of the people following a plague of God's judgment that killed 24,000 Israelites
  - Yet she acted in a way that set the course in motion to free a nation
  - She defied the law of the King but honored God
  
- 1. **Jochebed** – the mother of Moses
  - a. This is the story of a completely selfless act of faith
  - b. Living in the time of the Hebrews slavery in Egypt
    - i. The Hebrew nation spent approximately 430 years in Egypt
    - ii. The first part in relative prosperity thanks to Joseph and the Pharaohs who remembered his place of authority
  - c. But the time of Moses birth the Hebrews are slaves to the Egyptians
    - i. **Ex. 1:8** says that a king came to power that did not know Joseph – so he enslaved the people
    - ii. Jacob's family had come to Egypt numbering 70
    - iii. Within 4 generations that number had swelled to 600,000 men of fighting age
    - iv. The Pharaoh felt that the Hebrew nation had grown too large and could pose a threat so ordered the death of every new-born male (**Ex. 1:9-10, 22**)
      - 1. This is the same edict given by Herod in an effort to kill the baby Jesus (**Matt. 2:16**)
  - d. But Jochebed was willing to do whatever it took, even giving up her son, to protect him and trust that God would care for him (**Ex. 2:3**)

- e. God cares for and will even reward those who put their full trust in Him
  - i. God gave Moses back to her as his “nurse” (Ex. 2:7-9)
  - ii. But then she had to give him back again (Ex. 2:10)
    1. She would not see him again for over 70 years
    2. But she would see him in the fullness of God’s plan for his life
    3. Giving yourself to God to live fully in His will, regardless of how the circumstances might appear, will always impact those around you in ways you cannot imagine to His glory.
- f. It took a mother willing to do whatever was necessary, at all costs

The other mother is often vilified but not by her own doing

- She was summoned by someone she could not defy
- She became the mother of a man who was perhaps the wisest, most powerful, and richest man who ever lived - all by God’s hand.

## 2. Bathsheba – was just minding her own business one warm evening

- a. The account of her life begins in an everyday event that changed her life
  - b. She lives in Jerusalem during the reign of King David
    - i. David has succeeded Saul and God has made him a great promise regarding his descendants and David has prayed a great prayer of thanksgiving (2 Sam. 2, 7)
  - c. There was a time that the nations would go to war (springtime warmer weather, longer days) and David sent his general Joab instead of leading the people himself (2 Sam. 11)
    - i. He sees Bathsheba bathing, sends for her, knows she is married and yet sleeps with her anyway.
    - ii. She conceives, he attempts to frame her husband Uriah, has him killed in battle and then takes her for himself (2 Sam. 11)
  - d. David thinks the situation has been contained
    - i. But Nathan confronts David (2 Sam. 12:1-12)
    - ii. Their child is born and dies as punishment (2 Sam. 12:13-23)
    - iii. God restores her with a son – Solomon
3. God restored through His mercy to a woman who lost the most precious thing a mother could lose but gave back to her in abundance
    - a. God is a God of redemption
    - b. But He is also a God of judgment regarding sin
      - i. David lived the rest of his life in a pattern of spiritual/moral failure followed by God’s righteous judgment; repentance and restoration
      - ii. God’s law of morality, right, wrong, and consequence is unavoidable (Gal. 6:7 – ...God cannot be mocked)

There are others...

- Hannah
  - Samuel's mother, was known for her prayer life especially in praying for her son
  - **Sam 12:23** she says "...God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you..."
- Eunice
  - A woman of the NT who had a strong, vibrant faith in God,
  - Paul writes in **2 Tim 1:5** – *I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.*
  - Eunice was the mother of Timothy, Paul's closest companion in ministry, who became a powerful minister for God

Some of the very first exposure to and understanding of love, mercy, grace, and forgiveness come through our mothers.

Because God is love, His desire is to forgive, redeem, and bless – in other words to remove our sin through His mercy and grace because of His great love

- The difference between mercy and grace...
  - A man gifted in the things of finance finds himself destitute and owing the bank \$500,000, cannot pay, he will have to default and is now looking at prison
    - He goes to them to try and work something out
    - They tell him he will not have to go to jail – that is mercy (what we deserve is withheld)
  - But then they tell him they are going to forgive the loan in its entirety and they are going to make him an Executive Vice-President of the bank with all the perks at a salary of \$200,000 a year – that's grace (given something that you do not deserve; unmerited favor)

We cannot earn or merit the mercy and grace of God but we must confess and believe in order to be forgiven

**Rom. 10:9** *...if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.*

Through the centuries God has worked powerfully in and through mothers. **He still is today.**

- Physical mothers
- Spiritual mothers
- Emotional mothers