

**Christ Community Covenant Church**  
**Mother's Day: Even great kings should bow to their mother**  
**Pastor Dave Scherrer - May 11, 2014**

The book of Proverbs begins, "The proverbs of Solomon, son of David, king of Israel." He was a great king and the son of a great king. That means he was famous and powerful and supreme in the entire realm. People bowed in his presence. They did what he said. He had immense authority and honor.

How did he treat his mother in this exalted role? You recall his mother was Bathsheba. She had married his father David under very ugly circumstances—very displeasing to God. But she was his mother, and this is what it says in 1 Kings 2:19,

**1 Kings 2:19**

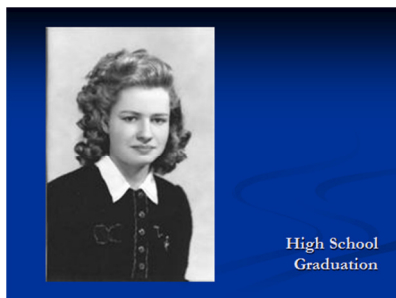
<sup>19</sup> So Bathsheba went to King Solomon to speak to him on behalf of Adonijah. And the king rose to meet her and bowed down to her. Then he sat on his throne and had a seat brought for the king's mother, and she sat on his right.

Then they had their conversation. He rose for her. He bowed to her. And he called for a throne to be put beside his for their conversation. She was his mother. Even kings should stoop when their mothers enter the room.

**Even Great Kings Should Bow to Their Mothers**

Solomon was not a perfect king. He was not a perfect man. In fact if you keep reading in this chapter of 1 Kings 2 you will see how quickly and fiercely he put down his political and military threats. He wasn't perfect, but he did know how to treat his mom.

For the longest time I saw myself as mostly my dad's son. I look like him and laugh like him so those somewhat obvious physical traits made me think I was mostly my dad's son. As I grew that opinion went unchallenged in my mind. Then with my mom's death I began to look deeper into her and into me. My mom, Lila Adria Myers Scherrer was the sensitive one, the helpful one, the kind one. She was the person of deep faith in our family and she was the toughest one mentally and physically until Alzheimer's claimed the last ten years of her life. I don't know if I got all those terrific traits but I can see now that I am perhaps more of a Myers than I knew of in my youth.





When I was a teen I wrote a poem and dedicated it to my mom. I wrote it concerning a verse that I read and then thought of her.

**1 Corinthians 13:13**

So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

I had to pull out my old poetry book of from 1969 but the last two stanzas' go like this:

*Men filled with greed seek earthly gifts  
and cannot comprehend,  
That happiness comes from seeking God  
and the real gifts that He sends*

*The gifts are boundless, great and good  
Passed to men from God above.  
Faith, hope, love abide these three,  
But the greatest of these is love.*

A little cheesy I guess but I meant well. I dedicated that poem to her because in my early life my mom, Lila, was the only overt, godly influence in my life. We never went to church but mom prayed with me every night. We didn't have devotions but mom saw to it that we prayed before every meal. At age 4 or 5 she helped me memorize the Lord's Prayer and Psalm 23. I can still remember reciting it with her at

bedtime. I still remember it in the old Revised Standard Version. From my dad I got my nose, my frugality and my quickness to anger. From my mom I got faith, hope and love.

### **Faith**

Faith is important. We learn a lot from our parents, for better or worse. The family is God's basic school for instructing children how to live in the world. It is where the value of faith is either learned or not learned. The wise man Solomon that we referred to earlier wrote:

#### **Proverbs 1:8-9**

Hear, my son, your father's instruction,  
and forsake not your mother's teaching,  
<sup>9</sup> for they are a graceful garland for your head  
and pendants for your neck.

God ordained the family not just to be fruitful and fill the earth with people, but to fill the earth with instructed people and faithful people. The family is the place where the next generation is born and where the next generation learns how to truly live. The higher stuff of life does not come naturally for human beings. The sucking reflex comes naturally. The falling reflex comes naturally. The iris of the eye closes naturally in bright light. We don't have to learn to cry when we're hungry. But that's about it. And those skills don't make for that good a resume. Humans have to learn just about everything from the most basic skills of walking and talking and eating, to the moral actions of courtesy and gratitude and respect and faith in Christ. And this daunting task of planting the seeds of character is job one of mom and dad, first and foremost.

### **Planting the seeds of faith is responsibility of both fathers and mothers**

The family is God's school for this huge undertaking—teaching the next generation how to live in this world and be ready for the next. And if a mother and a father seek help from others through relatives or nannies or day-care or Sunday schools or day schools or primary schools or secondary schools, the responsibility is still the parents' to be the primary 'character givers' and 'truth tellers' in the lives of their children. I believe that we as parents will give an account to God for how the minds and hearts of our children were shaped and molded by the educators and care-givers we entrusted them to. I also believe that children will have to give an account for how they lived their lives in accordance with the truth that was taught to them by their mom and dad. It goes both ways!

When you read verses 8 and 9 in Proverbs 1 there is a unifying theme; "the fear of the Lord." An interesting theme!

### **The Fear of the Lord as the Unifying Theme**

If we look back just one verse to verse 7 we read; "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge." In other words if we ask, what's the basic, integrating theme of the father's instruction and the mother's teaching—what is it that runs through all their daily modeling and counseling and explaining and correcting and disciplining that give unity and meaning to it all? — The answer is "the fear of the Lord." The foundation of family instruction is the fear of the Lord. Having faith in the Lord matters. Later in Proverbs we read:

- "In the fear of the Lord there is strong confidence . . . The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life" (Proverbs 14:26–27).
- "The fear of the Lord leads to life, so that one may sleep satisfied, untouched by evil" (Proverbs 19:23).

A mother's job isn't just to make place where children learn to hold spoons and walk on two feet and say "please" and tie shoes and read and look both ways and cut grass and put on makeup and drive a

car. The family is where all of this and more begins in God, is guided by God's Word, and is shown to be for the glory of God. The fear of God—the reverencing of God, the standing in awe of God, finding faith in God—is what families are for.

The family is God's idea. The family is a school. And the unifying theme in the curriculum of this school is faith in God. Let me give one great illustration from the New Testament: the effect of Timothy's mother and grandmother on his faith. Paul says in 2 Timothy 1:5;

### **2 Timothy 1:5**

<sup>5</sup> I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well.

Then in **3:14–15** Paul says,

### **2 Timothy 3:14-15**

<sup>14</sup> But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it *[that is, your mother Eunice and through her from your grandmother Lois]*<sup>15</sup> and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings *[because your mother taught them to you]*, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

Now that's a remarkable testimony. Timothy's father was a Greek (Acts 16:3). He probably didn't know the Scriptures. So Paul celebrates the great heritage that Timothy has through his mother and his grandmother. They did what his father could not or would not do. They filled him with the Scriptures, and the Scriptures brought him eventually to faith in Christ, and faith in Christ brought him salvation.

This is the gift my mother gave to me, the gift of faith.

But she also gave me hope. A positive mental outlook and the expectation of good things rather than bad. The gift of hope is no small deal.

### ***The gift of Hope***

*The Pilgrim's Progress* is a story by Milton about how a man called Christian makes his way “through many dangers, toils, and snares” along the King's highway to the Celestial City. It is an allegory of the Christian life, and it is tremendously helpful. At one point along his way, Christian, and his faithful companion Hopeful, stray off of the King's highway into By-Path Meadow. In this place they lose their way. And presently they meet a giant called Giant Despair. He overcomes them and drives them to his home called Doubting Castle, and throws them in a dark, stinking dungeon.

### ***Escape from Giant Despair and Doubting Castle***

The next day, Giant Despair comes to them and in rage falls upon them and beats them half to death, leaving them to groan and cry in their distress. The next day Giant Despair comes and tells Christian and Hopeful that the only way to escape their miseries would be to “forthwith make an end of themselves, either with Knife, Halter, or Poison.”

When the Giant leaves the dungeon, Christian and Hopeful discuss this possibility, and Christian is of the mind that they should do it, he was so distressed. But Hopeful recalls the command of the Lord of the Country to which they are going, and how he had forbidden them to take anyone's life.

Then he says (for as his name is, so is his heart),

***“Who knows but that God, who made the world, may cause Giant Despair to die, or that, at some time or other, he may forget to lock us in; or that he may in a short time have another of his fits before us, and may lose the use of his limbs? . . . My brother, let us be patient, and endure a while; the time may come that may give us a happy release; but let us not be our own murderers.”***

Later when Giant Despair comes back and finds that Christian and Hopeful have not taken their lives the way he suggested, he falls into a rage and takes them out to show them the bones of the pilgrims he had killed, and then drives them back again to their dungeon, beating them all the way. That night the giant's wife says that the reason they are holding on to life may be that "they live in hope that some will come to relieve them, or that they have pick-locks about them."

So Giant Despair says he will search them in the morning. That night was Saturday, and at midnight Christian and Hopeful began to pray and continued in prayer till almost break of day. Then a wonderful thing happened. In John Bunyan's own words,

***'Now a little before it was day, good Christian, as one half amazed, brake out into this passionate speech: What a fool, quoth he, am I, thus to lie in a stinking dungeon, when I may as well walk at liberty! I have a key in my bosom, called Promise, that will, I am persuaded, open any lock in Doubting Castle. Then said Hopeful, That's good news, good brother, pluck it out of thy bosom, and try. Then Christian pulled it out of his bosom, and began to try at the dungeon door, whose bolt, as he turned the key, gave back, and the door flew open with ease, and Christian and Hopeful both came out. Then he went to the outward door that leads into the castle-yard, and with his key opened that door also.***

***After, he went to the iron gate, for that must be opened too, but that lock went damnable hard, yet the key did open it. Then they thrust open the gate to make their escape with speed; but that gate as it opened made such a creaking, that it waked Giant Despair, who, hastily rising to pursue his prisoners, felt his limbs to fail, for his fits took him again, so that he could by no means go after them. Then they went on, and came to the King's highway, and so were safe, because they were out of his jurisdiction.***

There is only one escape from Giant Despair and Doubting Castle, namely, the endurance of hope and the key called Promise. To live in the endurance of hope is a very profound thing and rescues us from darkness even when there is so very little light. And finally love – faith, hope and love . . .

### **The gift of Love**

A hundred million poems and songs and book have been written and unnumbered trees have been carved into with a testimony of love. This morning I only want to remind moms of what their love means to a child:

***It means creating a safe place for your children: Home base  
It means loving anyway: Demonstrating sacrificial and tenacious caring  
It means you "Let the movie finish": Never give up!***

Video

To Lila and Susan, the mother of my two wonderful children and grandmother to Adria and the other marvelous moms in this room, thank you for planting the seeds of faith, hope and love these three but the greatest of these is love.

Distribute the gifts of seed.

Special music

Benediction

### **Ephesians 1:17-19**

(I pray) that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, <sup>18</sup> having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,

<sup>19</sup> and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might.

***Community Life Groups Discussion Questions***

1. Last week was Mother's Day at church and he shared a little bit about his mom. Do you have a story about your mom that sticks out in your mind that kind of summarizes her life and character? Do you have experiences that you shared with your mom that shaped your life?
2. Dave made the statement, "It is the responsibility of the parents' to be the primary 'character givers' and 'truth tellers' in the lives of their children." What do you think of that?
3. Dave quoted from Proverbs:  
<sup>7</sup> The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge;  
fools despise wisdom and instruction.  
<sup>8</sup> Hear, my son, your father's instruction,  
and forsake not your mother's teaching,  
<sup>9</sup> for they are a graceful garland for your head  
and pendants for your neck.
4. Then he made the statement that the "fear of the Lord" is at the foundation of all instruction. Have you ever thought of it like that? Does the term "fear of the Lord" have different meaning for you? Or do you think Dave is onto something?
5. Dave spoke of faith, hope and love? How do we instill these kinds of values in our children? How do we nurture these values in our own hearts?